

MAURITIUS TIMES

• “You can’t separate peace from freedom because no one can be at peace unless he has his freedom.” — Malcolm X, USA

Opinion

Should PSAC examination be abolished?

Rather than foisting society's woes on primary schools, we suggest that **primary education** can play a significant role in improving the quality of life of our children and grandchildren

Sada Reddi P4

Interview: Dr Avinash Ramtohul, Minister of IT, Communication and Innovation

“We cannot purchase our way into becoming an AI nation”

‘We must build capability inside Government, universities, businesses and communities’

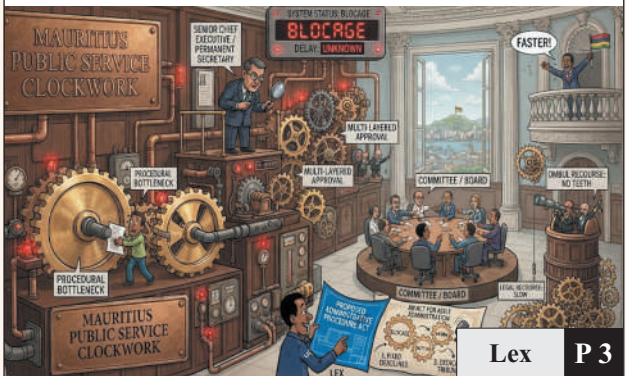


P9

• ‘AI will not substitute leadership or administrative responsibility’

But it can make inefficiency visible and once a blockage is visible and measurable, it becomes much harder to ignore’

Qs & As



Lex P3

The Anatomy of Administrative Blocages: Where Responsibility Lies When Government Machinery Stalls

Editorial

From Electoral Bait to Social Contract
Can the State Age Pension Take Politics Out of Pensions?



P2

International Relations



Vijay Makhan P7

The Thucydides Trap: Are We Walking Into It?

Eclairages

Réseaux sociaux et adolescents
Le monde commence enfin à s'attaquer à l'addiction numérique



A. Bartleby P5

Breakfast with Bwana



Anil Madan P6

Iranian Sanctions, Canadian Tariffs: A Double Whammy

From Electoral Bait to Social Contract

Can the State Age Pension Take Politics Out of Pensions?

For decades, Mauritius has taken pride in its universal old-age pension. The Basic Retirement Pension, or BRP, has been more than a social-security benefit. It has been a symbol of the social contract between the State and its citizens: after a lifetime of contributing to the development of the country, Mauritians could expect a measure of financial security in old age. But there is another side to this story. The old-age pension has gradually become one of the most potent instruments of electoral politics in Mauritius. Successive governments and political parties have discovered that few promises are as simple, tangible and emotionally powerful as the promise of a higher monthly pension. Unlike a complicated economic reform or a long-term infrastructure project, a pension increase can be expressed in one sentence: "Your pension will rise by Rs 3000 or Rs 4500." That is a powerful electoral message.

The history of the past decade illustrates the phenomenon rather clearly. In the 2014 general election, the MSM-led Alliance Lepep promised to raise the old-age pension from about Rs 3,623 to Rs 5,000 a month - and subsequently implemented. By 2019, pension increases had become an even more prominent feature of electoral competition, with rival political formations offering competing pension commitments. The fact that the promises are made usually in an election year makes them particularly politically sensitive.

The pension bidding war

There is nothing inherently wrong with increasing pensions. Indeed, if inflation has eroded purchasing power and elderly citizens are struggling to meet basic expenses, a pension increase may be entirely justified. The problem begins when elections drive pension policy.

Once one party discovers the electoral value of pension increases, its competitors face a difficult choice. They can advocate restraint and risk appearing indifferent to pensioners, or they can offer even more. This produces what can aptly be described as a pension bidding war. The political logic is understandable. Pensioners are a large and identifiable constituency. A higher pension provides an immediate and visible benefit. The cost, by contrast, is spread across the national budget and, ultimately, across present and future taxpayers.

The asymmetry is striking. As an economist put it: the pensioner sees the additional money every month; the future taxpayer sees only an increasing fiscal obligation. This creates a temptation for politicians to promise benefits today while leaving the financing problem for tomorrow — usually for opposition alliances should they wrest power from the incumbents, and they indeed do at times.

Pensions are particularly vulnerable to this dynamic because they are not a one-off expenditure. Once an increase is granted, it becomes part of the State's recurring expenditure for years and, potentially, decades. The question therefore should not be whether a government is generous to pensioners. It should be whether that generosity is fiscally sustainable and based on transparent principles



rather than electoral calculations.

The demographic reality cannot be ignored

This debate is becoming more urgent because Mauritius is ageing. The pension system that was relatively manageable when the population was younger is becoming increasingly expensive as life expectancy rises and the proportion of elderly citizens grows. This is why pension reform cannot be postponed indefinitely. A government may win an election by promising a generous pension increase, but it cannot repeal

demographic reality. Every additional rupee promised to today's pensioners must eventually be financed through taxation, contributions, economic growth, borrowing or reductions in other public expenditure. That is why the pension debate should be reframed.

It should no longer be:

"Which political party will give pensioners more?"

It should be:

"Which political party can guarantee an adequate pension without imposing an unfair burden on future generations?"

That is a much more difficult political question — but it is the one Mauritius needs to ask.

Enter the State Age Pension

The proposed State Age Pension, which is due to replace the BRP from 1 January 2027, offers an opportunity to change the rules of the game. The Budget 2026-27 envisages a new framework under which the SAP becomes the principal state-funded age pension. The system also introduces greater flexibility concerning when an individual draws the pension, with actuarial adjustments for earlier or deferred access. This represents an important conceptual shift. The old BRP has essentially been understood as a straightforward universal entitlement linked to age. The SAP seeks to introduce a more structured pension architecture, including a mechanism for adjusting benefits according to the timing of retirement.

The original proposal went further. It introduced means-testing, with the full SAP available to people below an income threshold and a gradual reduction above it. That element, however, proved politically controversial. In June 2026, Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam announced that the Government would freeze means-testing. This decision is significant. It demonstrates precisely why pension reform is so politically difficult. The Government's stated objective was to create a more sustainable system, yet one of the mechanisms designed to contain expenditure encountered sufficient resistance to be put on hold.

The Independent Pensions Regulatory Authority

The SAP therefore should not be presented as a magic solution to the politics of pensions. It is an opportunity — but an opportunity that can be realised only if its institutional safeguards are strong enough.

The most potentially consequential element of the reform

is the proposed Independent Pensions Regulatory Authority, which the Government says will hold responsibility for general and specific pension policy. If properly designed, this institution could help take pensions out of the electoral marketplace — as Kugan Parapen has repeatedly argued.

Imagine, for example, that pension increases were determined according to an established formula incorporating inflation, wage growth, life expectancy, demographic trends and the State's fiscal capacity. A government approaching an election would then have less room to announce an arbitrary increase. The political debate could instead focus on whether the established formula is appropriate, whether the economy can sustain a particular level of benefits and whether the pension system is adequately protecting vulnerable citizens. That would be a major improvement.

But independence is crucial. An authority that merely advises the Government, while leaving the Cabinet free to override its recommendations whenever an election approaches, would accomplish little. A genuinely independent authority should publish regular actuarial assessments, explain the long-term financial implications of pension decisions and make its recommendations publicly available. Parliament, rather than the electoral campaign, should become the principal arena in which major departures from established pension policy are debated.

The SAP cannot eliminate political incentives

There is, however, a fundamental limitation. No pension system can completely remove politics. A government elected on a mandate to increase pensions will still have the legal power to change pension legislation. Parliament will remain sovereign. Political parties will continue to seek votes from pensioners. The SAP can therefore mitigate, rather than eliminate, the electoral use of pensions. Its success will depend on whether Mauritius can establish a political consensus that pensions are too important to be manipulated according to the electoral timetable.

The Ultimate Test

The SAP will therefore face a difficult test.

If it merely replaces the words Basic Retirement Pension with State Age Pension, while leaving governments free to make politically motivated increases whenever elections approach, then little will have changed. But if it introduces transparent rules, credible actuarial oversight and a genuinely independent regulatory authority, it could mark a turning point.

Mauritius has already experienced the consequences of pension competition. The progression from roughly Rs 3,623 in 2014 to Rs 5,000, then Rs 9,000, Rs 10,000, Rs 11,000 and eventually Rs 13,500 illustrates how quickly pension commitments can become embedded in electoral politics. The lesson should not be that pensioners have received too much. Nor should it be that governments should become less compassionate. The lesson is that compassion must be institutionalised rather than electoralised.

Mauritius needs a pension system that protects elderly citizens when elections are four years away, when elections are four weeks away—and when there is no election at all.

The State Age Pension could provide that foundation. But the real reform will come only if politicians of all parties agree to remove pensions from the electoral auction.

Mauritius Times

Founder/Editor: Beekrumsing Ramlallah
Aug 1954-Sept 2000

Editor: M. Ramlallah

This paper has been produced with
the assistance of

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The Anatomy of Administrative Blocages: Where Responsibility Lies When Government Machinery Stalls

Bureaucratic red tape and administrative blocages often stall government initiatives in Mauritius. In this week's Q&A, Lex examines the legal and structural realities of public service — asking where accountability lies when systems stall, the difference between proper safeguards and obstruction, and whether reforms like fixed deadlines and a general Administrative Procedure Act could finally bring agility to the state machinery.

LEX

*** Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam recently complained about administrative “blocages” at the Ministry of Health which were allegedly delaying initiatives involving Mauritian medical specialists from abroad. When administrative inertia prevents a government policy or decision from being implemented, who bears legal responsibility: the Minister, the Senior Chief Executive/Permanent Secretary, or the individual officer?**

In Mauritius, the Senior Chief Executive or Permanent Secretary bears primary administrative and operational responsibility for implementing policies, while the Minister holds political accountability. If administrative inertia causes systemic failure, the SCE/Permanent Secretary faces internal disciplinary action, audits, or queries from central oversight bodies, though pure delay rarely leads to criminal charges unless negligence crosses into gross misconduct.

*** With regard to the recurrence of such “blocages”, do public service regulations and constitutional safeguards — designed to protect job security and shield civil servants from political interference — make it excessively difficult to hold underperforming officials accountable, thereby contributing to the persistence of a culture of impunity?**

Constitutional safeguards and public service regulations in Mauritius create a complex balance between shielding the civil service from political patronage and preventing swift administrative accountability. Provisions in the Constitution of Mauritius (such as those governing the Public Service Commission) are designed to ensure career stability and independence, preventing shifting political regimes from arbitrarily dismissing or appointing public officers. Statutory procedures ensure that dismissing or disciplining an officer requires rigorous due process, formal inquiries, and evidentiary standards to prevent victimization.

*** Additionally, does the structure of the Civil Service — where decisions often pass through multiple officials, committees, and layers of approval — make it difficult to identify who is responsible when delays or failures occur?**

Yes, the multi-layered structure of the Mauritian Civil Service often creates a spread of responsibility, making it difficult to

pinpoint individual blame for delays or administrative failures. Files pass through many hands—from clerical officers up to Permanent Secretaries. Each layer adds review time, and no single person owns the entire process.

Committees, boards, and evaluation panels share decisions across groups. When a committee fails, individual members rarely face solo accountability. Decisions often require input from separate entities, such as the Ministry of Finance or the State Law Office, stalling timelines further.

*** On the other hand, procurement and financial regulations exist for good reasons, and a civil servant cannot disregard them simply because a Minister wants things done quickly. Can a minister lawfully instruct officials to bypass established procedures in the name of efficiency or under the guise of an emergency (as was alleged under the previous administration for the procurement of Covid drugs)?**

No, a minister in Mauritius cannot lawfully instruct officials to bypass established public procurement and financial regulations simply for speed, efficiency, or unverified emergencies. Public bodies are bound strictly by the Public Procurement Act and financial management rules. Procedures must remain transparent, competitive, and accountable.

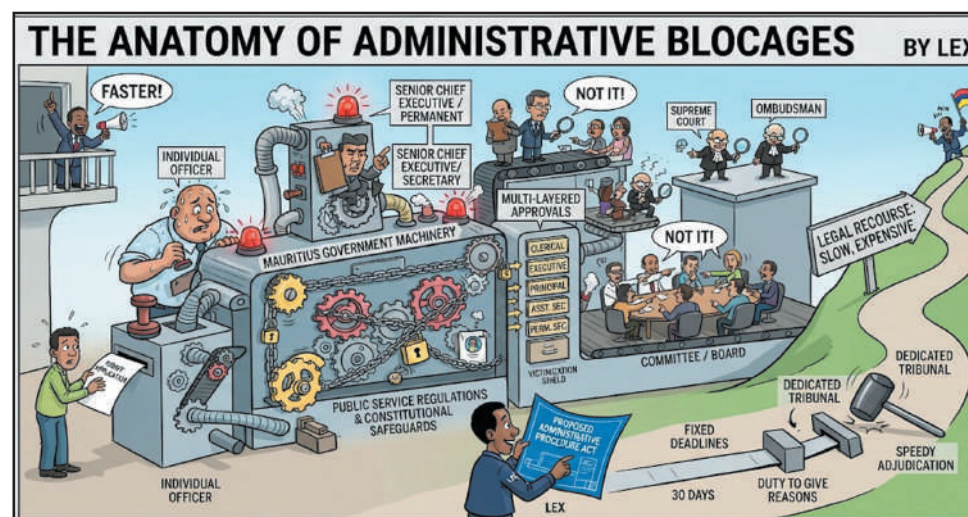
Emergency or restricted procurement methods are tightly defined by law. They require explicit legal justifications, formal approvals, or specific determinations such as national security provisions under the Act, rather than arbitrary ministerial preference.

Under the civil service Code of Ethics, public officers owe their primary legal and professional duty to the execution of lawful obligations. Following an unlawful verbal or informal instruction to break procurement rules exposes officials to personal accountability and disciplinary or criminal sanctions.

*** From a legal perspective, how should we distinguish legitimate administrative safeguards from unjustified bureaucratic obstruction?**

Under Mauritian public law, the distinction between a legitimate administrative safeguard and unjustified bureaucratic obstruction relies on whether the public authority acts within its statutory mandate or abuses its discretionary power.

The Supreme Court of Mauritius uses established public law principles to evaluate administrative conduct. Legitimate adminis-



trative safeguards are rooted in clear legislative text intended to protect public order, national security, health, or financial transparency such as anti-money laundering laws.

The measures taken are proportional to the risk or objective pursued, avoiding excessive burdens on individuals or businesses. Authorities follow fair procedures, providing notice, reasons, and a legitimate right to be heard. This is called natural justice.

*** Procedures can also easily become a shield for inaction. At what point can excessive or unexplained administrative delay amount to maladministration or an unlawful failure to act, and what legal remedies does a citizen have when a public authority fails to decide within a reasonable time?**

Excessive administrative delay becomes an unlawful failure to act or maladministration when it breaches the implied legal duty of a public authority to make decisions within a reasonable time, or when it violates specific statutory timeframes.

The delay shifts from an administrative bottleneck to an illegality when it is unexplained, prolonged, capricious, or driven by an implicit institutional policy of avoidance. If the delay renders the eventual decision meaningless or effectively denies a citizen a right or licence the authority is duty-bound to consider, it amounts to a constructive refusal or ultra-vires failure to exercise discretion.

Under the Office of the Ombudsman framework in Mauritius, protracted and unexplained inaction that causes an injustice to a citizen is classified as maladministration.

*** Should Mauritius set statutory time limits for administrative decisions — such as 30, 60, or 90 days — coupled with a mandatory duty to give reasons when those limits are missed?**

If statutory time limits and a mandatory duty to give reasons for delayed administrative decisions are set, such measures would significantly improve accountability and transparency in Mauritius, provided public bodies have the necessary resources to comply.

Fixed deadlines (such as 30, 60, or 90 days) give individuals and businesses clear expectations for permits, licences, and public applications. A mandatory requirement to explain why a deadline was missed forces public officers to account for backlogs or procedural bottlenecks.

Clear timelines make it simpler for applicants to know when an administrative failure has occurred, aligning with recent Mauritian legal shifts toward stricter procedural certainty, such as the 45-day time limit introduced for judicial review applications.

*** Are current oversight bodies sufficient to tackle administrative bottlenecks, or do we need a dedicated tribunal equipped to swiftly adjudicate complaints regarding unreasonable delays and public sector inertia?**

Current oversight bodies in Mauritius are generally considered insufficient to tackle deep-seated public sector inertia and administrative bottlenecks, sparking serious debate over the need for a dedicated, fast-acting administrative tribunal. Established under the Constitution, the Office of the Ombudsman can investigate maladministration, but it lacks binding enforcement or penalty powers to swiftly reverse bureaucratic delays or force immediate administrative compliance.

While traditional recourse exists through the courts, judicial review is often slow, expensive, and procedurally complex. Reports and recommendations by state watchdogs — such as the Director of Audit or anti-corruption bodies — frequently face high rates of non-implementation by government ministries, highlighting a systemic lack of direct administrative accountability.

*** Many jurisdictions have adopted legislation based on principles of good administration — legality, proportionality, fairness, transparency, and timely decisions. Should Mauritius consider a general Administrative Procedure Act setting out these principles in one statute?**

Mauritius should consider adopting a general Administrative Procedure Act to codify the core principles of good administration into a single, comprehensive statute. Currently, Mauritian public law relies heavily on English common law traditions, fragmented case law, and procedural rules overseen by the Supreme Court.

A single statute can clearly define the rights of citizens and the duties of public authorities. Such a statute would streamline administrative procedures and lower the reliance on expensive and complex judicial review cases. Moreover, these statutory rules would replace closed bureaucratic habits with open, accessible decision-making.



Sada Reddi

Should PSAC examination be abolished?

Rather than foisting society's woes on primary schools, we suggest that primary education can play a significant role in improving the quality of life of our children and grandchildren

Pending the approval or review of the report on education by Cabinet, one may venture one or two thoughts about the PSAC examination and curriculum change. These are not intended to bring about any major change in the primary school system but simply to invite stakeholders, particularly educators and parents, to reflect on whether abolishing the Primary School Achievement Certificate (PSAC) examination merits consideration and whether sports activities should become a major discipline in the primary school curriculum.

Over the last decades, it is well known that all curricular reform proposals have resulted in negotiations between the Ministry of Education, school institutions and educators, and in the process, it is educators who have decided which curricular change or pedagogy should be adopted, rejected or simply ignored at classroom level, as most curriculum changes are never based on empirical research in our local context and are merely imaginings of an administration disconnected from ground reality. This is especially so in Mauritius, where consultation with educators is often given lip service. So this is why educators are invited to think about the abolition of PSAC and to consider widening the curriculum beyond academic subjects.

Over the decades, it is well known that curricular reforms have involved negotiations between the Ministry of Education, schools and educators. Yet, ultimately, it is educators who determine which curricular changes or pedagogical approaches are adopted, rejected or simply ignored at classroom level. This is because many curriculum reforms are not grounded in empirical research within our local context, but are often the product of an administration disconnected from the realities of the classroom. This is particularly so in Mauritius, where consultation with educators is too often given lip service. It is in this context that educators are invited to reflect on the abolition of PSAC and on the need to broaden the curriculum beyond purely academic subjects.

Examinations have been an evil necessity and have had multiple objectives, and one of their main functions has also been to select students for the next level of education. In Mauritius, this has restricted access to higher classes and also to other institutions, especially at primary level. The selection function can be traced at least to the Ward Report of 1941.

In recent years, this function has been streamlined in various ways but has never been abolished. In the past, it was partly justified on the grounds that there were not enough primary schools because colonial education did not envisage more than basic literacy for the mass of the population, while secondary education was reserved for the elite to serve in the colonial bureaucracy.

Despite this colonial ideology, it had unintended consequences, namely a demand for more educational opportunities, which resulted in the creation of various elites in the course of time, both in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. In the 1960s, about 54 primary schools were built so that each village had a primary school.

At present, one may well ask if the PSAC examination at the end of primary schooling is worth retaining. There are several reasons to explore this line of thought. One impor-



“We all know from our personal experience how the absence of physical and leisure activities has taken a toll on the lives of so many people who suffer from all kinds of diseases, dementia and Alzheimer's. Far from foisting society's woes on our primary schools, we are suggesting that primary education has the potential to contribute significantly to enhancing the quality of life of our children and grandchildren...” - Pic - Playworks

tant factor is the demographic trend in our school population.

In January 2026, about 8,000 pupils joined primary schools, and, on the other hand, it has been announced that all pupils will join regional colleges at the end of the primary cycle, suggesting that there are seats for all who want to join government schools, especially as 40 per cent of Grade 1 pupils will opt for private schools.

In this context, one may well argue that the selection function of PSAC has become redundant. Since we all know that examinations fulfil other functions, such as evaluating the acquisition of knowledge, skills and other competencies, these functions can still continue at classroom level without the need for a final national examination, especially as these are already being implemented internally.

The abolition of PSAC becomes even more pertinent when the Government itself is considering the abolition of the National Certificate of Education (NCE) examination, with access to national colleges based on internal assessment. It is ironic that we are contemplating the abolition of the NCE while the primary cycle, which forms the foundation of our educational system, remains examination-driven. It is at this level that we must first focus our attention, particularly with the advent of AI, which is set to shape our uncertain and inexorable future as it increasingly enters the nooks and crannies of our lives.

Since the future is unknown, what is certain is that AI is already shaping our present society and will increasingly do so in the years ahead. It is in the primary sector that we need to equip our children with the skills, competencies and resourcefulness to face this uncertain future. With AI, knowledge can be acquired with a simple click, while Artificial Intelligence can already perform tasks beyond the capabilities of any individual.

We are already seeing many jobs being transformed or becoming redundant. Clerical work, accountancy, legal research and management functions will increasingly be automated, while new jobs will emerge involving AI agents capable of managing, building and repairing technology.

In the health sector, software can already analyse scans and MRIs and produce detailed reports that no individual practitioner could prepare as quickly; a doctor may simply need to review and customise them where necessary.

AI can write books and reports and even imitate the style of a Nobel Prize winner. Already, we see articles generated by AI appearing in our local newspapers and on social media.

Nevertheless, we will continue to need more hands-on occupations that AI cannot easily replace — jobs requiring human contact, empathy and practical skills, such as education, nursing and other professions requiring a range of soft skills. Even food production could become increasingly automated. In Japan, for instance, a fully automated agricultural factory can reportedly produce 20,000 heads of lettuce a day.

Given that these changes are already happening and universities are being compelled to revisit their mode of operation, curriculum, evaluation and certification to cope with the changing needs of society, the primary curriculum will also need to factor in these changes.

While we are not suggesting a review of the curriculum, it is necessary for all of us to consider giving sports activities a major role in the curriculum and even making them a core area. What we are suggesting is that we increasingly abandon the hiatus between academic and supposedly non-academic subjects, with particular reference to physical and sports activities, arts and music.

One has to realise that by making sports a core area of the curriculum, we will be preparing and inculcating in our children from an early age an intrinsic interest in remaining physically fit and developing their cognitive skills and other moral values, which will be beneficial for their overall development throughout their lives. Waiting to do so at secondary level is too late.

Sports, arts, music and other indoor or outdoor activities are developmental processes that perhaps we may not have associated with these subjects in the past, although a few secondary schools included them as an integral part of a well-balanced general education. These areas of study are known to contribute to physical fitness, decision-making, strategic thinking, moral values, team spirit and imagination. They also encourage children to ask questions that may never have been asked before and ultimately prepare them to remain human in an increasingly technological society where they risk losing their soul.

We all know from our personal experience and from what we see around us, in our families, among friends and in society at large, how the absence of physical and leisure activities has taken a toll on the lives of so many people who suffer from all kinds of diseases, dementia and Alzheimer's. Far from foisting society's woes on our primary schools, we are suggesting that primary education has the potential to contribute significantly to enhancing the quality of life of our children and grandchildren.

It is in this perspective that we invite educators and parents to give some thought to the importance of the primary curriculum and to make the school system a freer environment for teachers and learners, where pupils would be free to pursue their interests in various areas without the shadow of a stressful examination hanging over their young heads.

It is therefore time to think about whether we should retain the PSAC, which has outlived its selection function in a fast-changing society.

Réseaux sociaux et adolescents

Le monde commence enfin à s'attaquer à l'addiction numérique

Par A. Bartleby

Le règlement annoncé aux États-Unis entre Meta et les autorités de 48 États américains marque un tournant dans la manière dont les pouvoirs publics considèrent les réseaux sociaux. Meta, propriétaire de Facebook et Instagram, a accepté de verser jusqu'à 18 milliards de dollars et de renforcer considérablement les mesures de protection des enfants et des adolescents. L'accord met fin à une procédure judiciaire historique qui accusait l'entreprise d'avoir conçu certaines fonctionnalités de ses plateformes de manière à retenir les jeunes utilisateurs le plus longtemps possible.

L'affaire est importante non seulement en raison de son montant, mais surtout parce qu'elle pose une question qui dépasse largement les États-Unis: peut-on continuer à considérer l'addiction aux réseaux sociaux comme un simple problème de responsabilité individuelle ou doit-on également responsabiliser les entreprises qui conçoivent ces plateformes?

Selon les éléments de l'accord, Meta devra notamment

- instaurer une limite quotidienne de deux heures pour les adolescents, sauf autorisation parentale,
- interrompre certaines notifications pendant les heures scolaires, et
- renforcer les systèmes de vérification de l'âge.

De plus, des restrictions supplémentaires concerneront les contenus liés au harcèlement, aux troubles alimentaires et à l'automutilation. Les fonctions favorisant la comparaison sociale, notamment l'affichage du nombre de "likes", seront également limitées.

En outre, un auditeur indépendant devra contrôler la mise en œuvre et l'efficacité de ces mesures.

L'accord est particulièrement révélateur parce qu'il ne s'agit plus simplement de demander aux parents de surveiller leurs enfants. Il s'attaque au fonctionnement même des plateformes. C'est une évolution essentielle.

Pendant des années, la responsabilité a largement été renvoyée aux familles: limiter le temps d'écran, confisquer le téléphone, contrôler les applications. Mais comment demander à des parents de rivaliser avec des algorithmes conçus par des équipes d'ingénieurs et de psychologues pour capter continuellement l'attention des utilisateurs?

Le montant de 18 milliards de dollars est spectaculaire, mais il faut néanmoins garder le sens des proportions. Il représente une fraction du chiffre d'affaires annuel de Meta. La véritable question sera donc celle de l'impact durable des mesures imposées. Comme le souligne l'ancien responsable de Meta Arturo Béjar, cité dans l'article de l'AP, limiter la durée d'utilisation ne suffit pas nécessairement si le contenu auquel les jeunes sont exposés demeure nocif.

Une réaction qui dépasse les États-Unis

D'autres pays ont compris que le problème exige une réponse réglementaire.

L'Australie a choisi l'une des approches les plus radicales. Depuis décembre 2025, les principales plateformes de réseaux sociaux doivent prendre des mesures raisonnables pour empêcher les moins de 16 ans d'avoir un compte. Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, YouTube, Snapchat, X et Reddit figurent notamment parmi les plateformes concernées. Les entreprises qui ne respectent pas leurs obligations peuvent encourir des amendes pouvant atteindre 49,5 millions de dollars australiens.

Le Royaume-Uni va également beaucoup plus loin. En juin 2026, le Gouvernement a annoncé son intention d'interdire aux plateformes de fournir leurs services aux jeunes de moins de 16



L'addiction aux réseaux sociaux relève-t-elle uniquement de la responsabilité individuelle, ou faut-il aussi responsabiliser les entreprises qui conçoivent ces plateformes?

ans, tout en prévoyant des restrictions supplémentaires pour certaines fonctionnalités dangereuses et des protections renforcées pour ceux ayant 16-17 ans. Ces dernières comprennent notamment des restrictions nocturnes, la désactivation par défaut de certaines notifications et la limitation des fils personnalisés et de la lecture automatique.

L'Union européenne adopte une approche différente, davantage fondée sur la réglementation des plateformes et la vérification de l'âge. La Commission européenne a publié des lignes directrices visant notamment à réduire l'exposition des mineurs aux pratiques favorisant les comportements addictifs, au cyberharcèlement et aux contenus dangereux. Elle développe également un système de vérification de l'âge conçu pour préserver la vie privée.

La France, de son côté, vient encore de renforcer son arsenal législatif avec une loi visant à protéger les mineurs contre les risques liés aux réseaux sociaux, promulguée le 24 août 2026, même si certaines dispositions initialement prévues ont été censurées par le Conseil constitutionnel.

Quelles leçons pour la République de Maurice?

Cette évolution internationale mérite d'être suivie attentivement à Maurice. Le problème n'est pas de diaboliser Facebook, Instagram, TikTok ou YouTube. Les réseaux sociaux ont aussi une valeur éducative, professionnelle et sociale considérable. Mais il serait naïf de considérer toutes les plateformes comme de simples outils neutres.

Lorsqu'un modèle économique repose en partie sur la captation de l'attention, la protection des enfants ne peut être laissée à la seule bonne volonté des entreprises.

Maurice devrait donc réfléchir à une politique combinant plusieurs éléments: une vérification efficace de l'âge, des paramètres de sécurité renforcés par défaut pour les mineurs, des limites nocturnes et scolaires, une meilleure information des parents et surtout une véritable éducation au numérique dans les écoles.

Il faudrait également éviter une approche purement punitive. Interdire ne suffit pas. Un adolescent privé de TikTok ou d'Instagram — mais laissé sans accompagnement — peut simplement se tourner vers une autre plateforme ou contourner les restrictions.

La priorité devrait être de créer un environnement dans lequel la technologie sert l'adolescent au lieu de laisser le modèle économique de la technologie se servir de lui.



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Justice mauricienne

70 269 affaires en attente, l'urgence d'une réforme systémique

Le rapport annuel du judiciaire pour 2025 dresse un constat à la fois préoccupant et révélateur: la justice mauricienne traite un volume considérable d'affaires, mais peine à réduire son stock de dossiers en attente. Au 31 décembre 2025, pas moins de 70 269 affaires demeuraient en attente de jugement devant les tribunaux, contre 66 919 un an plus tôt, soit une progression de 5 %. À lui seul, ce chiffre traduit l'ampleur du défi auquel fait face l'appareil judiciaire.

La situation est particulièrement préoccupante au pénal. Sur l'ensemble des affaires en attente, 57 212 sont criminelles, contre 13 057 civiles. Dans le même temps, le nombre de nouvelles affaires continue d'augmenter. En 2025, 92 649 dossiers ont été introduits devant les juridictions mauriciennes, contre 88 586 en 2024, soit une hausse de 4,6 %. Les nouvelles affaires criminelles ont notamment atteint 78 189, contre 74 384 l'année précédente.

Le problème n'est donc pas simplement celui d'une justice qui fonctionnerait lentement. Il s'agit d'un déséquilibre entre le nombre de dossiers qui entrent dans le système et la capacité de celui-ci à les traiter rapidement. En 2025, 88 470 affaires ont été disposées, contre 93 521 en 2024. Autrement dit, davantage de dossiers sont entrés alors que le nombre de dossiers traités a diminué. Dès lors, le stock ne pouvait que s'accroître.

Paradoxalement, le rapport fait également état d'une progression importante des condamnations. Quelque 48 231 infractions pénales ont abouti à une condamnation en 2025, contre 43 554 en 2024, soit une augmentation de 10,7 %.

Suite en page 17



Anil Madan

Iranian Sanctions, Canadian Tariffs: A Double Whammy

Engaging in a tariff war with Canada fractures allied cooperation and destabilizes the US economy while Washington struggles to manage simultaneous crises in the Middle East and global sanctions

With which country does the US have the closest ties of friendship and cooperation? If you had asked that question just three years ago, the unsurprising answer would have been either Britain or Canada. The US-Canada bond has been more than one of geography. Both countries are neighbours, friends, and competitors in hockey. Canadians cheer on baseball and football teams in the US and are fans of American professional golfers and tennis players.

Americans welcome Canadian tourists and snowbirds heading south for the winter as friends. A common language unites us; quirks of pronunciation and enunciation separate us. Minus the geography, much the same may be said of Brits. Other countries with close relationships to the US would include Australia, Taiwan, South Korea, and Japan.

If one had asked to name countries with the worst relationship, it is a fair bet that Iran, North Korea and China would have been at the top.

It was jarring, therefore, to hear Canada's Prime Minister, Mark Carney, declare that what he had earlier described as a rupture in the relationship between the US and Canada, had escalated so that our two nations are now at war. "We were attacked. You're at war when you get attacked. We got attacked," Mr Carney said.

What prompted Mr Carney's defiant and firm lamentation was President Trump's imposition of new 50% tariffs on about \$28 billion of Canadian imports (beer, cheese, electronics, etc.), alongside existing tariffs on aluminum, lumber, vehicles and steel.

Given the US Supreme Court's earlier ruling that Trump's imposition of tariffs violated the law, one might have thought that the end of the tariffs was just grandstanding. But Trump's obsession with tariffs has not abated. He purports to act on a different legal basis, Section 338 of the Tariff Act of 1930, allowing up to 50% tariffs on imports from countries deemed to discriminate against US commerce. Undoubtedly, legal challenges will follow.

A Transactional Foreign Policy

It is not clear how Canada's exports to the US discriminate against US commerce, but Mr Trump has also accused Canada of "ripping off" the US and of wanting all the benefits of being a state within the Union without being a state. Whether this is a revival of his nascent desire to annex Canada as America's 51st state or something else, it anyone's guess. A part of the answer lies in Mr. Trump's perception that other countries, such as China, have been 'ripping off' the US, and that even its allies in NATO — as well as Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea — have not paid adequately for American protection.

Mr Trump's view of security then becomes that of a salesman. It is a transactional view, perhaps even a zero-sum calibration. Missing from the equation is any weight to be given to the benefits to America and the rest of the world



“Mr Trump has also accused Canada of ‘ripping off’ the US and of wanting all the benefits of being a state within the Union without being a state. Whether this is a revival of his nascent desire to annex Canada as America’s 51st state or something else, it anyone’s guess. A part of the answer lies in Mr. Trump’s perception that other countries, such as China, have been ‘ripping off’ the US, and that even its allies in NATO — as well as Japan, Taiwan, and South Korea — have not paid adequately for American protection...”

from having economically stable and secure markets, and physical security for nations with whom we trade and interact daily. Nor do his calculations take into account that demanding more self-reliance by its allies poses the danger that they will focus on proliferating the most dangerous types of weapons to get the most bang for their buck in terms of lethality as well as deterrence.

The emergence of this sort of danger can be seen in Carney's framing and response. He declared that Canada is "effectively 'at war' with the United States over trade," calling it "a power play" and "a question of sovereignty." Even three years ago, one would have been hard pressed to predict that a Canadian Prime Minister would declare that his nation was at war with its closest neighbour and longstanding friend.

Accordingly, Canada plans dollar for dollar retaliation, with tariffs on American exports of steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, pulp and paper, and electronics starting Sept. 8. The potential negative impact on Canadian businesses is to be ameliorated by C\$25 billion in assistance to affected firms.

Carney called off talks with the US aimed at reaching a deal on mutual tariffs and free trade. He accused Washington of making last minute demands touching French language, Quebec culture, Canadian identity, and alignment of Canada's wider trade policy with US tariffs — calling it "no longer about a trade deal, it is about a takeover of Canada's sovereignty and identity."

The economic stakes are immense for Canada and significant for the US despite its much larger economy:

- US-Canada trade in 2025: about \$879.9 billion total, with US imports of \$453.6 billion and exports of \$426.3 billion; the US runs a modest deficit.
- Earlier data show goods trade of \$791.7 billion and services of \$216.4 billion in 2023, underscoring how deeply integrated the two economies are.
- Economists estimate up to 90,000 Canadian jobs at risk;

small and midsize firms (like a Manitoba honey farm that sells 90% of its output to the US) face existential pressure from 50% tariffs.

US officials argue Canada has long enjoyed exceptionally favourable access to the US market and warn that retaliation will backfire on Canadian workers, while Canadian leaders talk openly about diversifying away from the US and even considering energy exports (oil, gas, electricity, critical minerals) as leverage — which Carney for now abjures based on his concern about damaging Canada's reputation as a reliable supplier.

Canada has been diligently at work in diversifying the customer base for its goods and services and has made trade deals with India, China, Europe and other countries.

* * *

US Sanctions on Iran: The High-Stakes Game in Hormuz

At the same time, the Trump administration has paused its airstrikes and missile attacks on Iran and framed its current campaign as an attempt to economically suffocate the Iranian regime rather than rely solely on bombing. "Dubbed 'Operation Economic Outcast,' the initiative is aimed at closing loopholes in the existing US financial dragnet around Iran. This, according to Treasury Secretary Bessent, is forcing an "endgame" in the conflict that President Trump launched in February.

Treasury officials added five sectors to the target list: cryptocurrency used by the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps (IRGC) and regime insiders, weapons-related technologies, gold used to stabilize the currency, Iran's airlines, and shipping that carries weapons components and oil, alongside sanctions on 60 entities, individuals and vessels tied to nuclear/missile procurement, cyber operations and oil sales.

The State Department's sanctions announcements in 2025 and 2026 show a steady tightening on:

- **Oil and shipping networks:** repeated actions against Iran's "shadow fleet," illicit petroleum traders, and Iran-China oil trade.
- **Financial and digital channels:** sanctions on shadow banking, digital asset exchanges, and cash pipelines used for terror finance and sanctions evasion.
- **Military and cyber:** measures targeting weapons procurement networks, ballistic and nuclear supply chains, and cyber groups accused of attacks on US infrastructure.

Politically, figures like John Bolton openly describe the goal as "pulling the regime apart at the top and causing instability in the country." The hope — or bet — is that economic pressure and sanctions will eventually fracture the security apparatus.

Oil flow through the Strait of Hormuz

Whereas Iran claims that the Strait of Hormuz is effectively closed to shipping, that claim is contested by US Central Command which says that significant — though reduced — oil still moves:

"The shipments are still far below the fuel exports before the war, when about 20 million barrels per day of crude oil and products passed through Hormuz. But the US military's figures indicate that a substantial amount of oil is passing through the strait despite Iranian threats and attacks."

US Central Command claims that:

- 660 million barrels of crude shipments were assisted by the US through Hormuz since early May.
- At least 160 million barrels (over 7 million barrels per day) in the past three weeks passed through the Strait.

For perspective, the pre-war baseline was about 20 million barrels per day of crude and products transiting Hormuz.

Some private tracking estimates put crude exports at about 1.6 million barrels per day in May, about 4 million in June, about 5 million in July, with August expected higher — suggesting scaling flows but still below pre-war levels.

☞ Cont. on page 8



Vijay Makhan

The Thucydides Trap: Are We Walking Into It?

The greatest danger may not be that Washington, Beijing, Moscow, Tehran or others consciously desire a wider conflagration. It is that each believes escalation can be managed. Until it cannot!

Xi Jinping invoked an ancient warning during Donald Trump's recent visit to Beijing. It deserves more than passing attention. At a time when great-power rivalry is sharpening, wars are raging or smouldering across several regions and the institutions created to contain international conflict are visibly weakening, the conditions that once propelled Athens and Sparta towards catastrophe are beginning to look disturbingly familiar.



Xi Jinping's ancient warning during Donald Trump's recent Beijing visit deserves attention. As great-power rivalry intensifies and global institutions weaken, the conditions that once drove Athens and Sparta to catastrophe are becoming disturbingly familiar. Pic - Open Magazine

There was a curious moment during Trump's visit to China which deserved more attention than it received. He had travelled to Beijing clearly anxious to display the personal chemistry which he so often regards as an instrument of diplomacy. There was much talk of friendship and of his relationship with Xi. Indeed, he went looking for an embrace from the Dragon. It did not materialise.

Instead, Xi reached back some two and a half millennia and invoked Thucydides. He asked in substance, could their two countries avoid the "Thucydides Trap" — the historical predicament in which the rise of one great power creates such apprehension in the established power that confrontation becomes increasingly difficult to avoid? It was an intriguing intervention. More importantly, it was a warning.

As a student of history and international relations, I could hardly allow such an invocation to pass unnoticed. Much of my writing of late has addressed the upheavals unfolding around us, but I have found myself returning repeatedly to history in seeking to understand them. Not because history repeats itself with mechanical precision, but because the present so often carries echoes of choices made, warnings ignored and miscalculations committed before. Xi's reference to Thucydides therefore struck a

particular chord. It invited reflection well beyond the immediate theatre of Sino-American relations.

The question today is not confined to whether China will displace the United States as the world's predominant power. As one surveys the current international landscape, one detects several of the ingredients that Thucydides identified more than two thousand years ago: fear, power, ambition, insecurity, alliances, prestige and miscalculation.

The trappings of the trap are increasingly in place.

Athens, Sparta — and Fear

Thucydides' celebrated explanation for the Peloponnesian War was simple—the rise of Athens and the fear it inspired in Sparta made war inevitable. But was it really inevitable? Should we fall into the intellectual trap of believing that whenever one power rises and another feels threatened, war must necessarily follow? History does not repeat itself so mechanically. But history warns.

Thucydides' insight was not merely that Athens became stronger. It was that the changing balance of power altered perceptions, generated fear, affected calculations of security and eventually narrowed the political space within which tolerance remained possible.

That is what makes Xi's reference so pertinent today. Washington perceives China's rise as a strategic challenge. Its economic weight, technological capacity, military modernisation, expanding maritime presence and growing diplomatic influence already alter the international balance. The Belt and Road Initiative, BRICS, its increasingly important relationships throughout the Global South and its expanding presence across the Indo-Pacific and Indian Ocean all form part of a changing geopolitical landscape.

Unsurprisingly, Washington responds through its military partnerships and alliances, its strategic deployments, and the securitisation of technology. Trade is now an instrument of geopolitical competition. Tariffs and sanctions are diplomatic tools.

While one side regards what it does as defensive, the other interprets it as potentially offensive. An old dilemma of international relations. One country's search for security becomes another country's source of insecurity.

Beyond Washington and Beijing

It would be a mistake to confine the Thucydidean warning to the United States and China. The conflict in Ukraine cannot be reduced to a simplistic contest between two great powers. However, some of the underlying dynamics identified by Thucydides are unmistakably present. Russia speaks of encirclement and strategic insecurity. European states speak of the threat posed by Russian expansionism. NATO strengthens its eastern flank. Moscow responds. Military expenditure rises. Deterrence is reinforced to create security while the opposing side consequently feels less secure.

The circle feeds upon itself. None of this is to absolve states of the consequences for the decisions they take or to suggest moral equivalence between aggression and response. It is simply about recognising a dangerous strategic phenomenon: **fear has once again become a major organising principle of international relations.**

The Middle East: The Danger of What Might Be

The Middle East offers an even more disturbing illustration. The historical analogy cannot be literal. Iran is not Athens. Israel is not Sparta. Nor is Iran about to challenge the United States for global predominance. The underlying logic? A state fears not simply what another state possesses today, but what it might possess tomorrow. It acts because of what an adversary might eventually become capable of doing.

Preventive action produces retaliation. Retaliation produces counter-retalia-

tion. Allies become involved. Military objectives expand. Political prestige becomes invested in the outcome. Leaders who confidently predicted short engagements discover that wars develop logics of their own.

The present Middle Eastern conflict bears witness to that. Grandiloquent declarations of "obliteration" and overwhelming force could not disguise an elementary truth which history has demonstrated repeatedly — **wars are much easier to start than to end.** And once unleashed, their consequences travel far beyond the countries firing the missiles.

Mauritius knows something about that. So do other vulnerable small states whose populations have had no say whatsoever in the decisions leading to conflict but nevertheless face higher fuel bills, freight charges, insurance premiums, inflationary pressures, disrupted supply chains and increasing uncertainty.

Distance no longer provides insulation from geopolitical folly.

The Trap Within the Trap

There is, however, an additional dimension to the present predicament which makes our situation potentially even more dangerous. The architects of the post-1945 international order understood what unrestrained power politics had done to the world twice within barely three decades.

The United Nations, international law, multilateral diplomacy and the network of institutions constructed were never perfect. Nor did they abolish war. But they were intended to provide mechanisms through which disagreement could be channelled before confrontation became catastrophe.

Today those mechanisms are under strain. The UN has repeatedly found itself marginalised precisely when it is most needed. The Security Council remains paralysed by competing interests and the veto. International law is too frequently invoked when convenient and disregarded when inconvenient. Sanctions, tariffs and economic coercion have become routine instruments of statecraft. Military expenditure is climbing. Nuclear arsenals are being revamped. Strategic alliances are multiplying.

And what is most worrying is that diplomacy is resorted to after military action rather than before it. Aren't we recreating some of the conditions of the Thucydides Trap while simultaneously weakening the institutions designed to prevent us from falling into it?

When History Warns

There is another historical warning worth recalling. Europe before 1914 didn't exist in wilderness. It possessed sophisticated governments, professional diplomatic services, extensive international commerce and societies linked through finance, culture and trade. Yet the assassination of Archduke Franz Ferdinand in Sarajevo set in motion a chain of events that transformed a regional crisis into a continental war and eventually into a global catastrophe: the First World War.

Iranian Sanctions, Canadian Tariffs: A Double Whammy

☞ Cont. from page 6

Iran claims the strait is closed until US obligations under a June 17 interim peace deal are met, while Trump insists “the strait is open and under US control.” Hormuz is split between a US-protected southern route along Oman and a northern route under Iranian pressure, with at least 17 commercial ships attacked in July and August.

Recent reporting reinforces that picture: Iran and Oman have discussed a joint temporary corridor and mine clearing project, but the IRGC says the strait will remain closed unless Washington accepts Tehran’s conditions, while Trump publicly claims, “a lot of oil is pouring out.”

The upshot is that oil flows are volatile, heavily militarized, and well below pre-war volumes — but still large enough (roughly mid-single to low double digit millions of barrels per day depending on whose data you trust) to keep global prices high without triggering full scale supply panic.

How the Iran sanctions and the Canada-US trade fight interact

The Iran sanctions are tightening global oil supply and raising prices; the Canada-US tariff war is tightening North American supply chains and raising costs. Together, they amplify inflation, political pressure, and strategic leverage — and they increasingly shape each other’s trajectories.

Oil prices will mirror effects between the two crises. Shipments are still far below exports before the war, when about 20 million barrels per day passed through Hormuz. Only three or four vessels have passed through the strait on a daily basis in the month of August.

Even with US military escorting tankers, the flow is unstable and contested. The price of Brent crude is already elevated — in the low to mid \$90s — and any escalation could push prices sharply higher.

Higher oil prices directly worsen the US-Canada trade fight:

- Canada is one of America’s largest suppliers of crude, refined products, natural gas, and electricity.
- As prices rise, Canada’s energy exports become more valuable — increasing Ottawa’s leverage.
- Canadian leaders are already hinting at using energy as



“Washington is now juggling a Middle East oil chokepoint, a North American trade war, rising inflation, a politically sensitive election environment, and a global sanctions campaign requiring allied cooperation. Canada is not just an ally — it is one of the US’s largest trading partners and a major energy supplier. A tariff war with Canada undermines US unity with allies during a major Middle East conflict, global support for Iran sanctions, and domestic economic stability...”

a pressure tool. Doug Ford said: “We have to make sure we look at every single asset we have... everything is on the table.”

Carney himself warned the US is deeply dependent on Canadian energy and added: “I don’t think they want us to stop sending it.”

If Hormuz tightens further, Canada’s energy becomes even more strategically indispensable, making Washington’s tariff pressure harder to sustain.

Sanctions on Iran tighten global supply just as tariffs tighten North American supply

The new sanctions package (“Operation Economic Outcast”) targets:

- Iran’s oil shipping networks
- Gold reserves stabilizing the currency
- Airlines and shipping

- Cryptocurrency channels used by the IRGC
- 60 entities tied to nuclear, missile, cyber, and oil operations

This is designed to choke Iran’s ability to export oil — and it’s working. The US Navy blockade has isolated Iranian ports.

As a result, global supply is constrained at the same moment the US is imposing 50% tariffs on Canadian goods — including critical manufacturing inputs.

This creates a double inflation shock: energy inflation from Middle East instability, and goods inflation from North American tariffs

Canada’s retaliation becomes more potent when the US is fighting an oil war

Canada’s retaliatory tariffs, effective September 8, target steel, dairy, appliances, agricultural equipment, electronics, and pulp and paper.

But the real latent weapon is energy should Canada use it. If the Iran conflict escalates and Hormuz flows drop further, Canada’s energy becomes even more essential.

In short, the more the US squeezes Iran’s oil, the more leverage Canada gains in its tariff confrontation. The Trump administration should have no desire to goad Carney into using energy supplies as a weapon.

Washington is now juggling a Middle East oil chokepoint, a North American trade war, rising inflation, a politically sensitive election environment, and a global sanctions campaign requiring allied cooperation.

Canada is not just an ally — it is one of the US’s largest trading partners and a major energy supplier. A tariff war with Canada undermines US unity with allies during a major Middle East conflict, global support for Iran sanctions, and domestic economic stability.

Jamieson Greer the US representative warned: “Canada’s retaliatory strategy will backfire on Canadian workers.” He should be more concerned that it will backfire on the US, especially if Iran escalates in Hormuz and is successful in curbing oil flows.

Cheerz...
Bwana

International Relations

The Thucydides Trap: Are We Walking Into It?

☞ Cont. from page 7

It was not a carefully designed event orchestrated by a group of leaders sitting around a table.

Decisions accumulated. Ultimatums followed ultimatums. Mobilisation produced counter-mobilisation. Alliances reduced room for manoeuvre. Prestige made retreat more difficult. And political leaders repeatedly believed that they could control the next stage of escalation.

That perhaps is the lesson which should trouble us most today. The greatest danger may not be that Washington, Beijing, Moscow, Tehran or others consciously desire a wider conflagration. It is that each believes escalation can be managed. Until it cannot!

Thucydides’ Warning

Which brings me back to Xi Jinping and that intriguing exchange in Beijing. Can the United States and China avoid the

Thucydides Trap?

They certainly can.

Nothing in history decrees that Washington and Beijing must eventually confront one another militarily. Nor should Thucydides be transformed into some convenient doctrine of inevitability. To do so would itself be dangerous, because governments that become convinced that conflict is ultimately unavoidable may begin preparing for it in ways that make it more likely.

Thucydides should therefore be read as a warning, not a prophecy. But warnings are useful only when they are heeded. That requires something which appears remote in today’s world — restraint.

It requires diplomacy before confrontation rather than diplomacy to repair the damage afterwards. It requires recognition that international law cannot command respect if powerful states apply it selectively.

It requires a functioning multilateral system in which smaller states have a voice rather than merely suffering the consequences of decisions taken elsewhere. And it requires great powers to understand that strength is not diminished by accommodation where



accommodation is possible.

These are not expressions of idealism. They are instruments of survival.

For small states in particular, strategic foresight, regional cooperation and **proactive** diplomacy have become indispensable. As I argue more extensively in my forthcoming work on the changing geopolitics of the Indian Ocean, small states can no

longer afford simply to observe the manoeuvres of the great powers from the sidelines. In an age of geopolitical fracture, their vulnerabilities demand engagement, anticipation and collective action.

Xi Jinping invoked an ancient historian to warn against an ancient error. The warning looks increasingly contemporary. From the Taiwan Strait to the battlefields of Ukraine, and from the Gulf and the wider Middle East to the increasingly contested waters of the Indo-Pacific, the ingredients are accumulating: fear, ambition, insecurity, competing alliances, military build-ups, wounded prestige and, perhaps most dangerously, the conviction that escalation can always be controlled.

The Thucydides Trap is not yet our destiny.

But we would be extraordinarily unwise to pretend that its jaws are not already visible.

Vijay Makhan
26 August 2026

Dr Avinash Ramtohol, Minister of IT, Communication and Innovation

“We cannot purchase our way into becoming an AI nation”

‘We must build capability inside Government, universities, businesses and communities’

Artificial intelligence is rapidly moving from a technological innovation to a major driver of economic and social change. For Mauritius, the launch of the AI Innovation Lab, the National AI Strategy and the inclusion of AI as a key pillar of the 2026–27 Budget signal an ambition to position the country for this new era. But beyond policy announcements, the real questions are how AI will affect the economy and jobs, whether our people are equipped with the right skills, and how effectively Government can turn this ambition into tangible benefits for citizens. Dr Avinash Ramtohol, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, responds to these questions in this week’s interview. Read on.

Mauritius Times: Following the launch of the AI Innovation Lab and the inclusion of AI as a key pillar of the 2026–27 Budget, alongside the National AI Strategy, what will these initiatives actually mean for Mauritius? And how will they make a tangible difference to the economy and the workforce?

Dr Avinash Ramtohol: The most important point is that these are not isolated announcements. We are building an ecosystem in which infrastructure, skills, innovation, public-sector transformation, governance and cybersecurity reinforce one another.

The Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025–2029 provides the overall architecture. The National AI Strategy defines how Mauritius intends to move from digitalisation to what I would call digital intelligence. The FAIR Guidelines establish the principles within which AI should be developed and used. We have established a dedicated AI Unit to drive implementation and the 2026–27 Budget provides resources to accelerate that implementation.

We are already moving from policy to delivery. The AI Innovation Lab STEM Centre is a very concrete example. It has an AI training laboratory with 24 computers and an electronics laboratory equipped for robotics, sensors, circuit design and the development of AI artefacts. It is intended for technopreneurs, researchers, innovators, secondary and tertiary students to learn, experiment and build.

Our objective is ultimately economic. We have to compete through skills, productivity, innovation, trust and agility. The National AI Strategy therefore explicitly covers education, health, tourism, financial services, climate action and public services, while creating the foundations for AI to become a new economic pillar.

The Budget takes this further by targeting 50,000 Mauritians for practical AI enablement and training. We are therefore investing simultaneously in technology and people.

*** What we are really talking about is therefore the future of Mauritius — economic competitiveness, public services, jobs, education, cybersecurity, privacy, and the role of the State. In light of the Digital Transformation Blueprint and the National AI Strategy, what tangible changes should citizens expect over the next two to**



three years?

Citizens should expect Government to become progressively simpler, more connected and more proactive.

We have already started that transition. KOREK! is being developed as the single digital gateway bringing Government services together. It started with the Digital Penalty Points service. We have subsequently integrated other services, including AI-enabled reporting of water leakages, CEB information, details of driving licences and on Thursday itself the application for State Age Pension Estimate. We also launched online payment of road tax for taxi operators, reducing the need to queue physically for administrative procedures.

The next stage is connecting more services under KOREK! — services around the citizen.

Our National AI Strategy introduces DIVA — the Digital Interactive Virtual Assistant — which is intended progressively to become a 24/7 AI interface between citizens and Government services. The Strategy also envisages intelligent search, automated workflows, multilingual assistance, predictive analytics and interoperable Government data.

The Blueprint was deliberately constructed around four pillars: state-of-the-art info-structure, human capital and digital skills, innovation and private-sector growth, and a sustainable and resilient digital future.

*** What do you foresee as the biggest obstacles to implementation, and how will Government measure whether these programmes are actually succeeding?**

Government systems have developed over decades. Institutions have different databases, procedures, legislation, levels of digital maturity and organisational cultures. Digital transformation therefore requires interoperability, institutional coordination, change management, skills and sometimes, legislative reform.

A second challenge is data. AI is only as useful as the information supporting it. The Strategy recognises that Mauritius has useful administrative and service data, but that standards, interoperability and governance must improve. This is precisely why we are advancing the National Data

Governance Strategy.

The third challenge is skills. We cannot purchase our way into becoming an AI nation. We must build capability inside Government, universities, businesses and communities.

For me, the fundamental KPI is straightforward: Has technology made the citizen’s interaction with the State demonstrably easier, faster and more transparent?

If the answer is no, we have digitised; we have not transformed.

*** While AI promises future economic growth, which Mauritian jobs are most vulnerable to displacement, will automation create a net surplus of employment, and are workers being prepared for this transition with the right skills as seriously as the technology is being promoted?**

We should neither minimise the disruption nor exaggerate it.

Jobs involving highly repetitive, rules-based and information-processing tasks will naturally experience greater exposure: routine clerical work, basic data processing, certain customer-service activities, elementary bookkeeping and administrative functions, and parts of content production.

But international evidence increasingly suggests that, for many occupations, AI will transform tasks rather than eliminate entire jobs. The International Labour Organisation estimates that one in four workers globally is in an occupation with some exposure to generative AI, but stresses that transformation is more likely than wholesale redundancy because human input remains necessary.

“If Mauritius simply imports AI systems to automate existing activities, the employment dividend will be limited. If we simultaneously create AI companies, train developers, strengthen cybersecurity, develop data expertise, support digital finance, GovTech, HealthTech and AgriTech and help existing sectors increase productivity and exports, entirely new opportunities emerge. That is why skills are central to our policy...”

If Mauritius simply imports AI systems to automate existing activities, the employment dividend will be limited. If we simultaneously create AI companies, train developers, strengthen cybersecurity, develop data expertise, support digital finance, GovTech, HealthTech and AgriTech and help existing sectors increase productivity and exports, entirely new opportunities emerge.

That is why skills are central to our policy.

The National AI Strategy provides for workforce reskilling, tiered certifications, practical programmes, vocational pathways for mid-career professionals, bootcamps, hackathons and stronger links between industry and education.

The Budget’s commitment to enable and train 50,000 Mauritians must be understood in this context. We are preparing for people before disruption becomes displacement.

The objective is not humans versus AI. It is Mauritians who know how to work with AI competing successfully against those who do not.

*** What skills will therefore Mauritian workers and young people need to acquire to remain competitive in an AI-driven economy, and do you think our education and training systems are keeping pace?**

The first skill is obviously AI literacy — understanding what AI can and cannot do, how to use it productively and how to recognise its risks.

But the skills agenda goes much further: data literacy, coding, cybersecurity, cloud technologies, robotics, critical thinking, prompt engineering, digital ethics, problem-solving, creativity and entrepreneurship.

Interestingly, the more powerful AI becomes, the more valuable distinctly human capabilities also become judgement, communication, empathy, leadership and the ability to question an automated output.

☞ Cont. on page 10

'International evidence increasingly suggests that, for many occupations, AI will transform tasks rather than eliminate entire jobs'

☞ Cont. from page 9

This is why AI4AI — AI for ALL and Inclusive is an important component of the National AI Strategy. We treat AI literacy increasingly as a civic and economic competence. The programme is designed for students, teachers, workers, professionals, entrepreneurs, citizens, retirees, public officers and regulators.

The Strategy provides for AI and data-science modules in education, vocational training for mid-career professionals and practical industry exposure. We are also creating physical environments where learning becomes experimentation. That is precisely the role of the AI Innovation Lab.

Are we moving fast enough? We must keep accelerating. Technology will not wait for curriculum cycles.

That is why Government is using several channels simultaneously — schools and universities, online learning, community programmes, innovation labs, industry partnerships and targeted training.

*** Given the ambition to make artificial intelligence an economic pillar, can Mauritius transition from a mere consumer to a producer of AI solutions — and where do we hold a realistic competitive advantage to attract serious investment without becoming overly dependent on foreign technology companies?**

Absolutely — but Mauritius should not attempt to compete with the United States or China in building trillion-parameter foundation models.

Our opportunity is applied AI.

We have a sophisticated financial-services sector, tourism, multilingual capabilities, a strong services economy, established regulatory institutions, access to African markets, links with India and Europe, and a strategic Indian Ocean location.

That gives us realistic niches in FinTech, tourism intelligence, GovTech, smart agriculture, climate technologies, logistics, HealthTech and multilingual public-service technologies.

We are creating an ecosystem around this ambition. The Regional AI Marketplace is intended to connect solution providers, start-ups, businesses and public institutions.

Our ambition is not technological isolation. It is technological sovereignty through capability.

*** Let's tie this discussion on AI with the Prime Minister's recent complaint about "blocages" in the Civil Service. Can AI and digitalisation genuinely overcome institutional inertia — such as by identifying pending files or enabling citizens to track applications in real time — and how do we ensure digitisation doesn't simply reproduce existing bureaucratic inefficiencies electronically?**

This is precisely where digital transformation can have one of its greatest impacts.

A paper file can sit somewhere without visibility. In a properly designed digital workflow, we can know when it was submitted, where it is, how long it has remained at a particular stage and what action is outstanding.

AI can go further by identifying bottlenecks, prioritising cases, flagging unusual delays and providing management with real-time performance information. Our Strategy specifically envisages automated workflows, predictive governance and integration of AI into Government dashboards for performance monitoring.

However, there is a need for underlying digital services. AI sits on the digitalisation layer and integrates within it. Before digitisation, we need re-engineering process: ask why each



“The objective is not for Mauritius to say in 2029 that we have more applications, more servers or more AI tools. The objective is to be able to demonstrate that our economy is more productive, our people are better equipped, and our State works better for its citizens. Our vision is for Mauritius to emerge as a regional leader in artificial intelligence and digital transformation...”

step exists, whether data can be reused, whether agencies can exchange information securely and whether approvals can be simplified, by way of digital system.

Technology also creates accountability. Citizens should progressively have greater visibility over the status of their requests, while managers should be able to identify where delays are accumulating.

AI will not substitute leadership or administrative responsibility. But it can make inefficiency visible and once a blockage is visible and measurable, it becomes much harder to ignore.

*** Regarding data, privacy, and trust — what specific data will the Government use to train or operate AI systems, who owns that data, and how will personal data be protected? Furthermore, will citizens have a right to know when an AI has assisted in an important decision affecting them, and if such a decision is wrong, where does accountability ultimately lie?**

Our position is clear: AI does not create a suspension of existing rights.

Under the Mauritian Data Protection Act 2017, Section 23(2)(h) provides for the key transparency provision. It stipulates that “Where personal data are processed, the data controller must inform the data subject of the existence of automated decision-making, including profiling, and provide information about the logic involved, as well as the significance and envisaged consequences of that processing for the data subject.”

The Data Protection Commissioner's own guidance confirms that the controller must inform the data subject about automated decision-making/profiling, the logic involved, and its significance and envisaged consequences.

Finally, there must be clear accountability: where an AI-assisted decision is incorrect or causes harm, responsibility should ultimately remain with the relevant government authority or human decision-maker, rather than being attributed to the AI system itself.

*** Equally important is the issue of digital divide. As we expand the use of AI and technology, could this leave vulnerable and older people further behind? Should the government ensure that essential public services remain accessible through non-digital means, while also providing targeted digital literacy programmes?**

Our philosophy is digital first, but human-centred.

The National AI Strategy explicitly recognises this risk. AI4AI provides for multilingual and accessible learning, community workshops, offline material, radio, print, community facilitators and mobile outreach so that people without high digital literacy or reliable connectivity are not excluded.

The Strategy specifically includes citizens, caregivers and retirees within its AI-literacy model.

For essential services, there must be appropriate

assisted channels during the transition, particularly for older people, persons with disabilities and citizens who require support.

At the same time, we should not condemn vulnerable groups permanently to analogue services. The better solution is to bring them into the digital transition through training, assisted access and inclusive design.

Technology should reduce inequality of access, not create a new form of it. Building a trusted digital State is not only about protecting systems from attacks. It is also about ensuring that citizens can actually access those systems. For the new Government Portal, accessibility is being integrated into its development through compliance with

the Web Content Accessibility Guidelines (WCAG). This is important because Government's digital platforms must be designed from the outset to be usable by the widest possible range of citizens, including people with disabilities. Security, resilience, accessibility and inclusion therefore have to be treated as part of the same philosophy of digital-by-design.

*** The Government has announced an ambitious digital and AI agenda. By 2029, what three measurable changes should allow us to say that Mauritius has genuinely become a more efficient, innovative and digitally capable country?**

I would judge our success by three transformations.

First, the transformation of the citizen experience. By 2029, the majority of high-volume Government interactions should be accessible through an integrated digital environment, with secure identity, interoperable services and far greater ability for citizens to obtain information and follow transactions without moving repeatedly from one institution to another. KOREK!, DIVA and our Digital Public Infrastructure are building blocks towards that objective.

Second, the transformation of our human capital and economy. We should have a significantly AI-literate workforce, a strong pipeline of trained young people, professionals and public officers and importantly a visible Mauritian AI ecosystem producing solutions, companies, intellectual property and exportable services. The immediate commitment to train and enable 50,000 Mauritians is an important starting point, but by 2029 skills development must be institutionalised throughout education and lifelong learning.

Third, the transformation of the State itself. Citizens should see measurable reductions in processing times and administrative friction, while Government should be using data more intelligently to allocate resources, anticipate problems and measure performance — all within stronger cybersecurity, privacy and accountability frameworks.

That is the standard I would set.

The objective is not for Mauritius to say in 2029 that we have more applications, more servers or more AI tools.

The objective is to be able to demonstrate that our economy is more productive, our people are better equipped, and our State works better for its citizens. Our vision is for Mauritius to emerge as a regional leader in artificial intelligence and digital transformation, particularly for Africa and the Indian Ocean region.

For Mauritius, digital transformation is no longer about putting Government online. It is about redesigning how the State works, how our economy competes and how our people participate in the opportunities of the next decade. AI is a powerful instrument in that transformation, but people, trust and measurable results will remain the ultimate test of success.

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Nepal and Tibet: Unprecedented glacial catastrophe ravages the Himalayas

An unprecedented tragedy has struck the border region between Nepal and Tibet on Wednesday, 26 August. A colossal glacial collapse, which the U.S. Geological Survey determined was a seismic-scale event equivalent to a magnitude 5.2, triggered massive flash floods and destructive mudflows that obliterated entire mountain valleys within minutes. The preliminary death toll has surpassed 360, with over 1,400 people reported missing, plunging authorities and desperate families into profound anguish.

A Devastating Wall of Mud and Water

The sudden ice-rock avalanche caused an explosive rise in local water levels, with researchers at the Kathmandu-based ICIMOD noting that the Trishuli River surged by as much as 9 meters in just half an hour. Torrents of water and mud several stories high swept across the landscape, shattering dozens of bridges, damaging nearly 40 kilometers of vital roadways, and burying communities in thick, concrete-like sludge. Hard-hit areas include Nepal's Nuwakot district and the Gyirong Port crossing in Tibet, where multi-story buildings were swallowed up to their second floors.

The disaster has severely impacted international travellers, workers, and pilgrims traversing the region—many of whom were journeying toward the sacred Mount Kailash in Tibet. According to tourism and government boards, hundreds of foreign nationals from dozens of countries, including India, the United States, the U.K., and South Africa, remain unaccounted for.

Search and rescue operations face



Rescuers use an earthmover to carry a victim of flash flooding to safety along the Trishuli River in Nepal's. Pic - AP

immense logistical barriers due to cut-off roads and treacherous terrain. The Nepalese army has deployed military helicopters to rescue survivors and evacuate workers trapped near hydroelectric facilities, while Chinese authorities mobilized hundreds of personnel led by Premier Li Qiang to direct relief efforts in Gyirong. Internationally, the United Nations has released \$2 million in emergency funds to aid medical and shelter efforts.

A Stark Climate Warning

This catastrophe underscores the escalating vulnerability of the Himalayan ecosystem. Climate scientists emphasize that human-driven global warming is accelerating high-altitude glacial melting and terrain destabilization, dramatically increasing the frequency of lethal flash floods and debris flows. With authorities warning that newly formed barrier lakes remain dangerously swollen and prone to bursting, the tragedy along the Nepal-Tibet border serves as a grim and urgent reminder of the accelerating human cost of the climate crisis.

Did CIA chief warn Russia against attacking NATO member?

Some US media reports on Thursday claimed that CIA Director John Ratcliffe warned Russia against attacking a NATO member country during his Moscow trip. However, Kremlin has now denied such assertions, calling them "scare-story material".

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said: "A lot of this kind of scare-story material is being published right now. Of course, it has nothing to do with reality and nothing to do with the intentions of the Russian Federation."

Ratcliffe's first official visit to Moscow as CIA chief was in part because he wanted to warn Russia not to attack NATO countries, *Wall Street Journal* had reported. The report further said that Russian President Vladimir Putin could consider launching an assault ranging from a cyberattack to a small-scale land incursion, likely on a Baltic nation, reports HT.

However, the reports have been dismissed by Kremlin as mere 'scare-stories'.

CIA chief in Moscow

On Tuesday, data from Flightradar24 showed a US military C-17 plane travelling to Latvia and then on to Moscow, with reports saying that Ratcliffe was on that plane.



Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director John Ratcliffe made his maiden visit to Moscow this week. Pic - Reuters

Russia later confirmed the CIA Director's trip, saying he spoke with some Russian intelligence officials but didn't speak to Vladimir Putin. However, Kremlin also said that the Russian President was aware of the US spy chief's visit.

Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov also called the US spy chief's talks with Russian intelligence a "positive development", after earlier telling Reuters that Putin did not plan to have a meeting with Ratcliffe.

Why is John Ratcliffe in Moscow? Barring some US media reports which have now been dismissed by Russia, there is little to no clarity on why John Ratcliffe is in Russia. The White House also offered little clarity about

Across the Globe

Hundreds killed by Nepal floods

Hundreds of people were killed and more than a thousand remain missing after a glacial collapse triggered massive landslides and floods in Nepal and China, marking one of the region's worst-ever natural disasters. Though the cause remains unclear, some experts have suggested climate change may have increased the likelihood of such a catastrophe by destabilising rock and ice high in the mountains, The Guardian reported. Analysts fear that Nepal's infrastructure and emergency response capabilities are unprepared for the growing impact of climate change on the Himalayan region. "We are building a country for a climate that no longer exists," an environmental scientist wrote in The Kathmandu Post.

Oil eases on Hormuz hopes

Oil prices fell further on hopes that renewed diplomatic efforts to reach a durable truce between the US and Iran might lead to a sustained reopening of the Strait of Hormuz. Qatar's prime minister headed to Tehran a day after Pakistan's military ruler visited; Doha and Islamabad have sought to revive talks between the US and Iran, efforts that sit in tension with Washington's plan to ramp up economic pressure on the Islamic Republic. Iran struck a defiant tone, warning it would "retaliate in an earthquake-like manner" to any US measures. Shipping through Hormuz marginally increased on Wednesday, though it remains far short of prewar levels, and a tanker making its way through was hit by a projectile.



Global alliances shift

Moves by longtime US allies and foes alike underscored a changing global alliance structure in the face of the Trump administration's protectionism and military interventionism. Ottawa and Brussels — both targets of Washington's trade pressure — said Canada's prime minister would address the European Parliament as the two look to deepen trade and security ties. Asian nations, meanwhile, expressed alarm over shortfalls in US defence stockpiles as a result of the Iran war, The Washington Post reported. At the same time, Beijing appears to be making inroads with Cairo, a key US defence partner, with Chinese leader Xi Jinping due to make a state visit next month, Huawei pitching to build data centres in Egypt, and the countries holding joint military exercises.

Global use of solar surges

Countries are installing solar power at a breakneck pace, driven by worries over energy supplies resulting from global conflicts as well as still-low equipment prices. Africa is set for a record year of solar installations, the energy-focused think tank Ember said, while Indonesia this week unveiled plans to deploy 100 gigawatts of solar power nationwide within three years. (By comparison, the UK has slightly more than 20 gigawatts installed.) The acceleration is part of a wider renewables rollout — the International Energy Agency expects them to represent the top source of electricity globally in 2026 for the first time — though the use of coal has also surged as countries plug gas shortfalls resulting from the disruption of shipments through the Strait of Hormuz.



Iran and Oman negotiate shipping corridor in Strait of Hormuz



Iranian foreign minister Abbas Araghchi, right, greets his Omani counterpart Sayyid Badr Albusaidi, in Tehran. Pic - Iranian Foreign Ministry Office

Iran and Oman are negotiating the opening of a temporary shipping corridor and a programme to clear mines in the Strait of Hormuz, a vital route for global oil and gas shipments. The two countries, which border the strategic waterway, have yet to agree on the conditions for its reopening as the Middle East war approaches its six-month mark.

The Iranian and Omani foreign ministers met in Tehran on Tuesday to discuss a framework for establishing the temporary corridor and a mine-clearance operation. Omani Foreign Minister Badr Albusaidi said

he hoped arrangements to restore safe navigation would be announced soon, followed by negotiations on a permanent solution.

Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Kazem Gharibabadi said ships entering the Gulf would pass through Iranian waters, while vessels leaving would use Omani waters before entering Iranian waters. If an agreement is reached, Iran and Oman would have 30 to 60 days to negotiate a permanent route. Iran's Revolutionary Guards are also involved in the discussions.

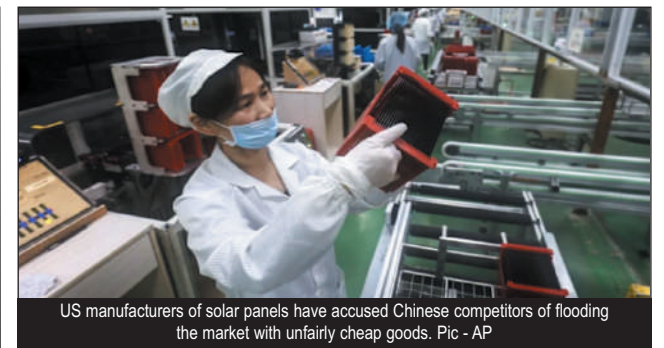
The talks remain difficult, howev-

er. Tehran continues to link the full reopening of the strait to US concessions, including an end to the blockade and the wider conflict. Iran is also demanding the lifting of US sanctions, compensation for war damage and security guarantees.

Oman, meanwhile, is seeking to separate freedom of navigation from the wider regional conflict while preserving its strategic relationship with Washington. The United States has not formally responded to the latest Iran-Oman discussions.

The negotiations go beyond the immediate question of shipping. They involve sovereignty, maritime jurisdiction, vessel controls, security arrangements and possible transit fees. Analysts say Oman is seeking a regional understanding that would collectively guarantee freedom of navigation, rather than relying solely on Iranian control or a permanent US military presence.

The proposed temporary corridor could therefore represent a limited but significant first step towards restoring maritime traffic while creating space for broader diplomatic negotiations.



China weighs response to possible next round of US tariffs

China said it would monitor US actions related to tariffs for alleged overcapacity and may take countermeasures, underscoring lingering friction despite a trade truce.

Commerce Ministry spokesperson Huang Ling reiterated Beijing's opposition to the investigation into China and other economies, saying Washington has launched the probe under the "pretext of overcapacity."

News reported earlier that the US is considering a 7.5% tariff on China following investigations into alleged excess capacity. The move would mark the latest step by US President Donald Trump to resurrect his protectionist trade agenda after the Supreme Court struck down his previous import taxes. It would also bring tariffs on China to a level Beijing said the two sides agreed to during previous trade talks.

Foreign Minister Wang Yi urged the US to put relations back on the "right track" during a meeting with Ambassador David Perdue on Wednesday, accusing Washington of introducing a series of "negative measures on unfounded grounds," according to a Chinese statement.

Across the Globe

Senegal is new cocaine hub

Rising cocaine production in Latin America has turned Senegal into a major transit hub for shipments to Europe. The shift has been driven by growing European demand, with the continent recently overtaking the United States as the world's largest cocaine market. About 29% of EU drug users consume cocaine. European authorities have intensified efforts to intercept direct shipments, but traffickers have increasingly rerouted supplies through West Africa. By 2030, half of the Latin American cocaine consumed in Europe is expected to pass through the region, which is already struggling with rising violence, Le Monde reported. "Criminal organizations use the African 'rebound' as a smokescreen," one expert warned.

Evidence grows of life on Mars

Scientists say mounting evidence suggests that life may once have existed -- and could possibly still exist -- on Mars. Long-chain organic molecules, unusual rock formations discovered by Mars rovers, and unexplained geochemical signatures detected by NASA's Viking lander have become increasingly difficult to explain through non-biological processes alone.

While some researchers argue that life should remain the hypothesis of last resort until extraordinary evidence emerges, others believe that applying an excessively high standard of proof risks overlooking important discoveries. Scientists also caution that previous claims of evidence for Martian life, including supposed canals



The Perseverance rover on Mars. NASA/JPL-Caltech

and fossilised bacteria in meteorites, ultimately proved inconclusive.

Londoners leave in droves

London's population declined for the first time since the Covid-19 pandemic, with more than 400,000 people leaving the capital last year to settle elsewhere in the UK. Government data showed that every other region in England recorded population growth. Although London continued to see more births than deaths and international arrivals exceeded departures abroad, many residents in their 30s and 40s -- often with children -- left the city.

The exodus has been driven by the high cost of living, slower wage growth and higher unemployment than elsewhere in the UK. Falling student enrolment has also led

to school closures and funding cuts.

US bans new Chinese robots

The US government last week effectively banned imports of new Chinese robots, limiting the global ambitions of an industry Beijing views as a key driver of future growth. Washington's communications agency added all new foreign-made humanoid and quadruped robots to a list of equipment deemed a national security risk. US robotics companies had lobbied for months for action against the growing presence of popular Chinese robots, which are currently used mainly for entertainment and research in the United States, before they entered American factories. The new restrictions still allow case-by-case approvals and come as Washington considers broader measures, including limiting access to open-source Chinese AI.



A humanoid robot at a robotics laboratory during a government-organized media trip in Guangzhou, Guangdong province, China, April 16, 2026. REUTERS/Go Nakamura Purchase Licensing Rights

Compiled by K. Ramlallah



Dr Rajagopal
Soondron

The Universe's Plan

As scientists and physicists plough ahead to decipher what subatomic particles are really all about, many are experiencing the uneasiness of hitting against some armoured, solid wall — and have to admit that a matter particle is not a *definite particle* as conceived by most of us.

Those physicists are talking of a fuzzy, vibrating point of energy — all of it occurring in an inevitable field, like the one we have come to think of as the electromagnetic field. It seems that such particles as a quark cannot be separated from their field; and as the weird discoveries of quantum mechanics become confirmed by experiments, we slowly find those physicists being dragged, in spite of themselves, from pure physics into the forbidden realm of metaphysics. After all, no one knows what a particle of matter is really all about. And recently, those very scientists have been talking of quantum foam — an ephemeral mixture of subatomic fuzziness.

Still, that's the basis of the universe at the very beginning — where everything was in an ill-defined flux of space, time, matter and energy.

The Non-Scientists

Meanwhile, some highly respected philosophers are wondering whether proto-consciousness and intelligence were, after all, very much present in that ephemeral universe from the beginning of time.

Not far behind are some religious people who are ready to extrapolate their exaltation in the face of the physicists' confusion, and are only too happy to capitalise on it by anthropomorphising our universe — believing that it has cunningly camouflaged the essence of proto-consciousness and intelligence within the very quantum foam being talked about. There is an expectation that our universe is patiently waiting for that proto-consciousness to reveal itself one day or another, as if it were its ultimate and sacred duty to liberate those cryptic qualities incubating under its wings.

The universe pondered that dilemma — but for a long time it did not know how to go about it. It went round wondering and telling itself — it had invented physics, chemistry and even mathematical rules as the stepping stones; and lo! These forces, coded in the anthropic principle, seemed to be inadequate to bring about a consciousness blossom. Yet to be revealed.

Conscious beings

At the beginning, the universe toiled day and night, trying all sorts of alchemy, but nothing materialized really. It spouted out all sorts of worlds and bubble universes of different sizes and with different forces — still, it did not work its way; some of the worlds did prosper for some time, but then out they went; the laws therein did not favour any progress towards conscious beings. Most of these universes rose and fell because their

physical constants, present within them, did not stand the test of time.

Then, in one particular form, the mega-universe fathered one bubble-daughter universe where, conditions being more stable, trillions of stars and planets made their appearance — and still the mother universe went on hoping. No emergence of consciousness could be noticed. Yet the universe did not despair until one day it got news that, in a small, insignificant galaxy, there was a region called the solar system where there might be some hope and good news.

It summoned the Sun for a report, but the only message the latter could provide was that one of its planets seemed to have been well gifted with the right properties and conditions: sufficiently protected from harmful cosmic rays and endowed with the right electromagnetic field and gravity, so much so that there was hope that the blue marble might give signs of going green.

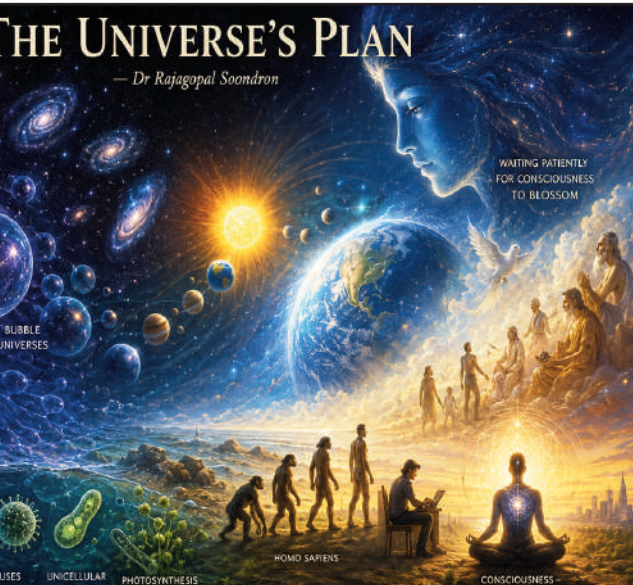
The mother universe was all excitement and demanded that the Sun expedite matters. For billions of years again, nothing intelligent emerged from that planet. And the Sun sent a message back to its boss — it seemed that conditions were still not ripe for that mysterious consciousness.

Intelligent organism

Gradually, it became clear that chemistry, physical and mathematical laws were too basic, sterile, dry and too finely tuned to produce anything that could be relied upon to generate some form of intelligent organism. What was needed more? — enquired the universe. Maybe some form of living matter, said the Sun. And how do we get to that stage? pondered the universe.

And so, both universe and Sun waited on their toes. The universe supplied the right amount of water, oxygen and the right organic molecules to trigger the emergence of living matter in the primordial soup, with the right double helix. And this could not happen overnight; finally, the mega-universe waited patiently for biological evolution to kick-start. And after millions of years, gradually, the viruses and then the unicellular organisms emerged. Concurrently, after geosynthesis and photosynthesis started, there was a long stretch of time before some form of thinking beings made their appearance.

The universe was all excited — but soon discovered that the beings engendered on this blue planet started to evolve very slowly — too slowly for its liking. Eons later, some species emerged — called *Homo sapiens*. But still no sign of that great, pure supra-consciousness. And everyone waited patiently, wondering and asking itself — is it possible that that consciousness could blossom out by magic?



som out by magic?

No, it did not; in fact, it needed to thrive on setbacks, on adverse conditions, on experience to stimulate the grey cells of these *Homo sapiens* — who could only then react to these blockbusters — so as to finally trigger, cultivate and sharpen consciousness out of its dormant proto-stage.

A billion-year slumber

Sure enough, it did emerge slowly out of a billion-year slumber and became a subject of interest and curiosity even to those

Sapiens. Some of those species began to sing the praises of their ephemeral, mysterious quality and even wonder whether it was a universal phenomenon. With some humility, these new species reflected and conceded, with some shame, that this state of consciousness was acquired after they had gone rampant and indulged in murderous behaviour now and then.

Maybe these very adverse behaviours do trigger and contribute to elevating that consciousness to a still higher level; and the more some *Homo sapiens* sing its praise and value it, the more there is that feeling and urge to realise and identify their own self-awareness and themselves with a universal agenda. Some have

even started to talk of universal brotherhood — while others justify their ultimate search for Sanatana Dharma.

The Sun raised its eyebrows in disbelief while the universe sort of gave a satisfied chuckle — feeling it had gone through a really long wait to see its billion-year-old baby proto-consciousness, with some degree of perfection, all out and too willing to reflect, salute and bow to itself. As if consciousness and self-awareness were the *raison d'être* of the *Universe*.

TENDER NOTICE OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING



INVITATION TO BID Refurbishment of ARFFS Station & Associated Works, at SSR International Airport REF NO: ONB/WK/TSD/SK/CL/25/013 RL1

Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd (AML), a member of AHL Group, invites proposals from eligible bidders for Refurbishment of ARFFS Station & Associated Works, at SSR International Airport.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and download the complete set of bidding documents, free of charge from the AML website URL <https://aml.mru.aero/index.php/business/procurement/tender-notices>. Prospective bidders should regularly visit this website to take cognizance of any addendum/clarification issued.

A site visit has been scheduled on **Friday 04 September 2026 at 10.00 hrs.** The venue shall be AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport Plaine Magnien. Bidders are kindly requested to confirm their presence to the Chairperson Tender Committee by e-mail at tendercommittee@aml.aero at least two days prior to the scheduled date.

Proposal(s) in sealed envelope clearly marked "**Refurbishment of ARFFS Station & Associated Works, at SSR International Airport - ONB/WK/TSD/SK/CL/25/013 RL1**" should be addressed to the Chairperson Tender Committee, Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd, and deposited in the Tender Box located at AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport, Plaine Magnien, **on or before Wednesday 07 October 2026 at latest by 13:00 hrs.**

AML reserves the right to cancel this bidding exercise without incurring any liability to prospective bidders, for whatsoever reason.

Electronic and late bids shall not be accepted.

26 August 2026

AML Corporate Office
SSR International Airport,
Plaine Magnien, MAURITIUS
Tel: (230) 603 6000
Web: aml.mru.aero

Please scan the QR Code
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Pic - Defi Media

Bhunjun Group Reshapes the Mauritian Energy Landscape: The Birth of "Fillin"

The Mauritian fuel distribution sector has reached a historic and symbolic milestone. Nearly nine months after the finalization of Engen Petroleum (Mauritius) Limited's acquisition by Beta Oil Terminal Ltd (BOTL) — a subsidiary of the Bhunjun Group — for an investment of approximately Rs 2 billion, the Mauritian conglomerate has officially unveiled its new retail brand, Fillin. Anchored by the evocative slogan «Lesans nou pei» (Our country's fuel), this transformation marks the transition from an international network to a 100% local identity across all 37 service stations.

A Strategic Turning Point for Local Enterprise

Founded in the 1960s and traditionally rooted in construction, concrete, real estate, hospitality, and logistics, the Bhunjun Group is undertaking a diversification of significant magnitude. By acquiring Engen's commercial activities, storage infrastructure, and its aviation, marine, and lubricant segments, the group becomes the very first Mauritian entity to control a national service station network of this scale.

This foray into a highly strategic sector involved rigorous regulatory scrutiny by the Competition Commission of Mauritius (CCM), following the acquisition of Engen Ltd in South Africa by Vitol Emerald Bidco. To dispel any concerns regarding market concentration — given Vitol's existing presence through Vivo Energy — BOTL instituted strict safeguards, including maintaining the existing management team, appointing energy-experienced directors, and engaging independent experts to oversee safety and quality standards for at least three years.

Rising to the Challenge of Global Giants

With billions of rupees in annual turnover generated by established competitors — led by Vivo Energy Mauritius (operating under the Shell brand), Indian Oil, and TotalEnergies — the challenge for Fillin is substantial. Market data underscores the financial muscle of these multinationals. However, Beta Oil Terminal's leadership is banking on a fundamental advantage: local decision-making agility. As Group Chief Executive Officer Veekram Bhunjun noted during the official launch in the presence of Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam: "Mauritius is not only a market. This is our home".

Led by Kris Lutchmenaraidoo, Director of Fillin Petroleum Ltd, the transition is rolling out progressively.

The modernisation of the stations began with an initial wave of eleven flagship sites illuminated in the new visual identity, paving the way for a complete rollout across all 37 locations by the end of November. 24/7 service is maintained at the seven stations that previously offered it, while all 370 station employees and 78 headquarters staff have been retained, ensuring seamless operational continuity.

Redefining Customer Experience and National Energy Sovereignty

Beyond a mere change in signage and colour palette, Fillin aims to redefine the traditional petrol station model in Mauritius. The concept integrates digital and proximity-focused innovations: mobile solutions allowing motorists to settle fuel purchases, order maintenance products, or book car washes, alongside modernized lifestyle spaces designed for working or relaxing.

The Bhunjun Group's ambition also extends to long-term national energy sovereignty. An additional investment of approximately Rs 1 billion is planned for the construction of five new storage reservoirs, designed to expand the nation's strategic petroleum reserves by roughly one week.

By turning a major investment into a sustainable growth pillar, the Bhunjun Group aims to prove that Mauritian capital possesses the boldness, technical rigour, and financial credibility to compete effectively and durably with the world's leading energy giants.

NOTICE FOR BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

Notice for Permission for Land Use within Residential Zone

Take notice that I, Mr & Mrs Bunt Singh Byloll, will apply to the District Council of Pamplemousses for a Building and Land Use Permit for a proposed Construction of a Reinforced Concrete Building to be used as Commercial activities at Indira Gandhi Road, Triolet.

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

Date: 28.08.2026

Opinion

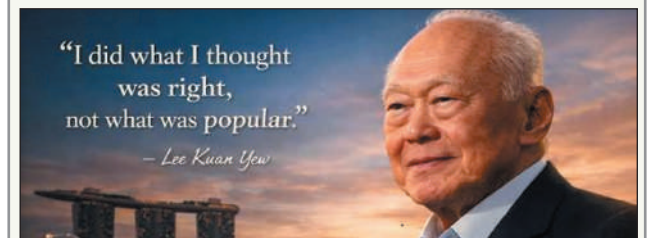
How Lee Kuan Yew managed Identity Vulnerability to Build a Nation



Samad Ramoly

People without deep roots are more vulnerable to outside influences—whether beneficial or harmful. The problem is not the influence itself, but the lack of a stable inner foundation from which to welcome, filter, or transform it, rather than simply absorbing it as it is.

Faced with this reality, the temptation to withdraw is strong: clinging to a fixed idea of what one should be, refusing outside things, and raising cultural borders for protection. But this conservative posture is not a return to roots—it is a reaction. A reaction remains dependent on what it fights against. Defensive conservatism does not draw its strength from within. It exists only in opposition to the outside, making it just as dependent on that outside as the excessive openness it opposes.



“Singapore was a multiethnic, fragmented society without an obvious common identity. Lee Kuan Yew did not allow outside influences to shape the nation's destiny by chance. Instead, he carefully built a common foundation: a shared working language; housing policies designed to integrate different communities; meritocracy as a central national value; and a clear vision for the nation's future...” P - Instagram

True Harmony and Rooted Confidence

True harmony is found neither in passive absorption nor in reactionary rejection. It comes from a grounding secure enough to welcome otherness without dissolving into it. A rooted people does not need to close its doors. They can choose what to integrate, transform what they borrow, and remain themselves because they know where they come from. This quiet confidence—not closure — allows a society to navigate outside influences without losing itself.

Social Engineering and Nation-Building

This grounding does not happen by accident. It is built deliberately. This is where social engineering, in the style of Lee Kuan Yew, becomes decisive. Singapore was a multiethnic, fragmented society without an obvious common identity. Its former leader did not allow outside influences to shape the nation's destiny by chance. Instead, he carefully built a common foundation:

- A shared working language
- Housing policies designed to integrate different communities
- Meritocracy as a central national value
- A clear vision for the nation's future, without erasing individual cultural identities

The Balance of Roots and Architecture

This approach shows an essential truth. Stable grounding requires political will and long-term vision, not just inherited tradition. Navigating change smoothly requires a double movement:

1. Preserving the core identity that anchors a society.
2. Actively building thoughtful institutions that absorb change without losing the culture.

It is this mix of lived roots and deliberate social design that helps nations survive cultural storms instead of dissolving in them.

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1961

8th Year No 343

MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 31 March, 1961

• "Truth does not conform itself to us; we must conform ourselves to it." — Marcus Claudius



Dr Philippe Forget

Malgré les brûlants problèmes de surpeuplement et la nécessité impérieuse d'une production accrue et diversifiée qui nous confrontent, l'Entité Mauricienne continue d'inspirer à de nombreux Mauriciens réflexions et espoir. Cet intérêt est justifié, puisque les obstacles qui nous séparent d'une entité nationale sont, pour la plupart, ceux-là mêmes qui empêchent un accord rapide et une action vigoureuse dans le

domaine des problèmes pressants qui engagent l'avenir de notre pays. Richard Titmuss n'écrivait-il pas, dans un contexte différent de celui du brillant ouvrage qu'il vient de consacrer à l'île Maurice: «Social ideas may well be more important in the next half century than technological innovation»?

Il faut cependant convenir que l'Entité Mauricienne ne constitue nullement une idée neuve, ni même une action nouvelle dans le cadre mauricien et, encore moins, dans la perspective mondiale. Acquisée, elle ne serait pas une innovation; elle ne serait que le dénouement ultime d'une tendance naturelle et d'un des attributs les plus spécifiques de l'homme. Voici en quels termes l'éminent biologiste Julian Huxley décrit cette caractéristique de la phase humaine de l'évolution:

«La phase humaine de l'évolution de la vie qui a commencé il y a peut-être un quart de million d'années, après avoir subsisté comme un petit groupe d'hommes pendant la plus grande partie de ce temps, se mit à se déployer à travers le monde après la dernière période glaciaire, transformant ce petit groupe d'hommes en le nouveau groupe dominant. L'expansion du nouveau groupe s'effectua d'abord suivant le mode orthodoxe illustré par toutes les autres phases semblables d'expansion: c'est-à-dire par une distribution en éventail à travers les continents, distribution qui devait entraîner bientôt les divergences physiques illustrées par les principaux types d'hommes: les Noirs, les Jaunes et les Blancs. Mais, pour la première fois au cours de l'évolution de la vie, ces divergences n'atteignirent pas le stade d'une solution complète de continuité: les types d'hommes ne devinrent jamais des espèces différentes. Puis, l'instinct migrateur de l'homme et son adaptabilité psychologique entrèrent en jeu et firent que les divergences cédèrent bientôt le pas à une convergence marquée. Certains facteurs héréditaires qui avaient été séparés furent réunis de nouveau grâce aux mariages entre hommes et femmes des différents types, et la tendance jusqu'alors rigoureuse de toutes les formes vivantes à se diversifier complètement en espèces fut renversée. Cet aspect du développement humain est unique à offrir ainsi un exemple d'intégration convergente.»

Après avoir signalé que le même processus, c'est-à-dire divergence partielle suivie d'intégration grandissante, s'est vérifié par rapport aux cultures, Huxley exprime sa conviction que le résultat qui est déjà en vue ne peut être autre que l'émergence d'une seule communauté mondiale.

Il est indéniable que l'intégration des différentes communautés mauriciennes, à l'origine ethniquement distinctes, commença il y a plus d'un siècle. Elle commença probablement dès le moment même où ces différentes communautés furent mises en présence l'une de l'autre. Le métissage, flagrant s'il en fut, son expression la plus évidente, ne donna jamais qu'une mesure incomplète de son importance. Cette intégration ethnique et culturelle n'a été, nous l'avons vu plus haut, que l'illustration régionale d'une tendance plus ou

Entité Mauricienne

moins rapide, plus ou moins répandue, dans le monde habité des hommes, selon une caractéristique qui est pour eux à la fois une unique distinction et l'une de leurs plus marquantes supériorités.

À l'île Maurice, comme ailleurs, cet ajustement instinctif d'une population multiraciale est la conséquence de la camaraderie, des relations de bon voisinage, de l'entraide spontanée, de la coopération journalière et des sentiments d'estime, d'amitié ou d'amour qui ne craignent ni ne respectent les barrières, pour la plupart frêles, artificielles et nuisibles, qui voudraient compartimenter pour toujours le contenu héréditaire et culturel de groupes faits pour s'entendre et se compléter.

Face à leur destinée, et faisant partie d'un vaste mouvement intégrateur mondial, subissant en hommes l'attraction d'un champ magnétique fait de forces spécifiquement humaines, les habitants de l'île Maurice convergent vers une entité plus riche et plus belle que l'ensemble de leurs biens respectifs.

Tout en convenant que le concept de l'Entité Mauricienne n'a rien ajouté de nouveau à la tendance convergente qui existe déjà parmi nous, il faut reconnaître le mérite de venir à son heure concrétiser l'idéal obscurément servi par la majorité de la population. L'Entité Mauricienne est un concept intellectuel que nous souffle la raison, tandis que le mariage entre différents groupes ethniques est la solution offerte par la vie.

Elle vient à son heure combattre un autre concept nuisible, celui du multiracialisme. Avec Tom Mboya, je crois que le multiracialisme est une diversion que certains suggèrent et où ils ne sont prêts à s'engager qu'afin de détourner l'attention de la voie d'une véritable entité nationale. Mboya s'écriait à ce sujet:

«We don't want multiracialism. We object and protest against partnership in a multiracial plan. We want people to be nationals of Kenya, not members of a certain race.»

Il est évident que le multiracialisme a été conçu par des racistes suffisamment intelligents pour vouloir donner le change sans sacrifier leur complexe de supériorité. Il encourage le vernis d'hypocrisie nécessaire à ces visites rituelles que l'on pourrait faire une fois la semaine à un club multiracial parce qu'en l'an de grâce 1961, cela se fait.

L'Entité Mauricienne est tout autre chose que la société multiraciale équilibrée que certains nous proposent, parce qu'elle perpétue, avec quelque étalage de charité et de condescendance, leurs avantages, leurs prérogatives et les complexes dont ils abreuvant leurs egos.

Sans doute l'Entité reconnaît-elle la garantie de richesse que constitue, pour l'héritage mauricien, la variété de sources culturelles, religieuses et psychosociales qui irriguent notre terre. Et cela n'est pas paradoxal. Il en est de même de l'égalité des hommes: chacun sait que tout homme est différent des autres; mais l'idéal d'égalité a néanmoins, en quelque 150 ans, transformé le monde et banni de terribles injustices.

Les différences physiques dites raciales ne sont pas plus fondamentales que les différences de taille, de force et d'endurance. Les différences culturelles nous séparent moins que les variétés de personnalité et de tempérament.

La diversité est notre richesse, l'Entité notre force et la garantie du progrès.

Le multiracialisme, qui repose sur la base erronée du



concept racial, se grève, de plus, de lourdes responsabilités, en encourageant les faux réveils culturels et les exploitations politiques à des fins précises.

Ceux pour qui le Mauricianisme intégral, s'irradiant dans les cercles commerciaux, industriels, culturels, sportifs et sociaux, comporte la certitude d'un établissement des prérogatives séculaires le combattent systématiquement par un racialisme forcément multiple, heureux de s'abriter ensuite derrière la façade d'un multiracialisme tolérant jusqu'aux cocktails et dîners en commun.

Il y a aussi ceux pour qui l'organisation étanche de groupes «raciaux» comporte la certitude de l'exercice de ce «balance of power» qui est seconde nature et à laquelle ils doivent les splendeurs d'un passé encore récent.

À la suite de ces deux groupes héréditairement connivents se hâte la cour hétéroclite des agents vénaux de scandales et de scissions, les petits esprits et les grandes ambitions, les princes du dépit et de l'envie — toute l'orchestration des réactionnaires.

L'Entité Mauricienne demeure jusqu'ici une vierge lointaine et stérile. Est-elle un mythe? N'est-elle qu'un rêve de l'intellect? Elle attend peut-être un signe.

Sans vouloir minimiser les difficultés, ni méconnaître les réels écueils, il nous faut admettre qu'aucun effort n'a été fait pour nous rapprocher de l'Entité Mauricienne, pour traduire l'idéal en actes de courage et de foi.

La crainte de désastres sans précédent nous fera peut-être nous rapprocher dans le même frisson de désespoir ou dans la même détermination d'éviter l'abîme. Mais ne devons-nous rien attendre de nos amours-propres et de nos intelligences?

L'Entité Mauricienne a besoin d'institutions mauriciennes pour s'épanouir. Un collège universitaire, une association culturelle nationale pour éclipser à la fois le British Council, l'Union Culturelle Française, etc., et, en plus petit, pas de moindre importance, des clubs sportifs, des cercles littéraires, des associations artistiques mauriciennes qui, pour recruter leurs membres, ne rechercheraient ni les garanties généalogiques des communalistes, ni la représentation proportionnelle des multiracialités, mais plutôt l'adresse, l'esprit d'équipe et la loyauté pour le sport, le tempérament, les dons artistiques et les connaissances des lettres pour les cercles littéraires.

N'est-il pas temps d'ouvrir toutes grandes les portes des institutions qui existent déjà dans ces domaines et de les libérer de l'esprit sectaire?

Sous les vœux rêveurs de la lointaine Entité Mauricienne, ne pouvons-nous être ni virils, ni intelligents, ni civilisés?

Justice mauricienne

70 269 affaires en attente, l'urgence d'une réforme systémique

☞ Suite de la page 5

Les hausses sont particulièrement fortes pour les agressions (+79,1 %), les vols qualifiés (+44,1 %) et les affaires de fraude, faux et contrefaçon (+79,7 %). Les condamnations pour homicide ont également progressé de 23,5 %.

Toutefois, il convient de ne pas confondre condamnation et emprisonnement. Sur les 48 231 condamnations prononcées, seulement 5 966, soit 12,4 %, ont entraîné une peine privative de liberté. Les autres sanctions ont notamment pris la forme d'amendes, de travaux communautaires ou de mesures de probation.

Les chiffres des Assises sont, eux aussi, significatifs. Les condamnations sont passées de 54 en 2024 à 104 en 2025. Les condamnations pour infractions liées aux drogues ont plus que doublé, passant de 30 à 63, tandis que celles pour meurtre sont restées stables, à sept.

La criminalité financière constitue un autre foyer de pression. À la *Financial*

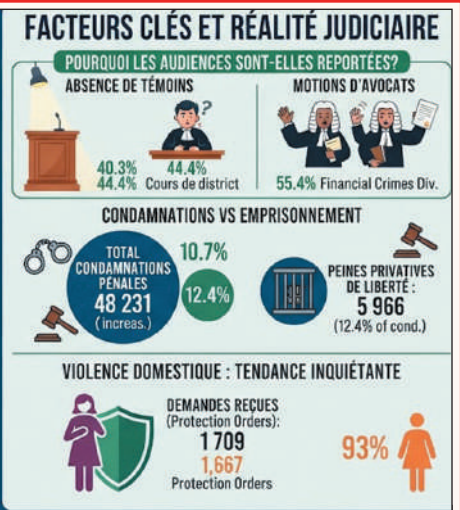
Crimes Division de la cour intermédiaire, 74 affaires ont été enregistrées en 2025, contre 60 en 2024. Mais seulement 46 dossiers ont été disposés, contre 58 l'année précédente. Le stock est ainsi passé de 148 à 176 affaires. À la cour intermédiaire, les nouvelles affaires criminelles ont bondi de 282 à 430, soit 52,5 % de plus.

Derrière ces statistiques se trouve également un problème récurrent: les audiences qui n'aboutissent pas comme prévu. L'absence de témoins représentait 40,3 % des raisons de report le jour même du procès. Dans les cours de district, cette proportion atteignait 44,4 %. À la *Financial Crimes Division*, les motions présentées par les avocats représentaient 55,4 % des reports.

Cette réalité soulève une question essentielle: combien de temps et de ressources sont perdus lorsque les audiences sont fixées sans que toutes les conditions nécessaires à leur tenue soient réunies? Une justice efficace ne dépend pas unique-



Une justice efficace repose autant sur la discipline procédurale et la préparation des dossiers que sur les ressources judiciaires et le respect des délais par tous les acteurs



ment du nombre de juges, de magistrats ou de salles d'audience. Elle dépend aussi de la discipline procédurale, de la disponibilité des témoins, de la préparation des dossiers et de la capacité de tous les acteurs à respecter les échéances.

Les cours de district restent au cœur de cette activité. Elles ont enregistré 81 932 affaires civiles et criminelles en 2025, contre 78 489 en 2024. Pourtant, les affaires clôturées sont passées de 82 619 à 77 698. La cour de district de Pample-

mousses, à elle seule, a enregistré 11 686 nouvelles affaires dans les juridictions rurales.

Le rapport révèle aussi une réalité sociale préoccupante: les demandes relevant de la "Protection from Domestic Violence Act" sont passées de 1 507 à 1 709. Sur les 1 690 demandes reçues en 2025, 1 667 concernaient des "Protection Orders" et 93 % des demandes introduites par des conjoints ou partenaires provenaient de femmes.

Canada États-Unis: quand le commerce devient un rapport de forces

La confrontation commerciale entre le Canada et les États-Unis prend une tournure qui dépasse largement la question des droits de douane. Elle pose une question fondamentale: jusqu'où un pays doit-il accepter les exigences d'un voisin beaucoup plus puissant pour préserver une relation économique privilégiée?

Dans une analyse publiée le 26 août 2026, Eric Van Rythoven, chargé de cours en sciences politiques à Carleton University, examine le changement spectaculaire de posture du Premier ministre canadien Mark Carney face à Donald Trump. Après avoir privilégié la conciliation, Ottawa a décidé de suspendre les négociations commerciales avec Washington, estimant que les dernières propositions américaines étaient "injustes, non économiques" et remettaient en cause la fiabilité d'un éventuel accord.

Cette rupture intervient alors que les nouveaux tarifs douaniers américains de 50 % frappant certains produits canadiens viennent d'entrer en vigueur. Selon les premières estimations citées par Van Rythoven, quelque 90 000 emplois canadiens pourraient être menacés.

Le changement est d'autant plus significatif que Carney avait jusqu'ici adopté une approche prudente. En mai, il plaiderait encore pour une plus grande intégration économique entre les deux pays. Mais Washington aurait finalement demandé beaucoup plus qu'il n'était disposé à offrir. Le Canada devait notamment accepter des droits de douane élevés sur l'automobile, l'acier, l'aluminium et le bois, tout en faisant face à des demandes touchant directement certains aspects de sa souveraineté.

Parmi les exigences les plus sensibles figureraient celles concernant la protection de la langue française et la capacité du Canada à choisir librement ses partenaires commerciaux. Carney a résumé sa position en des termes particulièrement fermes: le Canada ne peut accepter ce qui lui est proposé ni donner ce qui lui est demandé.

C'est là que se situe, à mon sens, l'enjeu essentiel de



Pour Mark Carney, le Canada ne peut "battre" les États-Unis, mais peut leur montrer que la pression permanente a un coût et qu'un partenaire économique n'est pas

cette crise. Un accord commercial ne peut être durable lorsqu'il devient un instrument de pression politique et qu'une partie cherche à imposer à l'autre des concessions qui dépassent le strict cadre économique. Le libre-échange suppose normalement des avantages réciproques et des règles relativement prévisibles. Lorsque les tarifs douaniers deviennent un moyen de contraindre un partenaire à modifier ses politiques intérieures, la logique commerciale cède la place au rapport de forces.

La riposte canadienne marque donc un tournant. Alors qu'une majorité de Canadiens se déclarait déjà favorable à des mesures de représailles, Carney s'est désormais engagé à répondre dollar pour dollar. Certains responsables politiques vont même plus loin, envisageant des mesures touchant la coopération militaire et les achats d'équipements américains.

Mais le Canada doit également éviter de tomber dans le piège d'une escalade incontrôlée. Les États-Unis demeurent de loin l'économie la plus puissante et disposent d'une capacité de nuisance considérable. Une guerre

commerciale prolongée pourrait coûter cher aux deux pays, notamment aux consommateurs et aux entreprises.

Van Rythoven souligne toutefois une faiblesse souvent sous-estimée de Washington: sa dépendance à certains produits canadiens essentiels, notamment le pétrole, l'électricité, l'aluminium et le bois. Les représailles canadiennes peuvent donc également provoquer une hausse des coûts pour les entreprises et les consommateurs américains. Le rapport de forces n'est pas aussi simple qu'il y paraît.

Plus profondément, cette crise oblige le Canada à revoir sa conception de ses relations avec son voisin. Pendant longtemps, Ottawa a considéré les tensions avec une administration Trump comme temporaires, en espérant un retour à la normalité après son départ. Une autre vision s'impose désormais: si les exigences américaines restent sans réponse, elles pourraient créer un précédent dont de futures administrations seraient tentées de s'inspirer.

La leçon dépasse d'ailleurs le Canada. Face à une grande puissance, la meilleure réponse n'est pas nécessairement la confrontation, mais la capacité à définir clairement ses lignes rouges et à défendre ses intérêts avec sang-froid. La fermeté n'exclut pas le dialogue; elle peut - au contraire - lui donner un cadre plus équilibré.

Pour Mark Carney, le véritable défi sera donc de transformer cette nouvelle fermeté en stratégie durable. Il ne s'agit pas de "battre" les États-Unis - le Canada ne le peut pas - mais de démontrer qu'une relation fondée sur la pression permanente a également un coût pour Washington. Dans ce bras de fer, le Canada ne cherche peut-être pas la victoire. Il cherche surtout à rappeler qu'un partenaire économique n'est pas un pays vassal.

A. Bartleby

☞ Voir plus en page 18

Investissements directs étrangers: Maurice confirme son attractivité, mais fait face au défi de la diversification

Les chiffres récents de la Banque de Maurice confirment la vitalité des investissements directs étrangers (IDE). Après une année 2025 particulièrement dynamique marquée par des flux bruts hors Global Business atteignant 48 milliards de roupies — soit une progression de près de 46 % sur un an —, la tendance se maintient en ce début d'année 2026, avec près de 6 milliards enregistrés dès le premier trimestre.

Ce rebond spectaculaire, loin des creux de la période pandémique, témoigne de la confiance renouvelée des investisseurs internationaux, menés par le Royaume-Uni, la France et l'Afrique du Sud.

Cependant, cette embellie financière met en lumière une vulnérabilité structurelle bien connue: l'hyper-concentration des capitaux. En 2025, l'immobilier et la finance ont capté à eux seuls plus de 83 % des IDE (environ 45 % pour la pierre à travers les régimes dédiés tels que l'IRS, le PDS ou les Smart Cities, et près de 40 % pour les services financiers et d'assurance). À l'inverse, les secteurs productifs et manufacturiers continuent de marquer le pas.

Les pièges d'une dépendance excessive à l'immobilier

L'orientation massive des IDE vers l'immobilier de prestige et les programmes résidentiels génère des rendements à court terme, mais comporte des risques macroéconomiques et sociaux considérables qui ont été amplement documentés à travers le monde.

L'inflation foncière et l'exclusion des résidents locaux: Lorsque les flux étrangers se déversent massivement dans la pierre, les prix des terrains et de l'immobilier résidentiel se déconnectent rapidement du pouvoir d'achat de la population locale. Ce phénomène crée une crise du logement endémique, rendant l'accès à la propriété quasi impossible pour les jeunes ménages et les classes moyennes.

La vulnérabilité macroéconomique: Une économie trop dépendante de la construction et de la promotion immobilière devient extrêmement sensible aux fluctuations des marchés internationaux, aux taux d'intérêt mondiaux et à la confiance des investisseurs fortunés. En cas de retournement conjoncturel, c'est toute la chaîne de valeur (bâtiment, emplois induits, services) qui subit un choc brutal.

Le mythe de la diversification productive: Contrairement aux investissements dans l'industrie manufacturière de pointe, les technologies ou les services à forte valeur ajoutée, l'immobilier ne génère qu'un nombre limité d'emplois durables et qualifiés à long terme, tout en exerçant une pression accrue sur les infrastructures publiques (routes, eau, électricité, gestion des déchets).

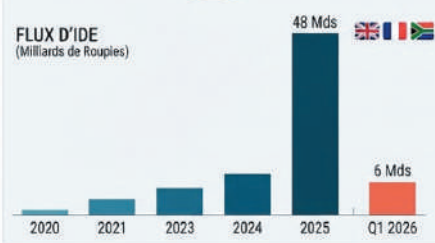
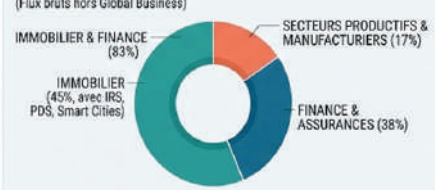
Surchauffe immobilière liée aux IDE: quelles solutions à l'étranger?

Face à la flambée des prix et aux pressions spéculatives, plusieurs nations ont mis en place des mesures énergiques pour réguler l'investissement étranger dans l'immobilier.

La Nouvelle-Zélande: Le pays a adopté dès 2018 la loi sur l'interdiction des achats de biens immobiliers résidentiels par des non-résidents ('Overseas Investment Amendment Act'), visant spécifiquement à freiner la spéculation internationale et à protéger son marché local du loge-

MAURICE : L'ATTRACTIVITÉ DES IDE AU DÉFI DE LA DIVERSIFICATION

LA CONCENTRATION DES IDE EN 2025



LE DÉFI MAURICIEN : Transformer l'attractivité immobilière en un levier de transformation structurelle pour une croissance durable et inclusive.

LES RISQUES D'UNE DÉPENDANCE EXCESSIVE



VERS UNE RÉORIENTATION STRATÉGIQUE : LES SOLUTIONS POSSIBLES



ment.

Le Canada: Ottawa a introduit des interdictions temporaires sur l'achat de logements résidentiels par des non-Canadiens, tout en instaurant des taxes fédérales et provinciales alourdies sur les biens vacants ou détenus par des non-résidents pour décourager les acquisitions purement

spéculatives.

Singapour: Célèbre pour sa maîtrise du marché foncier, la cité-État impose des droits de mutation additionnels très élevés ('Additional Buyer's Stamp Duty' ou ABSD) pour les acheteurs étrangers — pouvant atteindre des taux dissuasifs —, protégeant ainsi l'accessibilité au logement pour ses citoyens tout en canalisant les IDE vers des secteurs technologiques et industriels de pointe.

Le défi mauricien

Pour Maurice, le défi des prochaines années ne consiste plus seulement à attirer des volumes de capitaux, mais à en orienter la trajectoire. Transformer cette attractivité financière et immobilière en un véritable levier de transformation structurelle exigera des incitations audacieuses en faveur de l'innovation, de la transition énergétique et des industries d'exportation.

Faute d'une telle réorientation, le pays risque de bâtir sa croissance sur des sables mouvants, où la prospérité affichée par la pierre se paiera par une fracture sociale et un coût de la vie intenable pour les Mauriciens.

A. Bartleby



COMMUNIQUE

VACANCIES - EXTENSION OF APPLICATION CLOSING DATE

The closing date for the submission of online applications for the following posts, advertised by the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA) on 3 and 5 August 2026, has been extended to **Wednesday 30 September 2026**:

1. Director, Compliance (Revenue Collection)
2. Director, Research, Policy and Planning Department
3. Director, Finance and Administration Department
4. Deputy Director, Compliance (Revenue Collection)
5. Deputy Director, Customs Department
6. Section Head, Finance and Administration Department
7. Team Leader, Finance and Administration Department

Application

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

Note:

The MRA reserves the right:

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



MAURITIUS REVENUE AUTHORITY

25 August 2026

Ehram Court, Cnr Mgr. Gonin & Sir Virgil Naz Streets, Port Louis, Mauritius
T: +230 202 0500 | E: humanresourcesandtraining@mra.mu | W: www.mra.mu



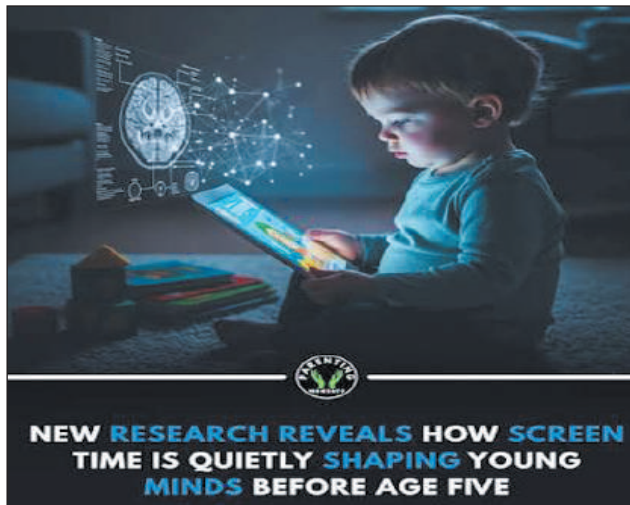
Screen time and young minds: It may be what children do that matters

An eight-year Finnish study has produced an unexpected finding about screen use: children who spent more time on screens tended to show better cognitive processing during adolescence.

Researchers at the University of Jyväskylä examined data from 260 young people — 124 girls and 136 boys — who were followed from childhood into their teenage years. The participants had an average age of 15.8 years. Their physical activity, sedentary behaviour and screen time were assessed, while learning, attention and working memory were evaluated using cognitive tests.

The findings challenge the idea that screen time is necessarily harmful. Doctoral Researcher Petri Jalanko of the University of Jyväskylä said the important question may be not how much time children spend on screens, but what they do during that time.

Screen activities involving learning, creativity, problem-solving and active thinking may help explain the positive association with cognitive performance. Jalanko



stressed, however, that screen use should not replace physical activity, but should be balanced with it.

The relationship between physical activity and cognition was more complicated. Among girls, greater amounts of light physical activity from childhood were associated with better working memory during adolescence. Among boys, greater participation in guided physical activity was linked to better working memory.

Researchers also found that some forms of self-reported unsupervised physical activity were associated with lower cognitive performance, while activity and sedentary time measured through wearable devices showed no significant association. These differences suggest that the type, intensity and measurement of activity — and even sex — may influence the relationship with cognitive health.

The researchers caution that the study establishes associations, not cause and effect. More intervention studies are needed to determine whether particular forms of screen use or physical activity directly influence cognitive development.



If steam contains water, what does smoke from fire contain?

Scientists are studying fires in Africa at different times of year to see how the smoke from these fires changes over the year.



You've asked an important question, Amasi-Mario: this is something that lots of people around the world have also wondered. As a scientist who studies how fires happen in natural spaces like savannas and forests, and what they can do to the environment, I'm one of those people.

Living in Nigeria, you've probably seen lots of fires; some in your own home to keep you warm, and some burning through the bush. You will have noticed that not all fires make the same sort of smoke. There are a few reasons for this — let me explain.

What is in smoke

When fires burn they are “consuming” plants. After a fire the vegetation that was there before has gone, and plants have to grow again from their roots or seeds. However, that plant material has not just disappeared: a lot of it has gone up into the sky as smoke. Big wildfires like we have in our African savannas can make so much smoke that it seems as if the smoke is making clouds in the sky. That's probably why you asked the question about steam and smoke.

Quite a lot of the smoke from a fire is actually steam. All the water in the plant gets evaporated by the heat of the flames, and goes up in the smoke as water vapour. Once the water is gone then the leaves and the stems of the plants burn, and turn into a gas called carbon dioxide.

When fires burn plants they are doing exactly the same thing our bodies do when we eat plants: they are releasing the energy stored in the plant. We eat food and breathe in oxygen. The oxygen joins to the carbon from

the food, and makes carbon dioxide that we breathe out. This gives us energy. Fires also need oxygen to “eat” plants. Sometimes when they don't have enough oxygen they breathe out carbon monoxide or methane instead of carbon dioxide, but all of these gases go up into the air in the smoke.

However, not every bit of the plant is turned into carbon dioxide in a fire. Some very small particles of ash and soot are not burned, but are taken up into the sky with the water vapour and the carbon dioxide. We call these aerosols: tiny particles that are light enough to stay up in the sky even though they are not a gas. These aerosols are what gives smoke its grey or black colour sometimes.

So, just as water moves around the world as a “water cycle” — changing from solid to liquid to gas with the help of energy from the sun — carbon also moves around the world in a “carbon cycle”. Fire is part of that cycle, turning solid carbon in plants back into carbon dioxide gas. We breathe out carbon dioxide gas when we eat plants, and fire “breathes out” carbon dioxide gas and other small particles when it burns plants.

Learning more

As I said earlier, you can see that not all fires make the same sort of smoke. This is because the amount of aerosols, water vapour, and other gases that come from a fire changes depending on the weather and what sorts of plants are being burned. At the moment I and other scientists are studying fires in Africa at different times of year: we want to see how the smoke from these fires changes over the year.

The way we do this is pretty cool. We fly small helicopters called drones into the smoke and catch packets of the smoke so that we can see what it is made of. There isn't an actual person flying the drones — that would be dangerous, so the drones are controlled with remotes like you'd use for your TV.

We take these smoke samples back to the lab and work out how much water vapour, carbon dioxide, and aerosols are in the smoke. This helps us to understand the carbon cycle better, and decide when and how to burn our land so that the smoke doesn't cause damage to people or the environment.

Sally Archibald

Professor of Ecology, University of the Witwatersrand

Hidden Stress May Accelerate Memory Loss as We Age

Stress is often considered an emotional burden, but new research suggests that the way people cope with stress — especially when they keep it inside — may also affect how the brain ages.

A study from Rutgers Health has found that internalised stress, particularly feelings of hopelessness, may be linked to faster memory decline among older Chinese Americans. The findings suggest that emotional struggles that remain unspoken or untreated could quietly contribute to cognitive problems later in life.

Published in The Journal of Prevention of Alzheimer's Disease, the study analysed data from the Population Study of Chinese Elderly (PINE), the largest community-based study of older Chinese Americans. Researchers examined more than 1,500 adults over the age of 60 living in the Chicago area, tracking changes in memory between 2011 and 2017.

Led by Michelle Chen, assistant professor of neurology at Rutgers Robert Wood Johnson Medical School and a researcher at the Rutgers Institute for Health, Health Care Policy and Aging Research, the study examined several social and emotional factors that might influence brain health.

The researchers found that internalised stress — including feelings of hopelessness and a tendency to absorb difficulties without expressing or resolving them — was strongly associated with worsening memory over time. Surprisingly, factors such as neighbourhood support and community cohesion did not show the same protective effect.

The researchers believe cultural expectations may contribute to hidden emotional distress. Older immigrants may face pressures linked to language barriers, social adjustment, and stereotypes that portray Asian Americans as highly successful and resilient, potentially making mental health struggles less visible.

The findings highlight the importance of culturally sensitive approaches to ageing and mental health. Since internalised stress can potentially be reduced through counselling, social support, and stress-management strategies, addressing emotional wellbeing may become an important part of protecting memory and promoting healthier ageing.



The Teacher's Question

Teacher: "What is the future tense of 'I am tired'?"
Student: "I will sleep."

The Mobile Phone
My phone and I have a lot in common...
We both lose energy quickly and need charging every night.

The Neighbour
Neighbour: "Your dog never barks."
Owner: "That's because he has nothing interesting to say."

The Boss
Boss: "Do you believe in teamwork?"
Employee: "Yes."
Boss: "Good, because I need you to work while I take the credit."

The Tourist
Tourist: "Can you tell me the way?"
Local: "Yes."
Tourist: "What way?"
Local: "The way I just told you."

The Diet Promise
"I started a new diet today."
"Great! What are you eating?"

"Everything... but with guilt."
The Husband's Answer
Wife: "What would you do if I died?"
Husband: "I'd be devastated."
Wife: "Would you remarry?"
Husband: "No."
Wife: "Why not?"
Husband: "I learned my lesson."

The Genius Child
Mother: "Why did you put the TV remote in the fridge?"
Child: "Because it controls the cold channel."



The Doctor's Prescription
Doctor: "Take these tablets every day."
Patient: "Before or after meals?"
Doctor: "Before you complain."

The Lazy Employee
Boss: "Why are you always late?"



Employee: "Because you told us to arrive after traffic."

The Husband's Gift
Wife: "What did you buy me for my birthday?"
Husband: "A beautiful surprise."
Wife: "Where is it?"
Husband: "Still a surprise."

The Teacher's Wisdom
Teacher: "Remember, there are no stupid questions."
Student: "Are you sure?"

The Driving Lesson
Instructor: "What do you do at a red light?"
Student: "I pray."

The Smart Grandchild
Grandmother: "When I was young, there was no internet."
Grandchild: "Wow Grandma, how did you download things?"

The Office Meeting
Manager: "Any questions?"
Employee: "Yes. When does this meeting end?"
The Family Secret
Father: "In this family, we share everything."
Son: "Great. Can I share your credit card?"

The Weather Forecast
Man: "What's the weather today?"
Friend: "I don't know."
Man: "Why?"
Friend: "I'm not on speaking terms with the sky."

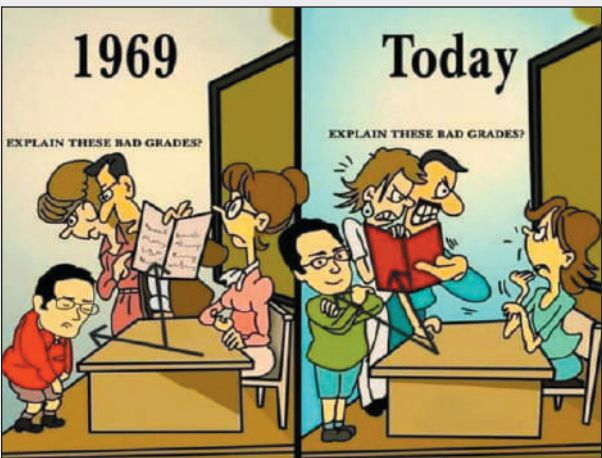
The Age Question
Woman: "Guess my age."
Man: "I'd say 30."
Woman: "I'm 45!"
Man: "I was being polite."

The Husband's Cooking
Wife: "How do you like my cooking?"
Husband: "It's unforgettable."
Wife: "Really?"
Husband: "Yes, I'm trying to forget it."

The Final Word
My wife said: "You never listen to me."
I thought, "That's a strange way to start a conversation."

The 90-Year-Old Couple Wants a Divorce
A 90-year-old grandmother and her 92-year-old husband walk into the registry office and ask for a divorce.
The official is stunned.
"Look, I don't mean to offend you, but you're 90 and your husband is 92. Why on earth do you want to get divorced now?"
The woman calmly replies:
"Oh, you know, things haven't worked out between us for more than 30 years. We've wanted to get divorced for a long time."
The official looks even more confused.
"Then why did you wait so long?"
She sighs and says:
"We decided to wait until the children were dead!"

The Wife Served Breakfast to Her Husband
The wife served breakfast to her husband.
Along with the breakfast, she gave him a tablet and said:
Wife: "Take this paracetamol after breakfast."
Husband: "Why? I don't have a fever."



Wife: "Okay, then take this Digene."
Husband: "Come on! I don't have any gastric trouble either."
Wife: "Okay, at least take some Pudín Hara. You'll get immediate relief."
Husband: "My dear, my stomach is perfectly fine."
Wife: "Oh, but you should at least take some Combiflam. Any pain in your hands or legs will disappear in no time."
Husband: "Are you crazy? Why are you suddenly showing so much care and concern for me? Thanks, darling, but I'm totally fit, fresh and energetic!"

The wife smiled and said:
Wife: "Very good! Now take this broom, clean the cobwebs from all the rooms, and then clean the loft too."
Husband: "....."

Snails
A married couple is having breakfast when the wife says she would like to have snails for dinner.
"No problem," her husband replies. "I'll go into town and buy some."
After buying the snails, he looks at his watch. It's only 10:00 a.m.
"Since I have plenty of time, I can stop by my local pub for a quick drink," he thinks.
One drink turns into another, and when he finally looks at his watch again, it's already 6:00 p.m.
"Damn! How am I going to explain this to my wife?"
When he gets home, he places the bag of snails on the stairs, rings the doorbell, and hides around the corner.
As his wife opens the door, he claps his hands several times and shouts:
"Come on, you lazy snails! You can manage those last few metres too!"

Life's Stories

V. S. Naipaul's Long Journey Back to India

We in India like to claim V. S. Naipaul as our own, for he was, after all, of Indian origin. Naipaul's grandfather was transported by the British from India to the Caribbean as an indentured labourer in the 19th century.

Fate willed that Naipaul would be born and raised in Trinidad, until he left for England as a university student in his early twenties, never to return to the West Indies. He eventually made England his permanent home.

Naipaul always had a complicated love-hate relationship with India. Given a choice, he might have preferred to grow up in India, where he would not have felt so displaced from his roots. In Trinidad, by contrast, he experienced what he saw as a deracinated existence among Indians and Africans who, in his view, had little in common and a limited sense of their shared history. The communities also followed different religious traditions, with Indians largely Hindu and Africans largely Christian and Muslim. Naipaul regarded Trinidad's population as an unnatural mixture of races and cultures.



His dissatisfaction with life in Trinidad led him to visit India in 1960. However, he was deeply disillusioned by what he encountered. He later wrote *An Area of Darkness*, a scathing account of his experiences in India. The title itself reflected his profound disappointment with the country — its climate, bureaucracy, red tape and what he perceived as the irrationality of its people.

Some years later, Naipaul wrote his second book on India, *India: A Wounded Civilization*. Its title was no less harsh, and neither was his assessment of the country. Yet beneath his criticism was also a fascination with Indian

philosophy — particularly the concepts of karma and the idea that the material world is an illusion. As critic Bruce King suggested, this interest was connected to Naipaul's Brahmin heritage.

As Naipaul grew older, he began exploring that heritage more deeply, perhaps in an attempt to reclaim a part of his identity. By the time he wrote his third book on India, *A Million Mutinies Now*, his perspective had changed considerably.

This time, Naipaul presented a more dynamic and complex picture of India. He focused on ordinary Indians and the social changes taking place across the country. Among those he interviewed were sex workers in Kamathipura, Mumbai's famous red-light district. Through their experiences, he explored the aspirations, frustrations and struggles of a changing India.

In 2001, Naipaul was awarded the Nobel Prize in Literature. He remains one of the most prominent writers of Indian origin to have received the prize, alongside Rabindranath Tagore.

Naipaul's relationship with India was never simple. It was marked by criticism, fascination, disappointment and, ultimately, a deeper engagement with his ancestral roots. Perhaps that complexity is precisely what makes his writings on India so compelling.

Lessons from the Wild

The Stag and His Reflection

A stag, drinking from a crystal spring, saw himself mirrored in the clear water. He admired the graceful arch of his antlers, but he was embarrassed by his spindly legs.

"How can it be," he sighed, "that I should be cursed with such legs when I have such a magnificent crown?"

At that moment, he scented a panther and, in an instant, was bounding away through the forest. He outran his pursuer easily on the open plain, but as he entered the woods, his antlers became entangled in the tree branches, and the panther quickly overtook him.

As he fell, the stag perceived that the nimble legs of which he was so ashamed would have saved him, had it not been for the useless ornaments on his head.

Moral: We often value most the ornaments that bring us ruin, while despising the practical gifts that protect us.

Inspiration

The Decisions You Make

The decision-making process can be empowering, allowing us to enjoy the benefits of self-determination

Our lives are defined by the decisions we make each day. When we choose one option over another, whether we are selecting a restaurant or considering a cross-country move, we shape our lives. The decision-making process can be empowering, allowing us to enjoy the benefits of self-determination. Yet, it can also be a source of anxiety because decisions force us to face the possibility of dissatisfaction and inner conflict.

As a result, many of us opt to avoid making decisions by allowing others to make them for us. We consequently turn our power over to spouses, relatives, friends, and colleagues, granting them the stewardship of our lives that is ours by right. Though the decisions we must make are often difficult, we grow more self-sufficient and secure each time we trust ourselves enough to choose.

Ultimately, only you can know how the options before you will impact your daily life and your long-term well-being. Within you lies the power to competently weigh the advantages and disadvantages of each selection. Even if you feel incapable of



making a decision, your inner wisdom and your intuitive mind will give you sound counsel if you have faith in yourself. Try to come to your own conclusions before seeking the guidance of others, and even then, treat their suggestions as supplementary information rather than votes to be tallied.

Before making your choice, release your fear of wrong decisions. Perceived mistakes can lead you down wonderful and unexpected paths that expose you to life-changing insights. If you can let go of the notion that certain choices are utterly right while others are entirely wrong, you will be less tempted to invite others to take the reins of your destiny.

Inspiration

An Indian professor visited Russia to study its education system. During his visit, he came across something that left him completely puzzled.

In Russia, the highest score in an exam was 5. That was understandable.

But what shocked him was this: even a completely blank answer sheet received 2 marks.

A blank paper. Two marks.

The professor could not believe it. Surely, a student who writes nothing deserves zero? The question stayed in his mind until he finally asked a senior Russian educator:

"How can you give marks to someone who has written absolutely nothing?"

The educator smiled and replied:

"Zero means non-existence. As long as a student is standing in front of me, how can I call him zero?"

The professor was silent.

The educator continued:

"Perhaps that child woke up before sunrise. Perhaps he travelled through snow and freezing weather. Perhaps he studied but became nervous. Perhaps he tried and failed. But how can one bad day erase all the effort that brought him here?"

Then he said something even more powerful:

"A teacher's job is not to convince a child that he is nothing. A teacher's job is to help him believe he can stand up and try again."

The professor later admitted that the conversation changed the way he looked at education. Perhaps it should change the way we look at people, too.

How quickly we give labels:

Failure.
Average.
Not good enough.

Finished.

But a person is never equal to one result. One exam cannot measure a life. One mistake cannot define a future. One bad chapter cannot decide the entire story.

Some of the most successful people in the world have failed interviews, lost businesses, repeated exams, and faced rejection after rejection.

What kept them moving was not talent alone. It was hope.

And sometimes, all a person needs is someone who refuses to give up on them.

The next time you see someone struggling, remember the words of that Russian teacher.

Instead of asking, "**Why did you fail?**" Perhaps ask:

"**How can I help you try again?**"

Because people grow best not when they are judged, but when they are encouraged.

Never Let One Failure Define a Person

NOTICE FOR BUILDING AND LAND USE PERMIT APPLICATION

NOTICE FOR PERMISSION

Take notice that I, **Mr Dhiraj Bowlo**, will apply to the **District Council of Pamplemousses** for the **proposed use of part of the ground floor of an existing building to be converted and used as a General Retailer – Foodstuff (excluding liquor) and non-Foodstuff (foodstuff predominant) at Pailles en Queue Street, Tombeau Bay.**

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

Date: 28.08.2026

Appearance Matters

Looking Good as You Grow Older: A Man's Guide to Ageing with Style

Growing older is inevitable, but looking unnecessarily old is not. As men age, changes in hair, skin, teeth and body shape can affect their appearance. But as Beth Axtell points out in her guide *A Men's Guide to Looking Great as You Get Older*, a few sensible grooming, health and style choices can help men look — and feel — their best at every age. The article was medically reviewed by Poonam Sachdev, MD, on June 7, 2025.

The aim is not to look 25 at 55, but to look like the healthiest, best-groomed and most confident version of yourself.

Take Care of Your Hair

Hair often changes significantly with age. If you are losing it, trying to maintain the hairstyle you wore when you were younger may no longer work. A shorter haircut — or even a cleanly shaved head — can look more confident than attempting to hide baldness. A ponytail combined with thinning hair can sometimes make a man look older rather than younger. If you want to cover grey hair, choose a colour close to your natural shade for a more convincing result.

Keep Unwanted Hair Under Control

Age can bring another grooming challenge: unruly eyebrows and increased hair in the ears, nose, back and



chest. Regular trimming can make a significant difference. A barber can help, or you can use a personal trimmer at home. Depending on preference, excessive body hair can also be managed through shaving, waxing, depilatory creams or laser treatment.

Beard, Skin and Wrinkles

There is no universal rule about facial hair. A clean-shaven face may look younger on some men, while a neatly trimmed beard can add character. Grey facial hair can look distinguished when properly groomed.

Skin care is equally important. Daily sunscreen, moisturiser and lip balm can help protect against dryness and sun damage. Retinoids may help remove old skin cells and support collagen, which contributes to skin elasticity.

For those seeking cosmetic treatments, fillers, Botox and laser resurfacing may soften certain wrinkles. Such procedures should, however, be discussed with an appropriately qualified medical professional.

Healthy Habits Matter

Looking good begins with looking after yourself. Adequate sleep, a balanced diet, sufficient water and regular exercise can all contribute to a healthier appearance. Avoiding smoking and limiting alcohol are also important.

A healthy lifestyle is perhaps the most effective — and least expensive — anti-ageing strategy.

Don't Forget Your Smile

A bright, healthy smile can transform a man's appearance. Regular brushing and flossing are essential, while whitening toothpaste, home whitening products or professional dental treatments can brighten teeth. Veneers may be considered for stained, damaged or crooked teeth after professional dental advice.

Dress Well and Choose Carefully

A mature wardrobe should emphasise quality, fit and simplicity. A good suit, leather jacket and classic dark jeans are versatile choices. Add selected contemporary pieces, but avoid clinging to passing fashions. Tailoring can make even ordinary clothes look considerably better.

Eyeglasses also matter. Frames that sweep slightly upward towards the temples can create a subtle lifting effect, while heavy or downward-curving frames may make the face look heavier.

Ultimately, ageing well is not about erasing every wrinkle or pretending to be younger. It is about good grooming, healthy habits, appropriate clothing and confidence. As Axtell's guide suggests, the goal is not to look younger than you are, but to look your best — and feel good — at the age you are.

Health& Life Hacks

Confidence is usually built over time through experience, self-awareness, and personal growth. However, when you need an immediate boost before an important meeting, presentation, interview, or difficult conversation, small changes can quickly influence how you feel and perform.

Improve your posture - The way you hold your body can affect your mindset. Sit or stand upright, relax your shoulders, and adopt a posture that reflects confidence. A stronger physical presence can help you feel more in control.

Simple Ways to Boost Your Confidence in Minutes

Smile - A simple smile can influence your emotions. The connection between facial expressions and the brain means that even a small physical change can help create a more positive state of mind.

Give yourself a positive reminder - A brief internal pep talk can shift your focus. Remind yourself of your strengths, past achievements, and qualities that make you capable of handling the situation ahead.

Consider the worst-case scenario - Fear often grows when uncertainty takes over. Thinking realistically about the worst possible outcome — and recognising that you can cope with it — can reduce anxiety.

Take care of your appearance - Looking prepared can help you feel prepared. A few minutes spent organising yourself, dressing well, or making small adjustments can strengthen your sense

of confidence.

Eat something healthy - A nutritious snack, such as fruit or vegetables, can improve energy levels and help you feel refreshed.

Breathe deeply - A few slow, deep breaths can calm the mind and reduce tension. Pause, inhale deeply, exhale slowly, and allow yourself to approach the moment with greater clarity.

Confidence may take time to develop, but these small actions can provide an immediate reminder that you are ready to face the challenge ahead.

Spring Clean Your Fridge: Foods Worth Throwing Out

Spring is a good time not only to clean your home but also to take a fresh look at what is sitting in your refrigerator and freezer. According to the article "Spring -- Clean Your Fridge," the contents of our fridge can quietly encourage unhealthy eating by making sugary, highly processed and calorie-heavy foods too convenient.

The article recommends starting with flavoured yogurt, which can contain far more sugar than plain yogurt. A healthier option is plain yogurt with fresh berries and nuts. Ketchup and mayonnaise are also worth reconsidering: ketchup contains added sugar, while mayonnaise is high in calories. Mustard or a homemade tomato sauce can be better alternatives.

Other items to remove include flavoured non-dairy creamers, which can contain added sugars, artificial



flavours and highly processed ingredients, and soft drinks, which provide plenty of calories but little nutritional value. Seltzer with lemon is suggested as a refreshing alternative.

The article also advises limiting processed meats such as hot dogs, ham and sausages, which have been

associated with increased cancer risk. Tonic water, despite its bitter taste, can contain substantial amounts of added sugar, while gourmet ice creams can be particularly high in fat and sugar.

Creamy salad dressings, frozen French fries and frozen pizzas are similarly identified as foods that can make healthy choices more difficult. Fresh vegetables, fruit, homemade dressings and healthier frozen foods are recommended instead. Even pickles deserve scrutiny because many commercial varieties contain large amounts of salt.

Finally, the article suggests being realistic about beer and other alcoholic drinks. While an occasional drink may be acceptable for some people, keeping large quantities at home can encourage overconsumption.

The article, published as a health and lifestyle guide, reminds us that one of the simplest ways to eat better is to make unhealthy choices less available in the first place.

BollyBytes

Sushmita Sen addresses marriage questions



Actor Sushmita Sen recently engaged with her followers during an Instagram live session, playfully deflecting questions regarding her future marriage plans.

As reported by NDTV, when a fan asked about her marital status, she humorously responded that both she and the audience would keep searching for the answer. Sen has previously opened up about her decision to remain single, noting in past interviews that while she has met interesting men, previous relationships fell through because partners proved to be a letdown.

She also shared that she came close to marriage three times, but feels protected by fortunate timing that kept her from entering complicated situations.



Drishyam 3 Set for October Release

Fans of the suspense-thriller franchise can rejoice as Ajay Devgn prepares to reprise his iconic role as Vijay Salgaonkar for the final chapter, titled *Drishyam The Conclusion*.

According to Screen, the movie is scheduled to hit theaters on October 2, 2026. This date holds special significance for the storyline, marking the exact day the Salgaonkar family famously established their alibi.

Releasing during the Gandhi Jayanti public holiday and a long weekend, the film is expected to draw massive box office numbers as audiences discover how Vijay's gripping story officially concludes.

Sunita Ahuja visits temple amid family spotlight

Sunita Ahuja recently sought spiritual solace by visiting the Khatu Shyam Temple in Rajasthan and a local Hanuman temple, as covered by NDTV Movies News Desk.

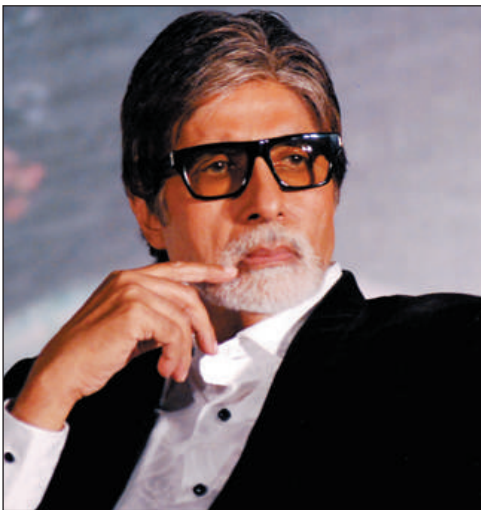
Her temple visits coincide with intense public scrutiny surrounding her marriage to Govinda, which has made headlines following social media rumors, past public disagreements, and recent speculations regard-

ing their relationship status.

Although rumours previously surfaced regarding a divorce filing, Govinda's manager clarified that any legal steps taken in 2024 were withdrawn, and denied allegations of upcoming marriages, even as the veteran couple approaches nearly four decades of shared history.



Amitabh Bachchan reflects on early career rejections and being told he was "too tall"



due to his height.

The legendary actor noted that even after securing minor work, directors frequently scolded and corrected his dialogue delivery. In the same promotional rollout, singer Sunidhi Chauhan appeared on the hot seat alongside Prasoon Joshi and confessed that Bachchan was her first crush, prompting a blushing and playful response from the megastar. Bachchan's upcoming projects include *Kalki 2*, slated for a December 2027 theatrical release.

* * *

Big B's strategy for late nights

Big B recently shared a humorous peek into his domestic life while hosting *Kaun Banega Crorepati 18*, as detailed by NDTV Movies News Desk.

When asked if his wife, Jaya Bachchan, scolds him for returning home late from shoots, Big B revealed a foolproof preventive routine. He utilizes a dedicated family WhatsApp group every morning to update everyone on his schedule and advise them not to wait up for dinner. Failing to send this advance notice results in playful reprimands.

Additionally, the actor mentioned that when household staff are unavailable, he comfortably handles basic chores himself and occasionally asks Jaya to prepare a meal.

Veteran Bollywood icon Amitabh Bachchan recently opened up about the grueling hurdles he faced during his early days in the film industry, recalling how his towering height and unconventional look were frequently met with harsh criticism. During a special episode of *Kaun Banega Crorepati 18* featuring Commonwealth Games 2026 gold medallists Lovlina Borgohain, Jhandu Kumar, Sharmila Dhankar, and Asmita Dey (as highlighted by NDTV), Bachchan shared candid stories about being turned away from sets. Responding to a question about discipline on sets, he recalled being told early on that he lacked acting skills and should return home

TENDER NOTICE OPEN NATIONAL BIDDING



INVITATION TO BID

Replacement of Split Ducted Type AC at AML Receptorium REF NO: ONB/WK/TSD/VB/SG/26/005

Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd (AML), a member of AHL Group, invites bids from eligible local contractors for **Replacement of Split Ducted Type AC at AML Receptorium**.

Interested bidders may obtain further information and download the complete set of bidding documents, free of charge from the AML website URL <https://aml.mru.aero/index.php/business/procurement/tender-notices>. Prospective bidders should regularly visit this website to take cognizance of any addendum/clarification issued.

A site visit has been scheduled on **Thursday 03 September 2026 at 10.00 hrs**. The venue shall be AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport Plaine Magnien. Bidders are kindly requested to confirm their presence to the Chairperson Tender Committee by e-mail at tendercommittee@aml.aero at least two days prior to the scheduled date.

Bid(s) in sealed envelope clearly marked "**Replacement of Split Ducted Type AC at AML Receptorium - ONB/WK/TSD/VB/SG/26/005**" should be addressed to the Chairperson Tender Committee, Airports of Mauritius Co. Ltd, and deposited in the Tender Box located at AML Corporate Office, SSR International Airport, Plaine Magnien, **on or before Wednesday 30 September 2026 at latest by 13:00 hrs**.

Electronic and late bids shall not be accepted.

AML reserves the right to cancel this bidding exercise without incurring any liability to prospective bidders, for whatsoever reason.

26 August 2026

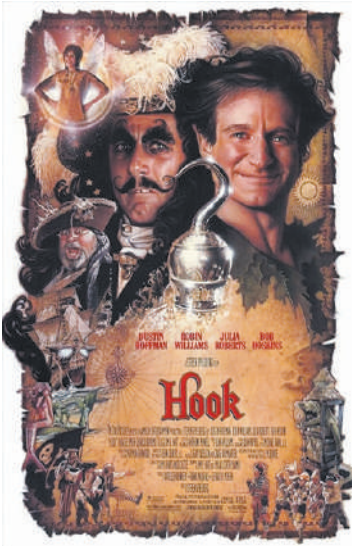
AML Corporate Office
SSR International Airport,
Plaine Magnien, MAURITIUS
Tel: (230) 603 6000
Web: aml.mru.aero

Please scan the QR Code
for additional information





Vendredi 28 Août - 20.30



Samedi 29 Août - 20.15



Dimanche 30 Août - 20.15



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 28 août

MBC 1

06.26 Serial: Séparé Par L'Amour
08.03 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
08.49 Tele: La Desalmada
09.20 Film: The Woman King
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.35 Tele: Rosalinda
13.20 Tele: Lying Heart
13.45 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Tele: Love Of My Life
17.00 Doc: China Farm
17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.30 Le Journal
20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.30 Film: Hook Ou La Revanche
Du Capitaine Crochet
22.52 Tele: Roselinda

MBC 2

11.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
12.00 Local: Klip Seleksion
13.04 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.03 Local: Viens Decouvrir
14.15 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...
15.10 Local: Artizan
17.01 Local: La Sosiete
19.30 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
19.45 Local: Evasion
20.15 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout
21.30 Local: La Sosiete
22.11 Local: Generations J
23.23 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.27 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin
23.42 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
00.32 Local: Metie
00.46 Local: Mangeons Veg
01.13 Les Grandes Lignes
01.39 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
01.52 Local: Evasion
02.04 Local: Sekirite Lor Larout

MBC 3

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.14 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
11.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.00 Film: Resham Ki Dori
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
15.48 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua
16.33 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Local: Mati Ke Mol
18.57 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
19.53 Local: Khel Khiladi
20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama
21.30 Serial: Beyhadh 2
22.02 Serial: Shrimad Ramayan
22.25 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya
00.08 Local: Mati Ke Mol
00.34 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek

Cine 12

06.40 Mag: Asia 2050
07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today
08.39 Doc: Turning Childhood...
10.51 Doc: My Name Is Happy
11.37 Mag: Eco India
12.03 Mag: Mapped Out
13.24 Doc: Ice Grave
14.17 Doc: Turning Childhood...
15.08 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.14 D.Anime: Word Party
17.27 D.Anime: Action Kidz
17.39 Mag: Mapped Out
18.30 Doc: Greatest Love Stories
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.28 Mag: Euromaxx
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.30 News
20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.35 Doc: Eco Heroines
22.28 The Secret To Concentration
23.18 Doc: Good Hair Day

Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama
15.30 Film: Jigra
Cast: Alia Bhatt, Vedang Raina, Manoj Pahwa, Vivek Gomber...
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Udne 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: Jigra
Cast: Alia Bhatt, Vedang Raina, Manoj Pahwa...

samedi 29 août

06.16 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
06.40 Serial: A Spy Among Friends
07.40 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk
08.30 Serial: New Amsterdam
09.10 Serial: 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: Seref Meselesi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Film: Hook
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Dance Deewane Juniors
19.30 Le Journal
20.20 Film: Ace Ventura, Detective Chiens Et Chats
21.45 Serial: L'Incroyable Hulk
22.35 Serial: Berlin Station
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Quotes By Famous People

06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison
06.30 Local: Tous Egauux
06.45 Local: Point Culture
07.25 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
07.51 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
09.35 Local: La Sosiete
12.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
13.15 Local: Les Grandes Lignes
13.45 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
13.30 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
14.00 Local: Evasion
14.30 Local: Generations
15.25 Local: J'ai Faim
18.10 Tele: Wildflower
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.20 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
19.30 Rodrig - Kot Nou
20.15 Local: Les Petits Genies
21.45 Local: En Toute Intimite
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.05 Journal Kreol

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.23 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
12.00 Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
13.17 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
14.00 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha
15.22 Film: AAG
Cast: Govinda, Sonali Bendre
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.32 Local: Sangeet Sarita
19.56 Local: Bhojpuri Geet
21.00 Film: 1921
Cast: Karan Kundra, Zarine Khan
23.22 Local: Sangeet Sarita
23.52 Local: Munshi Premchand's "Budhi Kaaki"

06.00 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
07.25 Magic Wonderland
08.10 D.Anime: Ice Hockey Storm
08.43 D.Anime: Yétii
09.09 D.Anime: Peanuts
09.42 Serial: The Wonder Gang
10.43 Film: Mina, Mission Rebelle
13.18 Doc: Eco Heroines
15.00 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.38 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
15.50 D.Anime: Peanuts
16.12 D.Anime: Agent
16.33 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
18.00 Mag: In Good Shape
18.30 Doc: Saving Beavers And...
19.00 Doc: Initiative Africa
19.28 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.50 Tele: Love Of My Life
22.23 La Vraie Histoire D'Angelina
23.20 Doc: Wall, Bunker, Green Belt
23.57 Doc: Homo Plasticus

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: Shomitabh
With: Amitabh Bachchan, Dhanush, Akshara Haasan
21.30 Beyhadh 2
21.51 Crime Patrol



dimanche 30 août

06.15 Tele: Terre D'esperance
06.40 Film: Ace Ventura
08.30 Serial: Nautilus
09.25 Serial: Columbo
10.40 Serial: Heartland
11.30 Tele: Terre D'esperance
12.35 Film: Love Again
14.25 Doc: China Farm
15.30 Film: Ace Ventura
17.18 Doc: Country Dreams
17.51 Doc: Vegetarian Delights
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Serial: Laughter Chefs
19.30 Le Journal
20.15 Film: Hypnotic
22.28 Tele: Laura, Una Vida Extraordinaria
22.42 Serial: Berlin Station
23.30 Le Journal
00.05 Serial: Heartland

08.40 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou...
09.00 Local: Les Petits Genies
10.25 Rodrigues: Nu Lakwizin
11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
12.00 Local: Mots Et Ecrits
12.26 Local: Artizan
13.21 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.00 Music Tour 2026
14.30 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
15.00 Festival Enn Zour Dan Enn...
16.45 Local: Tous Egauux
17.10 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
21.15 Local Production
22.40 Local: Itinerer Moris
22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Journal Kreol
23.20 Local: Coin Jardin

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
08.34 Local: Sangeet Sarita
09.30 Local: Munshi Premchand's "Budhi Kaaki" Hindi Drama
10.30 Mahabharat
12.00 Film: Barah Aana
Cast: Naseeruddin Shah, Vijay Raaz, Arjun Mathur
15.00 Samachar
15.21 Sangeet Sarita
16.52 Local: Bhojpuri Geet
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Local: Prakriti
20.30 Tenali Rama
21.06 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il...
21.45 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
22.42 Local: Prakriti
23.06 Mauritius Fashion Festival And Musical Eve
01.31 Local: Prakriti

06.00 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier
06.19 D.Anime: Luna, Chip & Inkie
07.07 Charlotte Aux Fraises
08.50 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy
09.09 D.Anime: Peanuts
10.46 Film: Jurassic Pet 2
12.15 Doc: Saving Beavers And...
21.41 Mag: Afrimaxx
13.07 Doc: Homo Plasticus
15.02 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.09 Les Carnets Nature De Lulu
15.26 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
16.12 D.Anime: Agent 203
16.33 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
17.26 D.Anime: Action Kidz
18.00 Mag: REV Special
18.14 Mag: Travel
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
20.00 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
21.45 Film: Morbius
23.28 Doc: Lithium In Europe

07.52 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: Ishq Vishk
Cast: Shahid Kapoor, Rajiv Mathur, Amrita Rao
21.30 Beyhadh 2
21.50 Mahabharat



lundi 31 août

05.16 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
07.10 Tele: S.W.A.T.
08.15 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
08.35 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
09.04 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Film: Hypnotic
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: Morbius
17.32 Tele: Happily Ever After
18.00 Samachar
18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
19.07 Live: Grand Titre
19.30 Le Journal
20.14 Zero Stress Avek Miselaine
20.40 Film: The Patriot, Le Chemin De La Liberté

09.26 Local: Metie
09.40 Local: En Forme
11.00 Local: Les Klips
12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.00 Rodrig - Zenn Aktif
15.10 Rodrig: Komanter
15.35 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
16.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
17.00 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Journal Kreol
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
20.00 Journal Rodrig
21.15 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
21.45 Local: 19 Minutes - Le Point
22.20 Local: Grand Titre
22.40 Local: Toc Toc Doc
22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard du Seigneur

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha
10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
12.00 Film: Ardhangini
Cast: Raj Kumar, Meena Kumari
15.00 Samachar
15.48 Kundali Bhagya
16.30 Local: Aaj Ke Charcha
17.30 Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
19.24 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek
20.09 Local: Charcha
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Shikshaa
Cast: Raj Kiran, Sushma Verma, Beena Banerjee
23.23 Shrimad Ramayan
23.45 Wagle Ki Duniya

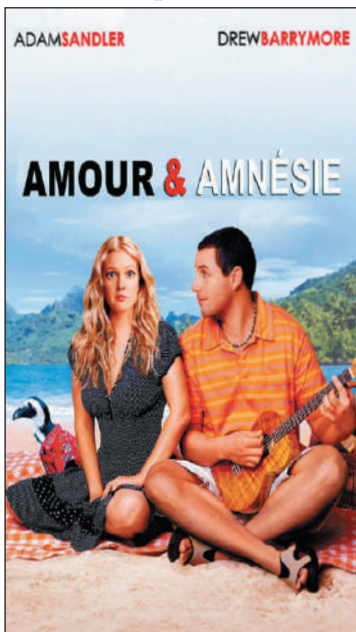
07.07 Charlotte Aux Fraises
08.32 D.Anime: Polly Pocket
09.02 D.Anime: The Treflik Family
10.21 Serial: So Awkward
10.49 Film: Sea Level 3: Dolphin...
12.20 Doc: Going Beyond
13.25 Charlotte Aux Fraises
13.34 D.Anime: Les Carnets Nature De Lulu Vroumette
13.39 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
15.08 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes
15.22 Serial: The Worst Witch
16.00 Miss World Pagent
19.00 Doc: Business Africa
19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.50 Tele: Love Of My Life
22.25 Doc: By Train Through
23.07 Doc: Machu Picchu
23.54 Doc: Fungi: Web Of Life
00.34 Mag: In Good Shape

14.00 Anupamaa
16.00 Shrimad Ramayan
17.30 Vidrohi
18.00 Samachar
18.30 Film: Kuchh Meetha Ho Jaye
Cast: Arshad Warsi, Mahima Chaudhry, and Parvin Dabas
21.30 Beyhadh 2
21.53 Crime Patrol
22.43 Serial: Porus

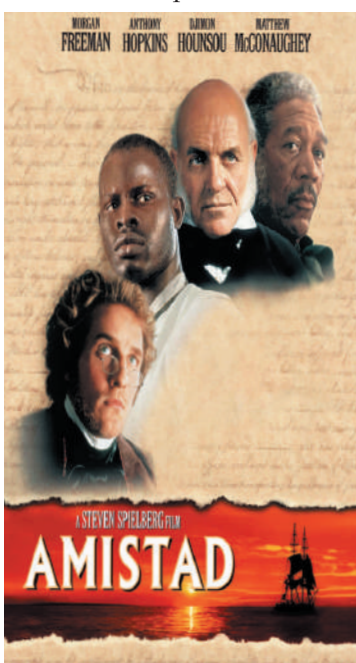




Mardi 1 Septembre - 20.25



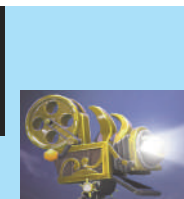
Mercredi 2 Septembre - 21.00



Mercredi 2 Septembre - 15.00



Programme TV



mardi 1 septembre

MBC 1

05.04 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
06.18 Serial: Nautilus
07.08 Tele: All The Flowers
07.32 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
08.21 Tele: La Desalmada
08.50 Film: Le Chemin De La Liberté
11.35 Tele: Happily ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.15 Tele: Lying Heart
13.45 Tele: Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.30 Film: Ace Ventura
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: Amour Et Amnésie

MBC 2

10.05 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
11.35 Local: Grand Titre
12.00 Rodrig: Komater
12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard
14.25 Local: Coin Jardin
14.40 Local: Belle Et Mystérieuse
15.15 Local: Fam Model
16.48 Local: Pape François
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
20.15 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrog
20.45 Local: Priorite Sante
21.15 Local: Nu Servis An Aksion
22.30 Local: Elle
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion
23.20 Local: Fam Model
23.32 Local: Music Tour 2025
00.24 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
00.35 Local: Mangeons

MBC 3

08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein
08.28 Local: Ayush
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Shalimaar
Cast: Dharmendra, Zeenat Aman, Rex Harrison
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.41 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.10 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
18.00 Live: Samachar
19.00 Local: Natya Kala
20.00 Local: Prakriti Vallee
20.30 Serial Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.00 Film: Gumrah
Cast: Ashok Kumar

MBC 5

06.00 Mag: Eco Africa
07.22 Mag: In Good Shape
07.46 Doc: The Dark Side Of Bright...
08.29 Doc: Bhutan
09.15 Mag: Tomorrow Today
10.24 Doc: A Construction Revo...
11.10 Mag: Eco Africa
11.36 Mag: Choices
14.52 Doc: Japan Video Topics
15.00 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.26 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
15.51 D.Anime: Peanuts
16.13 D.Anime: Agent
17.24 D.Anime: Action Kidz
18.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto...
18.30 Mag: Shift
19.00 Student Support Programme
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.53 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.35 Mag: Business Africa
22.06 Doc: A La Reconquete Des...

Bollywood TV

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.55 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.30 Film: Ishq Mein Jeena
Ishq Mein Marna
Starring: Divya Dutta, Brij Gopal, Shafi Inamdar, Bharat Kapoor, Aashif Sheikh
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 Waggle Ki Duniya
23.04 Serial: Aladdin
23.30 Film: Ishq Mein Jeena
Ishq Mein Marna

mercredi 2 septembre

05.10 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
07.56 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
08.44 Tele: La Desalmada
09.10 Film: Hook
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: Amour Et Amnésie
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: Amistad
23.22 Tele: Rosalinda
00.40 Tele: Happily Ever After
01.02 Doc: Not About Music

09.10 Local: Priorite Sante
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
14.45 Local: Nu Rasinn
15.30 Local: Saveurs Plus
16.00 Local: Glwar Dantan
16.30 Rodrig - Coin Zen
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret des Roldan
19.30 Rodrig Spor
20.00 Zournal Rodrig
20.45 Drogue Une Urgence...
21.15 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
21.30 Local: Agir Ensemble
21.56 Local: Letan Lontan
22.47 Local: Grand Titre
23.28 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.32 Local: Evasion

07.59 Local: Natya Kala
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Suraksha
Cast: Ranjeeta Kaur, Mithun Chakraborty
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.47 Radha Mohan
16.30 Shiv Shakti
16.59 Radha Mohan
17.32 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Local: Yatra
19.01 Local: Darshan
19.22 Local: Hunarbaaz
19.58 Local: Virasat
20.02 Local: Kaam Daam
20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud
21.01 Film: Hum Hain Dulha
23.36 Shrimad Ramayan
23.59 Waggle Ki Duniya

06.00 Mag: REV: The Global Auto...
06.52 Mag: Made In Germany
11.12 Doc: Japan Video Topics
12.09 Mag: Made In Germany
13.30 Doc: A La Reconquete Des Rocheuses
14.25 Mag: Euromaxx
15.00 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.09 Les Carnets Nature De Lulu...
15.26 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
16.12 D.Anime: Agent
16.33 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
17.34 Mag: Rev: The Global Auto...
18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx
18.31 Mag: Planet A
19.00 Student Support Programme
19.30 Doc: No One-Size-Fits-All...
20.01 Tele: Terre D'Esperance
20.50 Tele: Eclats De Vie
21.39 Doc: La Chine Du Futur
22.33 Mag: Close Up
23.01 Mag: Focus On Europe

14.25 Radha Mohan
14.50 Dharm Yoddha Garud
15.22 Film: Jeet
Starring: Salman Khan And Karishma Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Udne Ki Aasha
19.02 Do Chutki Sindoor
19.33 Pandya Store
20.00 Mannat - Har Khushi
Paane Ki
20.31 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.00 Anupama
21.28 Pyaar Ka Pehla Abhyaya
22.00 Dhruv Tara
22.24 Waggle Ki Duniya
22.54 Aladdin
23.30 Film: Jeet
Starring: Salman Khan And Karishma Kapoor

jeudi 3 septembre

04.35 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie
05.21 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour
07.10 Serial: The Lazarus Project
07.50 Tele: All The Flowers
09.06 Tele: La Desalmada
09.30 Serial: Columbo
10.45 Doc: China Farm
11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After
12.00 Le Journal
12.25 Tele: Rosalinda
13.03 Tele: Lying Heart
13.45 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
14.10 Tele: Eclats De Vie
15.20 Film: Hypnotic
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: Bad Newz
Cast: Vicky Kaushal, Triptii Dimri, Ammy Virk

10.20 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef
10.33 Rodrig: Saver Lokal
11.35 Local: Grand Titre
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard
13.40 Mon Jardin Ma Maison
14.10 Local: Parlons Sante Senior
14.55 Agir Ensemble
18.00 Une Famille Pas Si Parfaite
18.30 Tele: Le Secret Des Roldan
19.00 Zournal Kreol
19.25 Local: Viens Decouvrir
20.00 Zournal Rodrig
20.45 Local: Paroles Agricoles
21.15 Local: Nu Servis An Aksion
21.45 Local: Lor Simin Pere Laval
30 ans Apres Sa Beatification
23.20 La Journee Sous Le Regard
23.00 Zournal Kreol
23.40 Local: La Sosiete
00.04 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
00.49 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef

08.03 Local: Yatra
09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 2025
10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan
11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti
12.01 Film: Karm
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Vidya Sinha and Shabana Azmi
15.00 Live: Samachar
15.29 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar
15.42 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha
17.10 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho
17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.31 Local: Amrit Vani
18.42 Bhajan Sandhya
20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz
20.30 Serial Tenali Rama
20.48 Serial: Shakti

06.25 Mag: Planet A
08.46 Mag: Close Up
09.44 Doc: Stumbling Stones
11.13 Mag: Afrimaxx
14.00 Mag: Close Up
14.28 Mag: Focus On Europe
15.01 Charlotte Aux Fraises
15.26 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go!
15.50 D.Anime: Peanuts
16.34 D.Anime: Audrey's Shelter
16.44 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes
18.00 Mag: Eco India
18.30 Mag: Freaks No More!
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: When Night Falls In...
22.21 Doc: Dangerous Apps
23.17 Doc: Abuse Of Power In The...

14.25 Radha Mohan
15.00 Tenali Rama
15.07 Film: Rajaji
Stars: Govinda, Raveena Tandon, Satish Kaushik, Shakti Kapoor
18.00 Live: Samachar
18.30 Udne Ki Aasha
19.00 Udaariyaan
19.30 Pandya Store
20.00 Mannat - Har Khushi
Paane Ki
20.30 Saavi Ki Savaari
21.02 Anupama
21.34 Pyaar Ka Phela Adhyaya
22.01 Dhruv Tara
22.29 Waggle Ki Duniya
23.05 Aladdin
23.31 Film: Rajaji
Stars: Govinda, Raveena Tandon, Satish Kaushik, Shakti Kapoor



Jeudi 3 Septembre - 15.30

Stars: Govinda, Raveena Tandon, Satish Kaushik, Shakti Kapoor



Jeudi 3 Septembre - 20.20

Stars: Vicky Kaushal, Triptii Dimri, Ammy Virk





Kaajal Luckraz

The Chemistry of Healing

Friday — Fri-nally!

Not cheugy-mummy* received a social media message from someone who claims to be an ex-colleague — Kasia — a heart-wrenching message saying she is not well and undergoing cancer treatment. Not cheugy-mummy thought her account was hacked and ignored the message. A few weeks later she realised she had Kasia's phone number and messaged her — it turns out that Kasia was indeed reaching out...

("Behind all the appointments, scans and treatment, there was still simply me. Something inside me felt drawn to reach out and after so many years without contact, at exactly the time I needed it most, that connection returned to life. Later I discovered how deeply human connection was helping me heal. Feeling supported reminded me that I was more than a diagnosis. Every message, conversation and hug helped me carry some of the emotional weight of the journey. Medicine was helping my body, but human connection was helping to heal the parts of me that medicine could not reach. Kasia")

When we think of healing, we often imagine wounds closing, bones knitting together, or the disappearance of pain. Yet healing is far more profound than what we can see. It is one of the most intricate chemical processes in nature — a silent symphony of molecules, hormones, immune cells and electrical signals working in perfect synchrony to restore balance.

Long before germ theory, antibiotics, or modern pharmacology, Western medicine rested on a deceptively simple premise: the body already knows how to heal itself, and the physician's task is chiefly to assist that process rather than override it. This is *vis medicatrix naturae* — "the healing power of nature" — a phrase attributed to the Hippocratic tradition of ancient Greece, and one that has quietly shaped, and repeatedly resurfaced in, Western medical thought for over two thousand years.

The Hippocratic Foundation

Hippocrates and his followers viewed health as a state of balance among the body's four humours — blood, phlegm, yellow bile, and black bile. Illness was disturbance; healing was the restoration of equilibrium. The physician's role was supportive: rest, diet, fresh air, and time, deployed to help the body's own corrective tendency along, rather than aggressive intervention aimed at forcing a cure.

"First, do no harm" — though not a direct Hippocratic quotation, it captures this same underlying humility about the physician's proper role relative to the body's own capacities.

Chemical Process of Healing

The moment our body senses injury — whether from surgery, infection, emotional trauma or illness — it launches a carefully orchestrated response. Blood vessels constrict to prevent excessive blood loss before widening to allow immune cells to reach the affected area. White blood cells release chemical messengers called cytokines, which coordinate inflammation and recruit other cells needed for repair.

Inflammation has acquired a negative reputation, but in reality, it is one of the body's greatest survival mechanisms. Without it, healing simply would not occur. The challenge is not inflammation itself, but when it becomes excessive or refuses to switch off. Every stage is governed by chemistry.

My Pharmacist Formula to Heal

As a pharmacist, I witness healing every day. Medicines are remarkable tools, but they work best when they complement the body's own extraordinary chemistry. Antibiotics eliminate bacteria, chemotherapy targets rapidly dividing cancer cells, antihypertensives reduce cardiovascular risk, and pain relief improves comfort. Yet alongside every prescription lies an equally important prescription that cannot be



dispensed in a box: nourishing food, restorative sleep, physical activity, meaningful relationships, emotional balance and hope.

Nutrition to Heal: Nutrition also provides the raw materials for healing. Protein supplies amino acids to rebuild tissues. Vitamin C enables collagen synthesis. Zinc supports immune function and wound repair. Iron transports oxygen to regenerating tissues, while omega-3 fatty acids help regulate excessive inflammation. Every meal becomes an opportunity to provide the body with the building blocks it requires.

Exercise to Heal: Movement deserves equal recognition. Gentle exercise stimulates circulation, delivering oxygen and nutrients where they are needed most. It also releases beneficial chemicals that improve mood, reduce inflammation and support metabolic health. Healing does not always mean resting completely; often it means moving wisely.

Rest to Heal: Sleep remains one of the most underrated medicines available to us. During deep sleep, growth hormone peaks, damaged tissues regenerate, memories consolidate and immune function is strengthened. We often search for the latest supplement or breakthrough treatment while overlooking one of the most powerful healing interventions our bodies already possess.

Use Your Mind to Heal

Moments of safety, connection and hope trigger a different chemical environment. Oxytocin strengthens social bonds, serotonin supports emotional wellbeing, dopamine reinforces motivation, and endorphins naturally reduce pain. These molecules do not merely affect how we feel — they influence how efficiently our bodies heal.

In this context, practices that cultivate forgiveness, gratitude and emotional release may also support wellbeing. I believe ancient wisdom and modern science meet at a common destination: creating an internal environment where healing has the best opportunity to flourish. I shall share with you a few of these practices.

1. Dukkha: Suffering as a Starting Point, Acceptance.

Central to Buddhist thought is *dukkha*, often translated as "suffering" but closer in meaning to unsatisfactoriness or a persistent sense that things are not quite as they should be.

The First Noble Truth simply states that *dukkha* exists — illness, ageing, loss, and pain are woven into the structure of life itself, not aberrations to be indignant about. This teaching is best explained through the parable of the two arrows.

- The first arrow is the physical pain itself — the biological reality of injury or illness, largely outside our control.
- The second arrow is the suffering we add on top through resistance, fear, resentment, or the story we tell ourselves about what the pain means.

Much Buddhist practice around illness is directed not at

removing the first arrow, which medicine already attends to, but at learning not to lose the second. This has real clinical relevance. Chronic pain research increasingly distinguishes between pain intensity and pain-related suffering, and mindfulness-based interventions — many drawn directly from Buddhist meditative practice — have shown measurable effects in reducing the latter, sometimes altering pain perception itself, even when the underlying physical cause remains unchanged.

2. At that intersection of life, many of us want to make amends with ourselves and others and are not able to do so. For that I like the Ho'oponopono concept.

The traditional Hawaiian practice of Ho'oponopono, meaning "to make right" or "to restore balance," encourages individuals to let go of resentment and embrace reconciliation through the simple phrases: *I'm sorry. Please forgive me. Thank you. I love you.*

3. While there is no scientific evidence that these words alone directly heal disease, the process of forgiveness, self-compassion and emotional acceptance may help reduce psychological stress. I also believe that we heal better in a group — may that be a group of family or friends or both. And Ubuntu teaches us just that. The Southern African philosophy of Ubuntu offers something medicine has been slow to formalise, though good clinicians have always sensed it intuitively.

"I Am Because We Are"

Ubuntu is often summarised by the phrase *umuntu ngumuntu ngabantu* — "a person is a person through other persons." It's a philosophy that locates selfhood not in the isolated individual but in relationship: I exist, and am made whole, through my connections to others. Applied to health, this reframes illness itself. A person does not fall sick in a vacuum; the disruption ripples through family, community, and social role. Recovery, correspondingly, is not something that happens to a body in isolation — it is something that happens *within* a web of relationships, and often because of them.

My Pharmacist Perspective

Medicine has come a long way. We now have precise molecular descriptions of the very self-healing capacities the ancient Greeks could only infer: the coagulation cascade, immune surveillance, tissue regeneration, homeostatic feedback loops governing everything from blood glucose to core temperature. The body genuinely does possess extraordinary self-correcting machinery — we simply now understand it at the level of cytokines and stem cells rather than humours.

This recognition has practical implications that shape modern clinical guidelines. Having practised both in the UK and Mauritius, I cannot help but make the contrast — caring is very different in both countries. Antibiotic stewardship programmes, for instance, are partly built on the recognition that many infections resolve through immune function alone, and unnecessary antibiotic use carries real costs. Evidence-based guidelines increasingly favour "watchful waiting" for certain conditions rather than immediate intervention, precisely because the evidence shows the body's own processes often produce equivalent or superior outcomes with fewer side effects.

So we can trust the medicines. But also, along the way, trust the power of mindful practices. And the power of your mind.

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* "Cheugy" is Gen Z slang for uncool or outdated trends. "Not cheugy-mummy" is a playful, self-aware way writers describe themselves as being hip, alert, and thoroughly on-trend rather than old-fashioned.