

MAURITIUS TIMES

• The only way to achieve the impossible is to believe it is possible. -- Charles Kingsleigh

Interview : Jocelyn Chan Low

“L’histoire politique de Maurice montre que les alliances politiques sont souvent éphémères”

‘Cependant, la longue traversée du désert de Ramgoolam et de Bérenger semble offrir une meilleure garantie de stabilité politique’



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• ‘Dans l’état actuel des choses, il y a beaucoup de facteurs qui militent contre une renaissance rapide du MSM’

• ‘Les “Moustass Leaks” ont gravement terni l’image de Pravind Jugnauth, révélant “La Kwisinn” comme le véritable centre de décision et de pouvoir sous son régime’

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Rule of Law vs. Public Clamour: Insights on Recent Developments

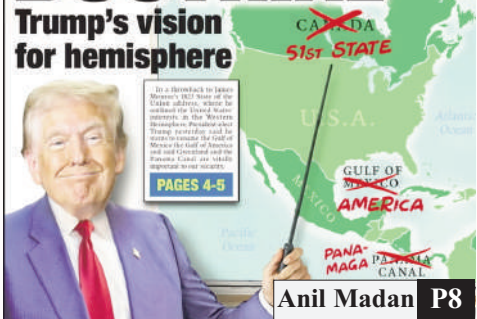
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At the Crossroads of Reform and Revival

As the newly elected government assumes office, it inherits a daunting dual mandate: to reignite a struggling economy and to confront an overwhelming backlog of alleged wrongdoings and scandals that have eroded public trust. This is a moment of reckoning for the nation, and the government's ability to address these challenges head-on will determine whether it can usher in an era of stability and prosperity or falter under the weight of expectations.

The government's priorities remain somewhat ambiguous, and the forthcoming Programme Speech, which will be read out by the President of the Republic, will be a litmus test for assessing its commitment to tackling these issues. On the economic front, a comprehensive revival strategy should ideally focus on reindustrialization, economic diversification, and the transformation of key sectors such as agriculture, tourism, and technology. The government's agenda is also expected to include key pillars such as sustainable economic growth, quality education, and the modernization of public institutions. While these objectives are commendable, they will not be easy to achieve in the current economic climate. Globalization, energy transitions, an ageing population, pension reform and social inequalities pose significant challenges. However, they also present opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship, particularly among the youth. A successful strategy will require strong political will, inclusivity, and a clear long-term vision. Moreover, the government's economic agenda cannot be realized without placing social justice at the heart of its reforms. Growth without equity risks exacerbating societal divides, particularly in a context where visible inequalities are already fuelling public discontent both globally and locally.

Equally critical is the need for transparency and accountability in governance. For decades, mismanagement and corruption have plagued public institutions, resulting in inefficiency and mistrust. The government must prioritize thorough investigations into past scandals, ensuring that justice is not only done but seen to be done. This will send a strong message that the culture of impunity is over. The initial months following the Programme Speech will be pivotal in gauging the government's true intentions. Besides implementing meaningful changes in economic sectors, the government's ability to pursue accountability for past wrongdoings will set the tone for its tenure. Rebuilding trust between the population and its leaders is fundamental to creating a just and prosperous society.

A striking feature of the current government is the apparent synergy between its two principal leaders, Navin Ramgoolam and Paul Bérenger. This partnership, enriched by both leaders' trajectories and experiences and a sense of political maturity, raises hopes for stability and cohesion. However, Mauritius' political history is littered with alliances that faltered under pressure. The



Navin Ramgoolam and Paul Bérenger's chemistry: Both leaders bring unique visions and experiences to the table, but their ability to transcend ideological differences and work collaboratively will be key. Pic - TopFM

durability of this partnership will be tested by inevitable internal tensions and external challenges. Both leaders bring unique visions and experiences to the table, but their ability to transcend ideological differences and work collaboratively will be key. Stability within their respective parties and responsiveness to public expectations will also play critical roles in determining the success of this alliance.

The government currently enjoys a grace period, with the opposition weakened by its recent electoral defeat. The emergence of new political figures, whether from extra-parliamentary parties led by leaders like Bodha, Bhadain, and Valayden, or from unexpected quarters, has the potential to reshape the opposition landscape significantly. Should the government succeed in fulfilling its promises, the opposition's recovery may be prolonged and challenging. On the other hand, a failure to address pressing public concerns could create fertile ground for the opposition to regain momentum and reassert its relevance.

The political transition taking place in the country presently is unfolding in a context of uncertainty, both domestically and globally. Internally, the government faces significant challenges in maintaining political stability while pursuing ambitious economic and social reforms. Externally, the global landscape is fraught with instability, from geopolitical tensions to economic uncertainties. Closer to home, the Chagos issue remains a pressing concern. Negotiations with the British government, compounded by internal resistance within the UK, potential opposition from figures like Trump, and increasing competition among superpowers and emerging nations in the region, make this a highly complex matter. The resolution of the Chagos dispute will have profound implications for Mauritius and the broader Indian Ocean

region. The government's handling of this issue will test its diplomatic skills and its ability to balance national interests with international relations. Successfully resolving the Chagos dispute could strengthen Mauritius' standing on the global stage, while failure could deepen domestic frustrations.

The challenges facing the new government are undeniably immense, as every parastatal like the CWA, the CEB, the CNT or the STC, every SOE like the national carrier or the Metro are deep in the red, all on life support through budget deficits and a mountainous public debt, while the nomenklatura in power was leading the high life. But the population, having booted out the past regime, can only hope they are not insurmountable. We need to harness the assistance of international friends, allies and those who stuck by us through thick and thin.

Undoubtedly both Navin Ramgoolam and his Deputy, Paul Bérenger have the experience, respect and resoluteness to leverage international goodwill while not sacrificing our own national interests. But conversely, we cannot do so without putting our own house in order. That means prioritizing transparency, accountability, and inclusivity, which would give government the opportunity to rebuild public trust and set Mauritius on a path toward sustainable growth and social equity. This will require a delicate balancing act between addressing past wrongdoings and grievances and laying the foundation for future prosperity.

On the social front, the rampant drug abuse and the financial barons behind the sordid trade, have to be on notice that zero tolerance is mandatory. The population, somewhat weary of broken promises and political posturing, but conscious that it did its part by the scale of the triumph for Change, expects decisive action and meaningful change. The coming months will reveal whether the new government is up to the task of facing these turbulent waters and delivering on its mandate. With the right leadership and vision, the country can emerge stronger, more united, and better equipped to face the challenges of the future. The time for action is now.

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Prakash Neerohoo

Gouvernance économique

Est-ce la fin de l'impunité pour les crimes financiers?

Si Pulse Analytics semble être est le fruit le plus bas à cueillir sur l'arbre, il y a des fruits en hauteur (grosses sociétés) qui demandent une attention particulière vu les gros montants dont ils ont bénéficié de la MIC

L'inculpation de l'ex-gouverneur de la Banque centrale, M. Harvesh Seegoolam, sous une charge provisoire de blanchiment d'argent pour un transfert de fonds de Rs 45 millions de la Mauritius Investment Corporation (MIC) à une agence de sondage, a relancé le débat sur le combat contre les crimes financiers à Maurice. Il paraît que l'enquête de la police touchera d'autres protagonistes dans cette affaire, dont l'ex-CEO de la MIC, responsable du décaissement de fonds, et des directeurs de l'agence.

Y avait-il un complot pour détourner Rs 45 millions au préjudice de la MIC?

Le judiciaire prendra son temps pour statuer sur cette affaire, mais déjà, elle soulève plusieurs questions. Est-ce que l'impunité pour les crimes à col blanc, qui fut érigée en politique de l'Etat au cours des dix dernières années sous l'ancien gouvernement, continuera de plus belle? Est-ce que le dispositif légal et les institutions régulateurs sont suffisamment fortes pour combattre les crimes financiers? Est-ce qu'il y a une volonté politique réelle de combattre les crimes financiers (la corruption, la fraude et le blanchiment d'argent) dans la foulée du changement de gouvernement survenu le 10 décembre 2024?

Régime AML-CFT

Les crimes financiers constituent une problématique grave qui a valu au pays d'être classé sur la liste noire du Groupe d'Action Financière (GAFI) de l'OCDE dans le passé. Il avait fallu renforcer le dispositif légal (*Anti-Money Laundering/Combating the Financing of Terrorism - AML-CFT*) pour remédier aux déficiences stratégiques dans la lutte contre les crimes financiers.

“La transparence financière, une norme de bonne gouvernance, exige que tous les marchés publics attribués par l'Etat et tous les contrats conclus avec des parties privées qui impliquent l'usage de fonds publics soient révélés et soumis à l'examen du Parlement et de la société civile... La confidentialité des transactions bancaires ou contractuelles est un argument fallacieux qui ne saurait être utilisé pour refuser de divulguer des transactions d'intérêt public entre la MIC et des sociétés privées parce qu'il s'agit de fonds publics. Il ne faut pas confondre confidentialité bancaire (entre une banque et son client) et transaction contractuelle entre la MIC (une société d'intérêt public) et une entreprise privée...”



P - newsmoris.com

“Il y aura des voix conservatrices ou bien-pensantes... qui évoqueront la présomption d'innocence pour mettre les autorités en garde contre tout abus de procédure. Avant le retour au pays de l'ex-gouverneur Seegoolam après des vacances à l'étranger, elles parlaient de la nécessité d'éviter une arrestation de la personne afin de sauvegarder la réputation du secteur bancaire à Maurice...Pourtant, ces mêmes voix n'avaient rien trouvé à redire lorsqu'un autre ancien gouverneur (Manou Bheenick) de la Banque centrale fut arrêté en 2015 sous une charge provisoire. Ou lorsqu'un ancien Premier ministre (Navin Ramgoolam) fut arrêté dans des circonstances indignes de son statut sous le gouvernement MSM...”

Toutefois, si en théorie le régime AML-CFT est assez impressionnant, dans la pratique les institutions d'enquête et de poursuite n'ont pas été à la hauteur de leurs devoirs et responsabilités. Pendant trop longtemps, les crimes financiers ont été tolérés par les autorités publiques avec une impunité qui est sans précédent dans une démocratie parlementaire digne de ce nom. A telle enseigne qu'un Etat mafieux s'était installé avec des tentacules larges et profondes.

Les institutions d'investigation telles que l'ex-ICAC, la Financial Crimes Commission (FCC) et la Financial Services Commission (FSC) ont été, à ce jour, inefficaces dans le combat contre les crimes financiers. Leur lenteur proverbiale, comme en témoignent des enquêtes qui s'éternisent depuis des années, indique un manque de volonté d'aller au fond des choses. La police non plus n'agissait pas avec diligence pour conclure les enquêtes qu'elle avait commencées.

Dans le sillage du changement politique du 10 décembre dernier, le public était devenu impatient face à la lenteur ou l'inaction des autorités publiques à sévir contre les fraudeurs de tous poils qui sont responsables

de nombreux scandales financiers qui ont souillé la réputation du pays en 2014-2024. Le public avait l'impression que la notion d'imputabilité, qui implique le devoir de rendre compte de ses décisions et de ses actes, avait perdu tout son sens dans le secteur public.

Il fallait que le nouveau gouvernement donne un signal qu'il entendait prendre les taureaux par les cornes dans la répression des crimes financiers. On aura beau parler d'Etat de droit, lequel implique le respect des procédures légales et le souci d'éviter un empressement qui indiquerait un désir de vengeance plutôt que la recherche de la justice, mais le public désabusé veut des résultats. Il veut trouver des criminels à col blanc derrière les barreaux...

Voix conservatrices

Certes, il y aura des voix conservatrices ou bien-pensantes dans les médias et les milieux d'affaires qui évoqueront la présomption d'innocence, ce principe sacro-saint de l'Etat de droit, pour mettre les autorités en garde contre tout abus de procédure.

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Gouvernance économique

Est-ce la fin de l'impunité pour les crimes financiers?

● Suite de la page 3

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Il est sans doute au crédit de la Banque centrale, société-mère de la MIC, de référer à la police (Anti-Money Laundering Unit du CCID) un cas allégué de détournement de fonds de Rs 45 millions aux fins d'enquête et de poursuite au pénal. Pourquoi une firme (Pulse Analytics), qui faisait des sondages peu fiables, et donc controversés, avant les élections, méritait une aide de la MIC dépasse l'entendement. Mais la question la plus fondamentale est: est-ce que cette affaire n'est pas l'arbre qui cache la forêt en ce qui concerne les investissements de la MIC dans des sociétés privées (par voie d'achats d'actions, d'obligations d'entreprise ou d'achats d'actifs) dans des circonstances opaques?

Transparence nécessaire

La transparence financière, une norme de bonne gouvernance, exige que tous les marchés publics attribués par l'Etat et tous les contrats conclus avec des parties privées qui impliquent l'usage de fonds publics soient révélés et soumis à l'examen du Parlement et de la société civile. Comme nous l'avons expliqué



“Toute l'attention publique est braquée sur une affaire de Rs 45 millions alors que la MIC a investi Rs 53,8 milliards dans 60 sociétés, dont certaines ont reçu Rs 2 milliards (exemples : Medine Ltd et Long Beach Resort Ltd) ou Rs 2,5 milliards (New Mauritius Hotels) sans que l'on connait les conditions attachées à ces déboursements de fonds faramineux. Si Pulse Analytics semble être est le fruit le plus bas à cueillir sur l'arbre, il y a des fruits en hauteur (grosses sociétés) qui demandent une attention particulière vu les gros montants dont ils ont bénéficié...”

dans un précédent article («La MIC, une société privée opérant avec des fonds publics», paru dans notre édition du 13 décembre 2024), la confidentialité des transactions bancaires ou contractuelles est un argument fallacieux qui ne saurait être utilisé pour refuser de divulguer des transactions d'intérêt public entre la MIC et des sociétés privées parce qu'il s'agit de fonds publics. Il ne faut pas confondre confidentialité bancaire (entre une banque et son client) et transaction contractuelle entre la MIC (une société d'intérêt public) et une entreprise privée.

En effet, toute l'attention publique est braquée sur une affaire de Rs 45 millions alors que la MIC a investi Rs 53,8 milliards dans 60 sociétés, dont certaines ont reçu Rs 2 milliards (exemples: Me-

dine Ltd et Long Beach Resort Ltd) ou Rs 2,5 milliards (New Mauritius Hotels) sans que l'on connait les conditions attachées à ces déboursements de fonds faramineux. Si Pulse Analytics semble être est le fruit le plus bas à cueillir sur l'arbre, il y a des fruits en hauteur (grosses sociétés) qui demandent une attention particulière vu les gros montants dont ils ont bénéficié. Sous ce rapport, des questions pertinentes se posent:

Dans les cas où la MIC a souscrit à des obligations d'entreprise, il faut connaître le taux d'intérêt payable (3% ou plus) par rapport au taux bancaire par l'entreprise émettrice.

Quelle partie de ces obligations a été remboursée et la partie non-remboursée est-elle récupérable?

Dans les cas où la MIC a acheté des actions d'entreprise, quelle est la valeur de ces actions (prix coté en Bourse ou prix déterminé en fonction du dernier bilan financier de l'entreprise)? Selon le bilan financier de la MIC au 30 juin 2024, l'investissement de Rs 25 milliards dans la compagnie Airport Holdings Limited a subi une baisse de valeur de Rs 1, 78 milliards.

Quel est le montant des dividendes

reçus pour chaque entreprise où la MIC est actionnaire? Le bilan financier de la MIC pour l'exercice se terminant au 30 juin 2024 fait état d'un montant global de dividendes de Rs 490 millions.

Dans les cas où la MIC a acheté des actifs (terres et immeubles) appartenant à des entreprises, comment ces actifs furent évalués (au prix de marché ou à un prix fixé par le vendeur)? Quelle est la valeur actuelle de ces actifs par rapport aux prix d'achat? Le cas des terres acquises de la compagnie Médine pour Rs 2,5 milliards est particulièrement pertinent.

Autres scandales

L'affaire de Rs 45 millions suivra le cours normal devant une Cour de justice. Il faut s'attendre à un jugement de la Cour intermédiaire suivi d'un appel devant une instance supérieure. Cela prendra des années, comme on a l'a vu dans l'affaire MedPoint. En attendant, les institutions d'investigation (la police, la FCC) devraient revoir leurs modes opératoires afin de garantir que les enquêtes sur les crimes financiers soient menées avec diligence avec un œil sur la recherche de résultats concrets, et ce, dans le respect des lois.

Il y a bien des dossiers de crimes financiers qui demandent à être activés ou réactivés par la FCC en vue d'une solution satisfaisante. Nous citerons notamment :

L'affaire Saint-Louis qui, selon la BAD, impliquerait le paiement d'un pot-de-vin de Rs 700 millions par une firme danoise (BWSC) pour fournir des moteurs à la station électrique de Saint-Louis du CEB. Cette affaire remonte à juin 2020.

Le contrat attribué à un importateur en décembre 2021 pour la fourniture d'un million d'unités d'un médicament anti-Covid (Molnupiravir) au prix surévalué de Rs 79 l'unité contre le prix initial de Rs 9.

Le «Stag Party Gate» où une entreprise a apparemment payé un pot-de-vin de Rs 3 millions à certains officiels pour avoir un terrain à bail de 700 arpents dans le voisinage du lac de Grand Bassin.

Les contrats d'approvisionnement d'urgence (sans appel d'offres) en médicaments et équipements médicaux alloués à des fournisseurs, y compris des bijouteries et des quincailleries, durant la pandémie de la Covid-19.

La vente de quatre avions d'Air Mauritius durant la pandémie de la Covid-19 à des prix très bas (Rs 373 millions au total), causant une perte énorme à la compagnie (Rs 3, 3 milliards)

La radiation des prêts sans garantie, accordés par la SBM à des clients étrangers, causant des pertes de Rs 7,6 milliards en trois ans avant 2020.

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Prakash Neerhoo

The Call for Swift Justice and Financial Accountability: Restoring Integrity in Governance

Jan Arden

There is little room for doubt that the two key leaders of the Alliance for Change are committed to proceed with due legal process but that any perpetrators of fraud and scams would be brought to account. A testimony that times have changed despite the quasi-overload of unearthed scandals that each and every week seems to bring to the surface. These add to a lot of enquiries that were left to sleep for years! While necessary, this makes an angry popular opinion increasingly impatient that those who defrauded public funds to the tune of billions not be treated with gloves.

The demand for a faster-paced investigative action while respecting basic rights can be seen through different prisms: making sure dossiers are well-tied up or respecting due process and DPP advice and guidance to the CCID and the Mauritius Police Force in general. The question has been raised as to whether the latter, even with the collaboration of the Financial Services Commission and the Financial Crimes Commission, possesses the necessary resources and expertise to investigate more complex financial scams. Dozens of dossiers had already accumulated in filing cabinets, with new ones — suspected for

some time — only now being uncovered. To restore public confidence, these concerns must be addressed without delay.

The population cannot be made to wait years for justice to be seen in action, particularly when suspects and known scammers, are strolling away on overseas holidays, enjoying their coffee and croissants in Dubai or brought to CCID offices at a respectful gubernatorial pace accompanied by their lawyers. The impression of a two-speed system, one for the common man and another for white-collar crime, has to be fought back. We trust the new CP will consider roping in therefore, on contract, if necessary, the financial trail specialists, the experienced auditors, the in-house legal acumen and even external agents to hit the ground running in 2025. Aside from the financial and banking scams at BoM and MIC, there are numerous other low-hanging fruits waiting to be picked — from the Angus Road and St Louis sagas, through the ghastly Covid-19 Emergency Procurement scandal, to outright alleged financial misdemeanours at some parastatals like the CWA.

A culture of arrogant impunity and oppressiveness has plagued our governance over the past ten years, and it has to be erased. Nobody else should ever think he or she is above the law. Ministers and their minions are on thin

ice if they treat us as mentally retarded citizens. For those and a number of other reasons then, the population demands and expects non-expeditive but vigorous and exemplary justice.

Many even feel that all Politically Exposed Persons (PEPs), Ministers and political appointees at key institutions should have an Objection to Departure (OTD) filed at the airport until preliminary enquiries clear them of any obvious misdeeds. But government should avoid any witch-hunt feeling of yesteryears when opponents were hounded, harassed and arrested for flimsy reasons. Then again, Ministers should be free to concentrate on sound planning and running of their departments. They should not be spending more time than necessary on scams and frauds. Once unearthed, some have argued that the monitoring and reporting of all such cases could be delegated or outsourced to a politically independent informal apex investigative mechanism including for instance, the CP, the FCC (pending its restructuring), the FSC and any other ad-hoc member. This approach could ensure effective collaboration, minimize turf wars, and facilitate the prioritization of cases, ensuring that none of significant importance are overlooked.

It is undeniable that the alleged financial crimes highlighted by the ongoing

interrogations of BoM Governor Harvesh Seegoolam and the anticipated questioning of MIC CEO Jitendra Bissessur — along with others likely to follow — reveal serious irregularities in the opaque allocation of printed money during the pandemic, amounting to billions. These funds were reportedly funnelled to a motley collection of beneficiaries, including well-connected friends, cronies, and family members. This investigation serves as a litmus test for uncovering high-level corruption and kickback schemes that have, until now, operated with impunity. Some big players, we hear, did not even need the monies except for securing cheap interest rates to repay higher-rate commercial loans! The Ambre Hotel deal and the ghastly saga of Silver Bank are even more suspect. What controls were in place if any, what high-level protections were offered and who were the beneficiaries of defrauded public funds are all questions of immediate interest to the population.

Opacity, omerta and corruption go hand in glove and both “Missie Moustass” and our humble selves must be jointly commended for bringing a totally corrupt and oppressive regime to a brutal end with the hope that reforms be undertaken so such a derelict state of affairs never be allowed to happen again.



“The recent political frays in various regional Indian states have turned elections into a mockery with a culture of promised freebies which, once elected, the governing party, hard pressed by budgetary constraints, can turn into a shrill war of words with the central government about more subsidies. Upcoming State elections in the Union Territory of Delhi is a case in point, where both the BJP, the Congress and the AAP are turning their «freebie» guns to various sections of the electorate, in particular, female voters with promises of INR 2,000 or 2,500 monthly, irrespective of income or the Union Territory capacity to fund such largesses...”

Limiting the freebie culture

In the midst of a tumultuous final year, following a lackluster budget, the MSM and its allies, already on the back foot and acutely aware of the true state of the economy, recklessly embarked on a cascade of irresponsible campaign promises and pledges. It is true that the grounds were slipping fast, and the electoral insecurity was growing behind the public facades, but with the benefit of detailed analyses, it is clear that those electoral promises were the summum of irresponsibility forcing the then Opposition to follow suit. Our island did not have, and still does not have, the resources for a responsible political contest while resorting to a full-fledged race for ‘freebies’.

The recent political frays in various regional Indian states have turned elections into a mockery with a culture of promised freebies which, once elected, the governing party, hard pressed by budgetary constraints, can turn into a shrill war of words with the central government about more subsidies. Upcoming State elections in the Union Territory of Delhi is a case in point, where both the BJP, the Congress and the AAP are turning their «freebie» guns to various sections of the electorate, in particular, female voters with promises of INR 2,000 or 2,500 monthly, irrespective of income or the Union Territory capacity to fund such largesses.

While we cannot deny that some small section of the

electorate actually needs such an allowance, their cumulative effect (free transport, free electricity, free water...) can obliterate real discussions about the state’s development and severely constrain budgets for other sectors (say environment). A profoundly unhealthy situation with a reckless political class. Drawing the line between legitimate campaign promises for the country’s development and the ‘freebie’ culture may not be easy, but the legacy judgment laid down by the Privy Council cannot be allowed to stand. We trust our legal community will address the matter in the medium term. A Fiscal Responsibility Act with real enforcement is needed to prevent outright abuses of freebies as an electoral ploy or gimmick.

On a separate but parallel front, there is no excuse whatsoever for cooking up basic economy, trade and employment statistics and that should be treated as a serious offence. Similarly, no government should be allowed the latitude to pay for its and our current lifestyle at the expense of future generations. We must return to a more robust and resilient state with a progressive lowering of public debt relative to GDP and an accent on export industries to reduce our annual deficits and diversify our economy. There is little doubt that the new era of competencies and goodwill surrounding the PMO, the Ministry of Finance and the economic think-tanks will be hard at work on these issues.

Rule of Law vs. Public Clamour: Insights on Recent Developments

“Justice is delivered in courts of law, not by public outcry”

The ground-swell of discontent aided by the famous “Missie Moustass” leaks and highlighted by the disastrous state of public finances and parastatals, is understandably demanding accountability. Against this popular feeling that those responsible for scams and frauds should be brought to justice at the earliest, lies the concern of a new democratic and law-abiding government not to rush things without proper and professional investigations carried out. It is upon this important balance that we have invited our legal eye Lex to comment on and explain.

LEX

*** Following the arrest and detention of Harvesh Seegoolam, former Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, Manou Bheenick, former minister and later Governor of the central bank, expressed hope that Mr Seegoolam would receive a fair trial and not be prematurely judged and condemned by the public merely because of his arrest. He emphasized that law and order, along with due process, must be upheld — contrasting this with the practices under the previous government. How do you respond to that?**

Of course, Mr Bheenick is perfectly right. Despite the public clamour for the rulers of the previous regime and their close advisers or friends to be arrested and thrown in jail, the rule of law must prevail. This principle dictates that any person suspected of committing an offence is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Justice is delivered in courts of law, not by public outcry.

The present government says it is fully committed to upholding the rule of

law and will be acting contrarily to the Jugnauth-led one which he had Navin Ramgoolam arrested in a manner befitting a common criminal by numerous police officers and paraded publicly. Navin Ramgoolam was made a target for a public that had been conditioned to vilify him. Who can forget the treatment meted out to him and his close associates, who were arrested without a shred of evidence against them and thrown into jail, solely to humiliate them.

Time and again, police officers have been reminded that they can only proceed with an arrest when there is reasonable suspicion against a suspect. However, under the Jugnauth regime, this basic principle was disregarded. The police felt compelled to obey political orders and arrest individuals targeted by the then government. The reputations of those victimized by that government were unjustly tarnished. Imagine the psychological trauma endured by these innocent victims.

*** As regards the numerous instances of fraud, wrong doings which would have been committed by officials of the previous government,**

“What is the standard of reasonable suspicion? This was explained long ago in a judgment by former judges Ahnee and Boolell, who opined that ‘a police officer effecting an arrest must take into consideration the totality of the circumstances including the explanations of the suspect and the motive of the declarant. We feel that whatever suspicion the police may harbour against the suspect should be weighed against any factors which tell in favour of the suspect. A total neglect of the explanations that the suspect may have to offer may well lead to the conclusion that the suspicion is not reasonable...’”



“Despite the public clamour for the rulers of the previous regime and their close advisers or friends to be arrested and thrown in jail, the rule of law must prevail. This principle dictates that any person suspected of committing an offence is presumed innocent until proven guilty. Justice is delivered in courts of law, not by public outcry...”

how can the current government ensure accountability for questionable actions by those officials without creating the perception of a political witch-hunt?

Those suspected of wrongdoing and arrested are being interrogated with full respect for their fundamental rights.

In the case of Mr Seegoolam, he was assisted by a lawyer and exercised his right to remain silent, as guaranteed under the Constitution. He was temporarily detained and then released.

Compare this to the treatment inflicted on Navin Ramgoolam, Manou Bheenick, and others under the MSM regime

*** What objective criteria should be used to identify officials who may have been involved in wrongful or questionable decisions?**

There must be reasonable suspicion. This entails a thorough preliminary fact-finding exercise by the police. It is only when they are satisfied that the standard of reasonable suspicion has been met that they should proceed with an arrest.

What, then, is the standard of reason-

able suspicion?

This was explained long ago in a judgment by former judges Ahnee and Boolell, who opined that “a police officer effecting an arrest must take into consideration the totality of the circumstances including the explanations of the suspect and the motive of the declarant. We feel that whatever suspicion the police may harbour against the suspect should be weighed against any factors which tell in favour of the suspect. A total neglect of the explanations that the suspect may have to offer may well lead to the conclusion that the suspicion is not reasonable.”

*** On the other hand, would it be advisable to establish legal safeguards to protect officials from unfair victimization while still allowing genuine cases to be pursued?**

Many legislations include clauses that grant immunity to public officials. However, this protection applies only when their actions fall strictly within the scope of their duties and the powers conferred upon them.

☞ Cont. on page 7

“Justice is delivered in courts of law, not by public outcry”

☞ Cont. from page 6

* On the other hand, the same institutions that the former Opposition accused of being weaponized to target perceived adversaries of the previous government — namely the ICAC/ Financial Crimes Commission and the Police, especially the Central CID — will now be tasked with investigating suspected wrongdoing, albeit under new leadership. Can institutions previously accused of political bias ensure impartial investigations under new leadership?

A country may have any number of institutions, but they must perform the roles for which they were designed with total integrity and honesty. Those at the helm of these institutions should resist political influence and pressure. Once established, such institutions are expected to act independently.

Independence, however, is a complex and nuanced concept to define. It embodies a mindset, an attitude, and a commitment to impartiality. The independence and integrity of institutions are inherently tied to the individuals who comprise them. Can these institutions genuinely operate with complete autonomy and uphold the principle of acting without fear or favour? Are they capable of performing their duties with unwavering equanimity, resisting the temptations of easy gain? Moreover, can their members convincingly demonstrate their detachment from the influence of the government of the day, ensuring public trust in their impartiality?

* To ensure a smooth transition without disrupting governance, a new government might wish to balance the need for loyal officials to implement its policies with retaining institutional knowledge and expertise — even when some officials are under suspicion of wrongdoing. How can this balance be effectively achieved?

Governments come and go, but civil servants remain in a Western-style democracy. One notable exception occurred in 1982, when the MSM-PSM government, led by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Harish Boodhoo, and Paul



“A civil servant should never prioritize private interests over their duty to serve the State through their minister. They must not use their official position to advance personal interests, whether political or financial. In a report on the British Civil Service in 1928, it was stated that a civil servant 'is not to subordinate his duty to his private interests, nor to make use of his official position to further those interests... The Service exacts from itself a higher standard because it recognises that the State is entitled to demand that its servants shall not only be honest in fact but also beyond the reach of suspicion of dishonesty'”

Bérenger, dismissed top civil servants who had loyally served the government from 1968, when the country attained independence, until 1982. These civil servants were perceived as being too close to Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and the Labour Party.

This time, no such large-scale dismissals have occurred under the present government, except for the departure of a few top civil servants who had already lost their independence under the Jugnauth regime. Any government, however, needs to be able to work with individuals — whether civil servants or advisers — that it can trust

A civil servant should never prioritize private interests over their duty to serve the State through their minister. They must not use their official position to advance personal interests, whether political or financial. In a report on the British Civil Service in 1928, it was stated that a civil servant 'is not to subordinate his duty to his private interests, nor to make use of his official position to further those interests... The Service exacts from itself a higher standard because it recognises that the State is entitled to demand that its servants shall not only be honest in fact but also beyond the reach of suspicion of dishonesty.'

* Would it be better for an independent body or commission to handle investigations to ensure impartiality and transparency?

There are several approaches that can be considered.

First, suspicious cases can be investigated by the police or the Financial Crimes Commission, with the file subsequently submitted to the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) for a decision.

Second, a commission of inquiry may be established to probe cases of bad governance. However, this approach may take a significant amount of time, and no prosecution can be initiated based on the evidence gathered during the commission's proceedings. This limitation risks making the process a waste of time.

Third, a special tribunal may be set up. Would this tribunal function solely as an investigative body? If so, it would face the

same limitations as a commission of inquiry, as its findings would not constitute admissible evidence. On the other hand, if the tribunal is vested with the powers of a court of law to hear and determine cases, it would need to rely on evidence presented by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, which, in turn, would depend on the results of police investigations.

The situation is undeniably complex.

* It is to be expected that investigations will take time depending on the complexity of the different cases in which questionable decisions would have been made, some possibly requiring audit trails. Should there nevertheless an appropriate time-frame within which investigations and transitions should occur to prevent prolonged instability?

The Financial Crime Academy has highlighted the challenges of investigating financial crimes, as follows: “Investigations begin with a mere suspicion that a financial crime has occurred. The financial crime investigation process is not a standard police-type process because there is little initial available evidence that financial crime has occurred. However, in most cases, the financial crime leaves a trail or a series of indicators highlighting that a financial crime has occurred.”

There are several issues surrounding the investigation of financial crimes.

First, there is the complexity of the case. The more complex the case, the longer the investigation is likely to take. Second, the scale of the fraud can significantly impact the time required to investigate. Third, the efficiency, expertise, and available resources of the parties involved in the investigation can impact the timeline.

Fourth, seeking mutual assistance from other countries in cases involving audit trails can be time-consuming. To address this, the *Mutual Assistance in Criminal and Related Matters Act* has been established to facilitate the widest possible international cooperation. This Act ensures that Mauritius can both give and receive assistance promptly and to the fullest extent in investigations, prosecutions, or proceedings related to serious offences and associated civil matters.

“A special tribunal may be set up. Would this tribunal function solely as an investigative body? If so, it would face the same limitations as a commission of inquiry, as its findings would not constitute admissible evidence. On the other hand, if the tribunal is vested with the powers of a court of law to hear and determine cases, it would need to rely on evidence presented by the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, which, in turn, would depend on the results of police investigations. The situation is undeniably complex...”

The United States of Amcanpancanalgreenland



Anil Madan

Are Trump's latest threats to seize control of Greenland, the Panama Canal, and even make Canada the 51st State of the United States, mere pronouncements or antics?

Donald Trump has a way of causing a stir. More than any President ever, he has a knack, a gift if you will, for seizing the moment to generate the news headline of the moment. The follow-on has the media, the average person, and indeed often his political opponents and world leaders talking about nothing about pretty much nothing other than his latest pronouncements or antics.

So, are his latest threats to seize control of Greenland, the Panama Canal, and even make Canada the 51st State of the United States, mere pronouncements or antics? Or is there something of substance here?

As might be expected, commentary about the motives of a President who is often viewed as transactional in nature have ranged from speculation that he is merely negotiating, to ridiculing his remarks as nothing more than usual Trumpian nonsense on a par with his ephemeral pledge to have Mexico pay for his border wall, the building of the wall itself being another ephemeral promise.

Others have commented that Trump is merely trying to deflect attention from negative news as he tries to cruise smoothly to his inauguration. The New York judge who presided over the hush money trial in which Trump was convicted of 34 felony counts for falsifying business records has scheduled sentencing for Friday, January 10. Trump wants to avoid that, and his attorneys have now petitioned the Supreme Court of the United States to intervene. His attorneys are also trying to prevent the release of Special Counsel Jack Smith's report on his alleged transgressions in connection with the January 6, 2020, assault on the US Capitol, and unlawful retention of classified documents.

And, in what surely seems a classic case of deflection, he has complained that by President Biden's order, the American flag on all federal buildings will be flown at half-staff for a 30-day period as a show of respect for the late President Jimmy Carter. Trump wants the flag flown at full height during his inauguration which falls within the 30-day mourning span. It matters not that tradition calls for the 30-day half-staff period as a mark of respect to former presidents.

Trump's latest seize-the-moment antics are a trifecta, comprising his bitter complaint that the Panama Canal is being run by Chinese soldiers, that the US should acquire Greenland, and that the Canada should become the 51st State because the US has a \$200 billion trading deficit with Canada and pays altogether too much to provide a security umbrella for Canada's defense.

Trump's claims that the Chinese government and its soldiers are running the Panama Canal are untrue. The Wall Street Journal reports that Hong-Kong based Hutchison Whampoa won the bidding for two of the leases and operates a terminal on each end. The other terminals are operated under long-term leases by PSA Singapore, Seattle-based SSA Marine which is a US company, and Taiwan-based Evergreen Marine. It may be that Trump has seen photographs or videos of uniformed workers that he has mistakenly concluded are Chinese soldiers.

Panama President Mulino called Trump's accusations nonsense. In December he said: "There is absolutely no Chinese interference nor involvement in anything to do with the Panama Canal." He has since added: "There is not a single Chinese soldier in the canal. For the love of God, you are free, the whole world is free, to visit the canal if you please." The head of the Panama Canal Authority echoed these comments, and also dismissed Trump's accusations that American shipping is gouged for transit fees through the canal's locks: "Rules are rules and there are no exceptions," he said. "We cannot discriminate for the Chinese, or the Americans, or anyone else. This will violate the neutrality treaty, international law and it will lead to chaos."

The reactions of Canadian Prime Minister Trudeau and Panama's President and Foreign Minister were as might be expected. Trudeau said bluntly: "There isn't a snowball's chance in hell that Canada would become part of the United States." President Mulino dismissively



“As one looks at a map of the world, one sees the great expanse of Canada east of Alaska and there sits Greenland, atop the North East Passage and below the North West Passage. The country that controls Greenland controls access to major shipping lanes and can project power in the Arctic. It is well known that aside from the geopolitical strategic importance of Greenland, it also has oil, gas, and rare earth minerals, in addition to fishing resources. The acquisition of Greenland will counter China's virtual monopoly on rare earth minerals. The idea that Greenland is of great strategic importance to the US is obvious...”

said that there is nothing to talk about and added: "The canal is Panamanian and belongs to Panamanians. There's no possibility of opening any kind of conversation around this reality, which has cost the country blood, sweat and tears."

Contrast this with comments regarding Denmark. On the one hand, Greenland's Prime Minister Múte Egede's response was similar to Trudeau's and Mulino's. He has called for independence from Denmark, saying the island needs to free itself from its colonial past. The island was made a colony of Denmark in 1721 and became an autonomous dependent territory in 1953. Egede said: "Greenland belongs to the Greenlanders. Our future and fight for independence is our business."

On the other hand, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen, while saying

that Greenland is not for sale, did not dismiss Trump's expression of interest in Greenland but seemed to endorse it. "On one hand, I am pleased regarding the rise in American interest in Greenland," Frederiksen said in an interview Tuesday with Danish broadcaster TV 2. "But of course it is important that it takes place in a way where it is the Greenlanders' decision, what their future holds."

Denmark's Foreign Minister Rasmussen said: "We fully recognize that Greenland has its own ambitions. If they materialize, Greenland will become independent, though hardly with an ambition to become a federal state in the United States." But then he added enigmatically that the United States' heightened security concerns in the Arctic were legitimate following increased Russian and Chinese activity in the region and: "I don't think that we're in a foreign policy crisis. We are open to a dialogue with the Americans on how we can possibly cooperate even more closely than we do to ensure that the American ambitions are fulfilled."

Keeping in mind that relations between Greenland and Denmark are strained as the island nation seeks independence, there are deeper geopolitical constraints here. I don't mean to suggest that Trump will indeed resort to force to take over the Panama Canal or Greenland despite his refusal to abjure such an approach.

But both Denmark's Prime Minister and its Foreign Minister seem to recognize the need to curb Russian and Chinese incursions. The question is where will an independent Greenland come out in a possible shift of global implications?

The idea that the United States of America might acquire territory by force or purchase, including Greenland, is not new. It has been reported that in 1867, Secretary of State William H. Seward raised the idea of annexing Greenland along with Iceland. In that year, Seward negotiated the purchase of Alaska from the Russian Empire for \$7.2 million. The reaction was generally favorable but there were detractors, and the purchase of Alaska was called "Seward's folly" by some. Perhaps this is why he did not publicize his efforts to acquire Greenland.

Denmark retained Greenland after its separation from Norway following the Napoleonic wars. In 1910, Norway tried to reassert control over Greenland. This was five years after Norway gained its independence from Sweden. The US saw this as an opportunity and offered Denmark an exchange: Greenland to the US and Denmark would get the Dutch Antilles and the Mindanao Island in the Philippines. That obviously did not happen.

● Cont. on page 16

Interview : Jocelyn Chan Low

“L’histoire politique de Maurice montre que les alliances politiques sont souvent éphémères”

‘Cependant, la longue traversée du désert de Ramgoolam et de Bérenger semble offrir une meilleure garantie de stabilité politique’

Au lendemain des récentes élections, la République de Maurice se trouve à un tournant décisif, avec un nouveau gouvernement confronté à des défis immenses et des attentes élevées. Parmi les priorités, figurent la relance de l’économie mais aussi le démantèlement de la corruption enracinée et la lutte contre le fléau de la drogue, deux maux qui gangrèment la société. Jocelyn Chan Low, historien et observateur averti du paysage sociopolitique mauricien, partage ses réflexions sur les tâches colossales qui attendent l’administration actuelle. Il s’attarde sur les signaux nécessaires pour évaluer la détermination du gouvernement et les réformes structurelles indispensables pour guider le pays vers la justice, la stabilité et un progrès inclusif. Dans cette interview sans détour, il explore les complexités de la gouvernance, les dynamiques politiques en jeu, et les opportunités de transformation à venir, tout en s’interrogeant sur les enjeux pressants qui touchent la société mauricienne.

* Un vaste chantier se présente devant le nouveau gouvernement. D’une part, il y a la restructuration et la relance de l’économie; d’autre part, il existe une longue liste de maldonnes alléguées qui nécessitent des enquêtes approfondies et l’identification des responsables, conformément aux attentes de la population. La situation semble encore floue quant aux priorités du gouvernement. Quels signaux attendez-vous pour évaluer la réelle volonté du gouvernement de s’attaquer simultanément à ces deux défis majeurs?

Jocelyn Chan Low : Il faut d’abord souligner qu’à peine deux mois se sont écoulés depuis que l’actuel gouvernement est entré en fonction. En outre, la formation du nouveau cabinet a pris plus de deux semaines. Et il fallait procéder à des nominations à des postes clés pour remplacer les nommés de l’ancien régime.

De plus, il y avait des dossiers urgents à traiter dont l’épineuse question du 14ème mois, de la baisse immédiate du prix de l’essence comme promis au cours de la campagne électorale et, finalement, la question de l’accord sur Diego Garcia avec la Grande Bretagne. Et comme préalable à la résolution de ces questions, le nouveau régime s’est attelé à dresser un état des lieux de la situation économique du pays et des finances de l’État.

Certaines pistes ont été esquissées par des proches du régime quant à la relance de l’économie. Mais il faudra attendre sans doute soit le discours programme prévu pour le 24 janvier prochain ou même le prochain budget pour connaître les propositions du gouvernement dans les détails. Cependant, une chose est sûre: la gestion de la question du 14ème mois nous donne déjà une indication que certaines promesses électorales ne pourront pas être honorées dans la conjoncture actuelle, vu l’état des finances publiques.

Cependant, il y a une grande inconnue: la rente que l’île



“Il est grand temps de mettre fin à la culture de l’impunité face aux escrocs, fraudeurs et voleurs de toutes sortes qui rôdent malheureusement autour de tout pouvoir politique. Dans ce contexte, l’arrestation de l’ancien gouverneur de la Banque de Maurice est un signal fort. On ne peut qu’espérer que l’enquête ouvre finalement la boîte de Pandore des dossiers de la MIC... Et que les enquêtes ouvertes sur la CNT, sur Mauritius Telecom, etc., donnent des résultats concrets de même que la réouverture de l’enquête sur le meurtre de feu Kistnen...”

Maurice devrait obtenir dans le cas d’un accord avec la Grande Bretagne sur Diego Garcia. La presse britannique fait mention d’une somme avoisinant les Rs 45 milliards annuellement mais il semblerait que tout cela ne soit que spéculations.

* Qu’en est-il des enquêtes sur les maldonnes et autres malversations alléguées commises sous l’ancien régime?

Il faut se rappeler que la victoire de 60-0 est en grande partie due au dégoût vis-à-vis de l’ancien régime suscité par le contenu des *Moustass Leaks* qui a fait revivre chez beaucoup tous les scandales allégués depuis 2014. On comprend donc l’impatience des partisans du nouveau gouver-

nement de voir certains en taule.

Mais les leaders des partis au pouvoir ont bien insisté qu’une politique de vengeance n’est pas à l’agenda. D’ailleurs, ce serait contreproductif au moment où toutes les énergies doivent être mobilisées pour reconstruire le pays. Par contre, ils ont aussi insisté que ceux coupables de malversations, de fraude, etc., seront poursuivis après enquête et selon les procédures. Cela est primordial car le nouveau pouvoir a été élu en grande partie pour mettre fin au régime de l’arbitraire.

Mais, en même temps, pour la bonne gouvernance, il est grand temps de mettre fin à la culture de l’impunité face aux escrocs, fraudeurs et voleurs de toutes sortes qui rôdent malheureusement autour de tout pouvoir politique. Ce serait un signal fort que le changement est en marche.

Dans ce contexte, l’arrestation de l’ancien gouverneur de la Banque de Maurice est un signal fort. On ne peut qu’espérer que l’enquête ouvre finalement la boîte de Pandore des dossiers de la MIC... Et que les enquêtes ouvertes sur la CNT, sur Mauritius Telecom, etc., donnent des résultats concrets de même que la réouverture de l’enquête sur le meurtre de feu Kistnen.

* On saura davantage quant aux intentions du gouvernement dans le Discours Programme, mais on peut déjà anticiper que son programme va aussi reposer sur des piliers fondamentaux, comme l’économie durable, l’éducation de qualité, la justice sociale et la modernisation de nos institutions. Les défis qui nous attendent sont nombreux, mais pensez-vous que les opportunités pour bâtir une société plus juste, plus inclusive et plus prospère le sont-elles tout autant?

Il faut ajouter à cette liste le combat contre les trafiquants de drogue et la prolifération de substances illicites dans le pays. Il est indéniable que la drogue, incluant les drogues synthétiques, a complètement gangrené le pays, amenant dans son sillage son lot de drames humains au quotidien. Le meurtre de la petite Catalea à Résidence Richelieu est là pour nous le rappeler. Et il est tellement fréquent aujourd’hui de croiser sur notre route des jeunes et des moins jeunes complètement sous influence.

Malgré les grosses saisies, la prolifération de la drogue et l’impunité alléguée des narcotrafiquants a été l’une des causes majeures de la chute de l’ancien régime. Maurice est aujourd’hui réputé comme l’un des pays avec le plus grand nombre de consommateurs de drogues en Afrique de même qu’une plaque tournante du trafic de stupéfiants dans la zone. Et certains observateurs estiment le poids de cette économie illicite à des centaines de milliards de roupies.

Au-delà des drames humains, le trafic de stupéfiants est cause de corruption, de problèmes de “Law and Order”, du retrait d’une partie de la population du marché du travail, de la marginalisation d’un grand nombre d’individus et de leurs familles, etc. Il faut stopper cette descente aux enfers avant qu’il ne soit trop tard et cela doit être une des priorités du nouveau gouvernement.

Quant à la nécessité de promouvoir l’économie durable, une éducation de qualité, la justice sociale et la modernisation des institutions, il faut surtout connaître le contenu des réformes car ces termes sont tous sujets à débat.

☞ Suite en page 10

'Dans l'état actuel des choses, il y a beaucoup de facteurs qui militent contre une renaissance rapide du MSM'

☞ Suite de la page 9

Prenons, par exemple, la modernisation des institutions qui inclut non seulement la bonne gouvernance mais aussi la réforme électorale et constitutionnelle.

Doit-on diminuer les pouvoirs du PMO sur les autres institutions afin d'approfondir le système de "checks and balances"?

Doit-on aller au-delà de la démocratie représentative vers une démocratie plus participative?

Qu'en est-il du financement des partis politiques et de la démocratie à l'intérieur des partis politiques qui sont les piliers du système démocratique?

Ce ne sont que quelques questions parmi tant d'autres.

Quant à l'éducation de 'qualité', au-delà des slogans, il y a non seulement la question de l'inclusion mais aussi celle de maintenir ou d'atteindre l'excellence au niveau international. Prenons quelques exemples.

Doit-on se soumettre au classement PISA pour évaluer notre niveau avec d'autres institutions à l'international?

Et comment résoudre le "mismatch" entre les compétences acquises à l'école et le monde du travail et les besoins de l'économie qui dure depuis les années 1930, comme le révèle l'étude des rapports sur le système éducatif au fil des années?

En outre, comment préparer nos jeunes à la révolution de l'Intelligence Artificielle (IA) qui arrive à grands pas?

Quant à l'économie durable, comment réconcilier les IRS et d'autres projets de développement immobiliers, de "smarts cities", etc., qui attirent plus de 70% des FDI et la nécessité d'aller vers l'autosuffisance alimentaire?

Et, en filigrane, il y a le problème démographique aigu d'une population vieillissante. D'ici 25 ans, les "seniors citizens" constitueront plus de 40 % de la population alors que le taux de natalité est en nette régression et le nombre de mariages est en diminution constante. De plus, une grande partie des jeunes, notamment ceux de la classe moyenne, ne songent qu'à émigrer vers d'autres cieux, le déclassement de la classe moyenne en cours depuis des années ne leur offrant plus de perspectives de réussite sociale. Les défis sont effectivement immenses.

*** Toutefois, face à ce vaste chantier, ce qui paraît réconfortant jusqu'ici, c'est la synergie qui semble animer le gouvernement, notamment l'alchimie «the chemistry» perceptible entre les leaders des deux principaux partis au pouvoir, Navin Ramgoolam et Paul Bérenger. Quelle impression générale cette entente dégage-t-elle, selon vous?**

Pour faire face à ces défis, la cohésion gouvernementale est fondamentale. Il ne faut pas oublier que c'est une alliance de divers partis, avec des intérêts et des tendances idéologiques assez contradictoires, qui est au pouvoir. Et l'histoire politique de Maurice révèle que les alliances politiques sont souvent éphémères.

Cependant, dans le cas actuel, la longue traversée du désert de ces leaders qui sont aujourd'hui en fin de carrière offre une plus grande perspective de stabilité politique. On les voit mal s'entredéchirer pour des peccadilles alors qu'ils songent sans doute à l'héritage qu'ils laisseront dans l'Histoire du pays.

*** Pensez-vous qu'une telle dynamique est suffisamment solide pour résister aux inévitables tensions et défis qui surgiront au fil du temps?**

L'entente personnelle entre les deux principaux leaders n'est qu'un des éléments de stabilité parmi d'autres. L'autre élément, c'est la répartition des sièges au Parlement entre les différents partenaires de l'Alliance du Changement. Le MMM semble pleinement accepter le rôle de "junior partner",



“Il est grand temps de mettre fin à la culture de l'impunité face aux escrocs, fraudeurs et voleurs de toutes sortes qui rôdent malheureusement autour de tout pouvoir politique. Dans ce contexte, l'arrestation de l'ancien gouverneur de la Banque de Maurice est un signal fort. On ne peut qu'espérer que l'enquête ouvre finalement la boîte de Pandore des dossiers de la MIC... Et que les enquêtes ouvertes sur la CNT, sur Mauritius Telecom, etc., donnent des résultats concrets de même que la réouverture de l'enquête sur le meurtre de feu Kistnen...”

ce qui est un reflet de sa force électorale. En outre, le Parti travailliste de Navin Ramgoolam dispose d'une majorité confortable à l'Assemblée alors que le ND et R&A surtout semblent se contenter d'être des forces d'appoint. Il y aura sans doute des ambitions personnelles à prendre en considération. Mais attendons voir.

*** La transition politique du pays semble marquée par une période d'incertitude. En ce sens, le gouvernement devra sans doute faire face à des défis internes et externes importants. Quels sont, selon vous, les facteurs qui détermineront si cette transition sera réussie ou si elle se heurtera à des obstacles insurmontables?**

Il faut d'abord définir le terme 'transition politique'. Est-ce la transition entre le nouveau régime et l'ancien, ou est-ce l'ensemble du mandat de ce gouvernement qui serait, selon certains, une période de transition entre l'ancien monde (représenté par les leaders des partis traditionnels actuels) qui céderait la place à une nouvelle génération de dirigeants politiques?

En ce qu'il s'agit de l'incertitude qui caractérise la période actuelle, elle est principalement due au fait que le gouvernement avance lentement mais d'une manière méthodique. Par exemple, la nomination des membres du gouvernement, du nouveau Speaker, et des responsables des institutions clés a pris beaucoup plus de temps que d'habitude. Ensuite, le suspens a longtemps duré autour du paiement du 14eme mois et de la baisse du prix de l'essence. Mais il fallait d'abord effectuer un état des lieux de la situation économique et financière de l'État et du pays.

De même, les enquêtes sur les cas flagrants de fraude,

etc. ont tardé à démarrer, mais elles semblent s'accélérer en ce début de l'année 2025. Il plane toujours des incertitudes autour de l'accord sur Diego Garcia, mais elles seront vite dissipées avant l'arrivée de Donald Trump à la Maison Blanche. Et le discours programme va sans doute mettre fin à la période d'incertitude. On connaîtra alors la marge de manœuvre dont dispose le gouvernement.

*** Le gouvernement bénéficie actuellement d'une période de grâce, l'opposition étant quasi inexistante après que le MSM a été mis «knock-out» par une large majorité de l'électorat. Pensez-vous que le MSM pourra se relever rapidement de cette défaite, ou l'opposition risque-t-elle plutôt d'émerger à travers d'autres figures politiques telles que Bodha, Valayden, Bhadain, et consorts?**

Dans l'état actuel des choses, il y a beaucoup de facteurs qui militent contre une renaissance rapide du MSM. D'abord les "Moustass Leaks" ont gravement terni l'image de Pravind Jugnauth, révélant "La Kwisinn" comme le véritable centre de décision et de pouvoir sous son régime'

Certes, l'ancien gouvernement a de belles réalisations en termes de politiques sociales qui peuvent jouer en sa faveur, surtout si le présent gouvernement va dans le sens d'une politique de « serre ceinture » en raison de la situation économique et financière difficile.

Mais, avec l'ouverture des enquêtes policières, de la FCC, et d'autres organismes, les malversations, scandales, crimes financiers allégués, etc., de l'ancien régime resteront longtemps au-devant de la scène comme un énorme repoussoir.

Réinventer le parti ne pourra se faire qu'avec un nouveau leadership. Or, le MSM reste un parti non démocratique et non collectif, aux mains d'une famille, voire d'une dynastie.

Et cette dynastie semble aujourd'hui aux abois, à bout de souffle, comme en témoigne le silence tonitruant ou presque des responsables du parti depuis la cuisante défaite du MSM aux dernières élections générales...

*** La situation est-elle donc propice à l'émergence d'une nouvelle offre politique?**

Oui, très probablement ce sera autour de ceux qui ont animé courageusement l'opposition extraparlamentaire ces dernières années. D'ailleurs, au vue du tsunami politique suscité par les "Moustass Leaks", le score récolté par certains de ses animateurs (tels que Roshni Bhadain, Patrick Belcourt et Rama Valayden) est plus qu'honorable, S'ils arrivent à s'entendre avec d'autres forces politiques démocratiques, et certains éléments de la société civile, ils pourraient constituer une force politique d'opposition et de propositions – du moins pour le moment — beaucoup plus crédible que le MSM.

*** Les élections de novembre dernier offrent-elles des leçons importantes que les partis politiques traditionnels auraient intérêt à retenir, notamment en ce qui concerne la nécessité d'une réorganisation structurelle, d'un rajeunissement et d'un renouvellement de leurs instances ? Qu'en pensez-vous?**

Au-delà de la gestion du pouvoir, il est grand temps pour le MMM et le PTR de se pencher sur les raisons de la défiance d'une grande partie des électeurs de tous âges vis-à-vis des partis "mainstream" et de leurs dirigeants et pourquoi le nombre d'indécis a autant augmenté au fil des années.

Il ne faut pas se leurrer. Le 60-0 a été essentiellement un vote sanction contre un régime dont les pratiques et dessous mafieux ont été révélés à un moment clé de la campagne électorale par les "Moustass Leaks". Ce n'était en aucun cas un vote d'adhésion massif à l'Alliance du Changement.

☞ Suite en page 11

Trafic de drogues: 'Il faut stopper cette descente aux enfers avant qu'il ne soit trop tard'

☞ Suite de la page 10

L'occasion leur est donnée pour fidéliser cet électorat durablement. Il incombe aux dirigeants de travailler sur des stratégies et sur leur offre politique pour qu'ils correspondent à la demande des électeurs. Sinon, leur soutien ne sera qu'éphémère.

Un autre élément à considérer à la lumière des dernières élections générales est le rôle et l'influence des réseaux sociaux (Facebook, YouTube, TikTok). Leur influence est telle qu'ils pourraient se révéler être des couteaux à double tranchant. Le manque de modération fait qu'ils pourraient effectivement véhiculer de la désinformation — générée par l'AI, par exemple — à grande échelle à travers des trolls, etc... Cela pourrait effectivement fausser le débat démocratique.

On sait qu'en Roumanie, la Haute Cour a invalidé le premier tour des élections présidentielles précisément pour ces raisons. Et la Commission européenne se penche actuellement sur les paramètres à établir pour réglementer les réseaux sociaux dans le cadre des élections démocratiques.

C'est un sujet qui mérite de sérieuses réflexions pour garantir l'intégrité des élections à Maurice.

*** Au-delà de l'environnement politique actuel du pays, ce qui se passe ailleurs dans le monde n'est pas très rassurant. Certains affirment même que nous vivons une période dangereuse. Est-ce vraiment le cas? Quels effets cela pourrait-il avoir sur notre pays?**

Il y a un large consensus parmi les spécialistes que le monde est déjà entré dans une zone de grandes turbulences. L'ère de la globalisation heureuse est terminée et les philosophes qui prédisaient la fin de l'histoire à travers le triomphe des idées libérales occidentales se sont lourdement trompés.

Au contraire, le monde unipolaire dirigé par les Etats Unis et ses alliés occidentaux cède la place rapidement à un monde multipolaire alors que l'hégémonie occidentale à la fois économique, idéologique, culturelle et politique est largement contestée par des Etats émergents et des nouveaux acteurs transnationaux.

Cette remise en cause de l'ordre politique, économique et idéologique établi est propice aux conflits et à la guerre. En fait, la guerre est de nouveau à l'agenda. Il est un fait que toutes les grandes puissances se préparent à la guerre et la possibilité d'une troisième guerre mondiale est réelle. Des analystes incluant Emmanuel Todd avancent même que nous y sommes déjà mais que l'affrontement se fait d'une manière différente des deux précédentes guerres mondiales.



“Sait-on que l'année dernière a été l'année la plus chaude jamais enregistrée dans l'Histoire du monde? Cette crise va sans nul doute accroître les tensions entre certains Etats, les problèmes de migration des populations et des conflits pour

les ressources naturelles. Il faut ajouter à cela les risques de pandémies mondiales avec un monde de plus en connecté physiquement. De nombreux experts affirment d'ailleurs que la pandémie de la Covid-19 n'était qu'un avant-goût de ce qui nous attend dans un avenir proche...”



“Dans l'état actuel des choses, il y a beaucoup de facteurs qui militent contre une renaissance rapide du MSM. D'abord les “Moustass Leaks” ont causé un tort immense à l'image de Pravind Jugnauth, en mettant de l'avant “La Kwisinn” comme étant le vrai centre de décision et de pouvoir sous son régime...”

De même, il y a la guerre économique que se livrent les grandes puissances, notamment la Chine et les États-Unis, ainsi que les tentatives de plusieurs États, dont les BRICS, de mettre fin à l'hégémonie du dollar sur le système monétaire international.

En outre, il y a la crise climatique, avec le réchauffement accéléré de la planète. Sait-on que l'année dernière a été l'année la plus chaude jamais enregistrée dans l'Histoire du monde? Cette crise va sans nul doute accroître les tensions entre certains États, les problèmes de migration des populations et des conflits pour les ressources naturelles. Il faut ajouter à cela les risques de pandémies mondiales avec un monde de plus en connecté physiquement. De nombreux experts affirment d'ailleurs que la pandémie de la Covid-19 n'était qu'un avant-goût de ce qui nous attend dans un avenir proche.

Maurice, étant complètement intégrée à l'économie mondiale, ne peut évidemment qu'en être affectée de plein fouet par tout développement au niveau international. Prenons, par exemple, l'arrivée prochaine de Donald Trump à la Maison Blanche. Bien que Trump lui-même serait en faveur d'un dollar relativement faible pour booster les exportations américaines, sa politique commerciale vis-à-vis de la Chine avec la hausse probable des tarifs douaniers contribuera inévitablement à l'appréciation du dollar vis-à-vis des autres monnaies. Déjà l'Euro est en chute libre face au dollar et il n'est point surprenant que dans quelques semaines la parité dollar-euro sera atteinte. Or, cette dépréciation de l'euro face au dollar affecte considérablement l'économie mauricienne car, en gros, nous payons nos importations en dollars mais les recettes de nos exportations sont en euros...

*** Plus près de nous, l'affaire des Chagos et les négociations avec le gouvernement britannique retiennent toujours l'attention, tant à Maurice qu'au Royaume-Uni, où l'opposition au sein des rangs conservateurs s'oppose fermement à tout «deal» avec Maurice. À cela s'ajoute le spectre de l'influence et des ambitions chinoises dans cette région stratégique du monde. Quelle analyse faites-vous de cette situation complexe et de ses implications pour l'avenir?**

Nous n'avons pas toutes les données au sujet des négociations en cours entre les autorités mauriciennes et les autorités britanniques. Cependant, il y a des points importants à souligner. D'abord, n'en déplaise à l'opposition britannique et ses soutiens, la souveraineté mauricienne sur les Chagos est indéniable au niveau du droit international. Et, pour le monde occidental qui se présente comme le défenseur du droit international face à la Russie en Ukraine et face à la Chine dans les mers de Chine, l'affaire Diego est effectivement un énorme handicap dans la guerre hybride qu'il mène contre ses adversaires au niveau du Sud Global.

Mais la base de Diego Garcia est un pilier du dispositif stratégique américain dans le monde et il serait illusoire de

penser que les Mauriciens pourraient les forcer à “Lev Pake Ale” un jour. Quant à la Grande Bretagne, la “special relationship” avec les Etats Unis est la pierre d'achoppement de leur politique étrangère depuis la fin de la Deuxième Guerre mondiale, et Diego Garcia est ce que les Britanniques apportent à la table de cette “special relationship”.

L'accord politique qui a été proposé et rendu public dans les grandes lignes est une tentative de réconcilier les intérêts de divers protagonistes. Il faut souligner qu'en 1965, SSR et les ministres mauriciens issus de tous les partis d'alors étaient en faveur d'un bail de 99 ans à la Grande Bretagne contre une rente annuelle. De même, dès 1982, la diplomatie mauricienne ne remet plus en cause la présence d'une base américaine sur Diego Garcia.

Il faut aussi ajouter qu'officiellement, depuis l'indépendance, Maurice a toujours prôné une politique de neutralité en ce qu'il s'agit des rivalités entre les grandes puissances. Mais comment réconcilier la présence d'une base américaine sur Diego Garcia qui mène des actions militaires contre les ennemis des Etats Unis en cas de conflit et la neutralité mauricienne au niveau international?

C'est ainsi que la question de 'cession of sovereignty rights' à la Grande Bretagne intervient car, dans ce contexte, le droit mauricien ne s'appliquerait pas à Diego Garcia. Mais attendons le dénouement de l'affaire.

En ce qu'il s'agit de la montée en puissance de la Chine dans cette région du monde, elle est principalement due à la nécessité de protéger ses routes commerciales vers l'Afrique, entre autres, et l'expansion considérable de la marine chinoise ces dernières années. Depuis une dizaine d'années, la marine chinoise a plus d'une dizaine de bâtiments militaires dans la région de l'océan Indien sans compter les sous-marins pour protéger ses navires marchands. En outre, elle dispose d'une base à Djibouti. Ce sont ces développements qui ont entraîné une certaine fébrilité chez d'autres puissances notamment l'Inde qui a toujours considéré cette zone comme faisant partie de son “backwater”, d'où les rivalités et les facilités construites à Agalega, entre autres.

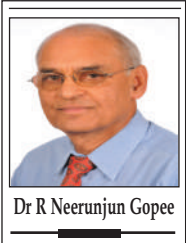
La diplomatie mauricienne gagnerait à éviter de “lean too much on one side” et à garder au contraire sa neutralité et la reconnaissance de tous les protagonistes afin de ne pas entraîner le pays dans des tensions et des conflits dangereux.

*** Jimmy Carter est décédé cette semaine. Bien qu'il n'ait peut-être pas influencé les affaires mondiales aussi profondément que certains de ses prédécesseurs ou successeurs, son intégrité personnelle est restée irréprochable. Voit-on encore aujourd'hui des dirigeants d'une telle envergure morale? Si ce n'est pas le cas, qu'est-ce qui a changé?**

Prix Nobel de la Paix, Jimmy Carter incarnait le “moral-politik” à travers sa quête inlassable d'un monde plus juste où l'on mettrait fin aux conflits armés grâce à des négociations pour résoudre les différends entre les États. Aujourd'hui, c'est le temps de la “realpolitik” dans un monde en pleine turbulences où la défense des droits de l'Homme n'est qu'un slogan creux pour faire avancer des intérêts économiques ou stratégiques.

Le génocide en cours à Gaza sous le regard complice de ceux qui se disent garants du droit international, etc., en est la preuve flagrante. Il y a heureusement encore des voix qui s'élèvent pour rappeler l'importance du sens moral et de la quête de justice universelle au niveau des relations internationales et économiques, à l'instar de celle de cet homme exceptionnel qu'est le Pape François. Mais ils prêchent malheureusement dans le désert.

The Transition to Great Expectations



Dr R Neerunjun Gopee

Up to the new leaders to decide whether they want to be the tree or the shadow

Character is a tree, reputation its shadow; most people go after the shadow, whereas it is the tree which is more important. – Anon

2025 is truly a year of transition for the country. The crushing 60/0 victory of Labour Party-led alliance was not only a repetition of similar wins in 1982 and 1995 but ushered in a much-needed fresh air of freedom to sweep away the suffocating atmosphere of fear and repression that had been the hallmarks of the outgoing regime. At the same time, though, the upbeat mood has given rise to both much hope for a better tomorrow and to great expectations that the pledges and promises made will be fulfilled, along with the clearing of the Augean stables.

While a beginning has been made as regards the latter with warrants of arrests issued and one executed to date, for the common man it's essentially improvements in the day-to-day conditions of living that count more. These include, for example and among others, easing of the cost of the food basket, 24/7 water and power supply, prompt and courteous service in both the private and the public sectors.

These are some of the simple basics that can prevent the exodus of our fellow citizens who are sorely needed to stop the decline of our demographic. It is a fact that thousands of Mauritians live abroad, out of choice or necessity. In bigger countries there are no doubt more and better opportunities for jobs and higher earnings than is possible here. The money factor is likely to be the major driver in most cases, but for other categories professional satisfaction is equally important. It is also true that Mau-

“It is not sufficient that in our choice of people to occupy positions of great responsibility we focus solely on their physical attributes, their looks, their competence, their qualifications, their intelligence because, in any case, all of them will possess these to some degree. Nor must purely political or politically correct considerations be the determining factors. What, on the contrary, must be of overriding significance is what we call the character of the potential aspirants. It is made up of qualities that are expansive rather than limited to the attributes of the body and the mind-intellect. What constitutes character includes among others: attitude, humaneness, goodness, humility, a sense of fair play and justice...”

ritians miss the social life here that they cannot enjoy elsewhere, and this is an important consideration for the new government to take note of. How can they make the island more attractive to lure back its nationals?

However, the many who have not left our shores and prefer to live in their vaunted 'paradise' island – again out of choice or necessity (family reasons, no means to go abroad, etc.) – adapt and adjust accordingly. This is not necessarily easy, especially with the pressures and the pace of modern life in the increasingly difficult environment where daily activities are carried out.

The daily experience of living in the island is perhaps no better or worse than obtains elsewhere, as people in all countries face broadly similar issues such as: road congestion in commuting to work, varying levels of job satisfaction, discrimination at the workplace, issues of promotion, schooling of children and care of the younger ones while both parents are at work, responsibility for the elderly, and so on and so forth. Work from home that started during the Covid epidemic has not proved to be a panacea.

In general, it may be said that in their day-to-day life people are not conscious of how the broader political, social and economic forces at play impact on their lives. And yet these do, perhaps in a more fundamental way than the people themselves realize, because many of the decisions that affect them arise out of a complex interplay among these very forces. A recent example is the implementation of the 14th month that had been guaranteed pre-electorally, and that faced the hard reality of the actual state of the country's finances.

That is why from time to time it is salutary to step back as it were and take a 'panoramic' view of one's country, so as to have a more realistic perspective of the direction in which it is going and use this input to then make course corrections wherever these are indicated. In that respect, findings of surveys that are made public from time to time as well as the inputs aired on a more regular basis in the media should goad us into taking actions and measures which must be at all levels and in all spheres of national life if we are concerned about the future and image of our country.

A critical issue much aired during the fading years of the last regime was the 'trust deficit' between the citizenry and those who govern. In fact, it has emerged as a critical factor even in the established major democracies. This has to be addressed as a matter of urgency. In fact, it should be a wake-



Pic - Explora Mauritius

“It is a fact that thousands of Mauritians live abroad, out of choice or necessity. In bigger countries there are no doubt more and better opportunities for jobs and higher earnings than is possible here. The money factor is likely to be the major driver in most cases, but for other categories professional satisfaction is equally important. It is also true that Mauritians miss the social life here that they cannot enjoy elsewhere, and this is an important consideration for the new government to take note of. How can they make the island more attractive to lure back its nationals?”

up call for all institutions which have not lived up to the integrity standards expected of them to bell the cat by doing all within their power to restore that lost trust so that the country can move forward confidently.

The central message that emerges is that, starting with the political class, all institutions have to put their act together and do their own *mea culpa*, and reflect on how to become more trustworthy, transparent, unafraid of accountability, and efficient. A stronger streak of patriotism should be cultivated so that we can make of our country one to be truly proud of, for the sake of the future generations for whom opportunities elsewhere are set to diminish given the rising nationalisms globally.

It is not sufficient that in our choice of people to occupy positions of great responsibility we focus solely on their physical attributes, their looks, their competence, their qualifications, their intelligence because, in any case, all of them will possess these to some degree. Nor must purely political or politically correct considerations be the determining factors. What, on the contrary,

must be of overriding significance is what we call the *character* of the potential aspirants. It is made up of qualities that are expansive rather than limited to the attributes of the body and the mind-intellect. What constitutes character includes among others: attitude, humaneness, goodness, humility, a sense of fair play and justice, absence of prejudices, objectivity, rationality and reasonableness, a sense of morality.

It is essentially the character of a person which frames his conduct, and that is why the single most important quality that we look for and admire in a person is the character, and by extension the single most important attribute that we respect in a person is his sense of morality and ethics. And because with great power comes great responsibility, we as a people must demand that, everything else being equal, the unique marker of holders of high office should be their ethical conduct. Period.

That was what had endeared President Eisenhower to his people, as a tribute to him after his death in 1969 by President Nixon pointed out. People found themselves 'thinking first, *not of his deeds, but of his character. It was not what he did, but what he was that so captured the trust and faith and affection of his own people.*'

Leaders are elected to do deeds anyway, so there's nothing great about that. What makes them unique is the spirit in which they conduct themselves as they go about performing their actions, and that is what eventually elevates them – or brings their disrepute and downfall.

Truly is it said that 'character is a tree, reputation its shadow; most people go after the shadow, whereas it is the tree which is more important.'

Up to the new leaders to decide whether they want to be the tree or the shadow.



'Y' company of the 1st Battalion the Royal Hampshire Regiment 'The Tigers' surround Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Chief of Naval Staff Admiral Sir John Fieldhouse at Goose Green, East Falkland. Pic - PA Archive

Conservative MP calls for 'self-determination' for Chagos on eve of 'Margaret Thatcher Day'

An MP has urged the British government to confirm the "principle of self determination" for British overseas territories on the eve of Margaret Thatcher Day on the Falklands islands. Andrew Rosindell, Conservative MP for Romford, linked the holiday to the Government's deal to relinquish sovereignty of the Chagos Islands. Commons Leader Lucy Powell said she "perhaps won't celebrate Margaret Thatcher Day" and highlighted that

negotiations over the island began under the previous Conservative government.

The Government has been holding talks with Mauritius to finalise a deal to hand back the Chagos Islands that would see the UK give up sovereignty over the islands, including Diego Garcia, which houses a strategically important UK-US military base. The proposed deal was struck before elections in both Mauritius and the US and senior figures in the incoming Trump administration have voiced doubts about it.

Mr Rosindell called for "self-determination" for those in British overseas territories, referring to Margaret Thatcher Day, celebrated by some in the Falklands Islands to commemorate the anniversary of the former prime minister visiting the region in 1983 when she was awarded the honorary freedom of the Falklands. He told MPs: "I'm sure the Leader of the House will be celebrating with the people of the Falkland Islands tomorrow as they gather for a public holiday to commemorate Margaret Thatcher Day, reports PA Media.

"The prime minister went there 42 years ago tomorrow on the 10th of January, following the liberation of the islands and self determination, of course, is what she fought for, for the Falkland Islanders. "So will ensure the Government makes an urgent statement confirming the same principle of self determination to all British citizens of all British territories, including the British Indian Ocean Territory and the right of self determination of the Chagos Islanders?"

UK's richest businesswoman earned thrice as much as Apple CEO Tim Cook after 45% pay cut

UK's highest-paid woman took a 45% pay cut but still earned more than most global CEOs, said a report by the BBC. Joint-CEO of gambling firm Bet365, Denise Coates, has retained her status as billionaire and UK's highest-paid woman despite the pay cut last year.

In 2024, Coates earned £158.7 million in salary and dividends for the year, according to company filings. While her pay declined compared to previous years, her earnings still remain far ahead of most CEO's like Apple's Tim Cook, who earned £49.7 million in 2023 -- less than a third of Coates' total earnings, reports HT.

Her pay is made up of a £94.7 million salary along with £64 million in dividends derived from her 58% stake in Bet365. Her brother and co-CEO, John Coates, is the other shareholder in the £110 million dividend.

Who is Denise Coates?

The Coates family's wealth, primarily derived from Bet365, is valued at nearly £8 billion, according to the Sunday Times Rich List.

In 2000, Denise decided to mortgage her father's betting shop chain to launch the online gambling platform alongside her brother. This bold move has over the years catapulted

her to being called one of UK's "most successful women". Coates is among the best-paid executives in the world and holds a first-class degree in econometrics. She trained as an accountant in her family firm before taking over the family business.

Under her, the company's growth skyrocketed and it become one of the world's biggest online gambling websites. Subsequently, her earnings reached an all-time high during the 2020 Covid pandemic as the online gambling sector surged. She earned a record £466 million in 2020 followed by £300 million in 2021.



Mexico's President Claudia Sheinbaum shows a 1661 world map showing the Americas and the Gulf of Mexico in response to Donald Trump's comments. Pic - Reuters

Mexican president hits back at Trump, suggests new name for United States

Mexican President Claudia Sheinbaum took a brutal swipe at Donald Trump following his proposal to rename the Gulf of Mexico to "Gulf of America." On Wednesday, the 62-year-old politely declined the offer and proposed calling the United States "America Mexicana," which translates to Mexican America in English, reports HT.

Sheinbaum's scathing remark came after the President-elect said during a press conference at Mar-a-Lago Tuesday that he would rename the Gulf of Mexico after the United States because it has "a beautiful ring" to it. "That covers a lot of territory, the Gulf of America. What a beautiful name, and it's appropriate," Trump added.

During her daily briefing on Wednesday, Sheinbaum dismissed Trump's threat, saying, "Obviously, the Gulf of Mexico is a name recognized by the United Nations." She then gestured to a 1607 map on which the United States was emblazoned with the name "America Mexicana." "Why don't we call it America Mexicana? It sounds pretty, no? Isn't that true?" she said.

"Since 1607, the Constitution of Apatzingán was of America Mexicana, so let's call it America Mexicana," the president of Mexico added. She also shot down Trump's claim that Mexico is run by drug cartels. "Because I know I will be asked, I think that yesterday, President Trump was misinformed, with all due respect to President Trump," Sheinbaum said.

She went on to say, "Because I believe they informed him that in Mexico, Felipe Calderón was still governing, and García Luna," referring to the former Mexican president and his Secretary of Public Security, who was sentenced last year to over 38 years for taking bribes from the Sinaloa drug cartel. "But no. In Mexico, the people govern," Sheinbaum added.

Greeks bid farewell to reformist former prime minister Simitis

Greeks bid farewell on Thursday to former prime minister Costas Simitis, a law professor and reformist, who died last week at the age of 88 and was praised for steering Greece into the European Union's single currency in 2001.

Traffic halted as the hearse drove through central Athens and thousands of people gathered outside the Metropolitan Cathedral for the funeral service of Simitis, who was prime minister from 1996 to 2004 as the leader of the once powerful PASOK socialist party.

State officials, politicians, academics and Cyprus' President Nikos Christodoulides were those gathered at the Athens Cathedral for the funeral, following four days of national mourning.

Under Simitis' leadership, Greece cut down on public debt and government spending to qualify for the euro zone, invested heavily in public infrastructure and successfully bid to host the 2004 Olympics in Athens, reports Reuters.



Former Greece's Prime Minister Costas Simitis. Pic - VOA

He also facilitated Cyprus, a historical ally of Greece, to join the European Union in 2004.

"Boldly, he set the bar high and served the vision of a strong and equitable Greece in Europe," Greek President Katerina Sakellariopoulou said in a eulogy, standing in front of Simitis' coffin which was draped with a Greek flag.

"His modernisation policy was not just a political platform of the time but a continuous institutional and social

exercise, a constant challenge to reform until today."

The public broadcaster showed images of a large crowd led by Sakellariopoulou and senior PASOK party officials escorting the hearse on foot from the Cathedral to an Athens cemetery, a 30-minute walk.

"He was an invaluable and honourable prime minister," local resident Asiliki Provi, 76, told Reuters.

However, Simitis' tenure was not without controversy. Five years after he left power, Greece fell into an unprecedented, decade-long debt crisis, which nearly saw the country exit the euro zone and forced it to sign up to international bailouts worth 290 billion euros which entailed painful austerity.

Economists traced back the roots of the financial meltdown to graft and corruption during Simitis' government and earlier and some questioned his handling of Greece's joining the euro zone.

Starmer not wavering over national grooming gang inquiry, No 10 insists

Downing Street has rejected suggestions that Sir Keir Starmer is wavering in his insistence that a national inquiry into grooming gangs is not necessary. The Prime Minister will be "guided by the victims", his official spokesman added, leaving open the door to a future inquiry should survivors and campaign groups support one.

Sir Keir and several members of his frontbench team did not take place in a Wednesday night Commons vote urging the Government to set up a new inquiry. MPs rejected the Conservative push for a new inquiry, which took the form of an amendment to a Government Bill aimed at bolstering child safety. The Bill – which includes measures aimed at protecting home schooled children – would have been derailed from the legislative agenda had the Tory vote succeeded, but Labour's Commons majority meant this was deeply unlikely.

Sir Keir has insisted a further inquiry could delay action on tackling child sexual abuse, pointing out that recommendations from a seven-year probe which reported in

2022 had not yet been implemented. In recent days, there have been signals ministers could soften their view if victims felt different. Sir Keir's spokesman however rejected the suggestion the Prime Minister was wavering on his insistence there would not be a fresh investigation, reports PA Media.

"We will be guided by the victims, and what we've heard from the victims is that they don't want to see another national inquiry," he told reporters. He added: "We've had a national inquiry, it... engaged 7,000 victims, and what victims are telling us is that they want to see action, and that's where the Government is focused, and that's why we're not going ahead with another national inquiry. "But as the PM said on Monday, we will always listen to victims, we will always listen to local areas, we always listen to specific allegations or issues as they are put to us, and we will faithfully deal with them, but what we have heard loud and clear from victims is that they want to see action."

The Prime Minister had earlier hit out at Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch



Sir Keir Starmer. Pic – The Spectator

over "lies and misinformation, and slinging of mud" which did not help victims of child sexual abuse. The Conservatives accused Labour MPs of having "turned a blind eye to justice" for victims of grooming gangs after their amendment was rejected. Mr Musk said the rejection of the amendment was "unbelievable", after having called Sir Keir "Starmtrooper" and accusing him of trying to cover up "terrible things".

On Monday, Home Secretary Yvette Cooper said the Government would begin to implement Professor Alexis Jay's call

for mandatory reporting of child sexual abuse, with further details expected to be set out in the coming weeks.

The term "grooming gang" refers to groups that systematically befriend and establish emotional connections with individuals, often minors, to exploit them sexually. In the UK, several high-profile cases have involved such gangs targeting vulnerable young people, leading to public outcry and demands for thorough investigations.

In recent developments, the UK Parliament has debated the necessity of a new national inquiry into these grooming gangs. On January 8, 2025, MPs voted against a Conservative amendment proposing such an inquiry, with 364 votes against and 111 in favour. Labour leader Sir Keir Starmer argued that immediate action on existing recommendations would better serve victims than initiating a new inquiry, which could delay progress. He acknowledged that victims have differing opinions on the necessity of another national investigation.

Taliban labels India a 'significant regional partner' after key meeting

The Taliban's foreign office has expressed that it views India as a "significant regional and economic partner," following a high-level meeting between senior officials from both sides. The meeting, held in Dubai on Wednesday, marked the highest-level talks between the Taliban and India since the former's takeover of Afghanistan in 2021.

India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met with Taliban's acting Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi to discuss enhancing bilateral relations. According to a statement from Afghanistan's foreign ministry, the two sides focused on boosting trade through Chabahar Port in Iran. This port, which India has been developing, is intended to provide Afghanistan with an alternative to using Pakistan's Karachi and Gwadar ports, which are seen as part of Pakistan's broader regional rivalry with India.

The Afghan foreign ministry emphasized that the Taliban, in line with its "balanced and economy-focused foreign policy," aims to strengthen both political and economic ties with India. "The Islamic Emirate aims to strengthen political and economic ties with India as a significant regional and economic partner," the statement added.

India's foreign ministry also conveyed that it is considering expanding its involvement in development projects in Afghanistan and exploring further trade opportunities. Despite these growing interactions, no foreign government, including India, has formally recognized the Taliban administration. However, India maintains a small diplomatic mission in



India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri met acting Taliban Foreign Minister Amir Khan Muttaqi in Dubai. Pic – X Com

Kabul to support trade, aid, and medical assistance, and has provided humanitarian aid to Afghanistan under the Taliban regime.

The Taliban's outreach to India is part of broader regional dynamics, with other countries such as China and Russia signaling interest in boosting trade and investment in Afghanistan. India's engagement with the Taliban is likely to have implications for regional relations, particularly with Pakistan. Tensions between India and Pakistan remain high, as the two countries have fought three wars in the past, and Pakistan has accused the Taliban of harboring militant groups that carry out attacks on Pakistani soil—a claim that the Taliban denies.

The meeting also comes at a time of strained relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan, with Pakistan criticizing airstrikes on Afghan soil carried out by Pakistan earlier this year. India's foreign office condemned these strikes, signaling a more proactive stance on regional security issues.

Scientists retrieve 1.2-million-year-old ice core from Antarctica, unlocking secrets of Earth's climate history

An international team of scientists has achieved a groundbreaking milestone by successfully drilling one of the oldest ice cores ever obtained, reaching nearly 2 miles (2.8 kilometers) deep into the Antarctic bedrock to retrieve ice that is at least 1.2 million years old.

This ancient ice core holds the potential to offer valuable insights into the evolution of Earth's atmosphere and climate. Scientists are particularly eager to study how Ice Age cycles have shifted over the millennia and to understand the impact of atmospheric carbon on climate change. Carlo Barbante, an Italian glaciologist and the coordinator of the Beyond EPICA project, which made this achievement possible, said, "Thanks to the ice core, we will understand what has changed in terms of greenhouse gases, chemicals, and dust in the atmosphere."

The team, which had previously drilled a core about 800,000 years old, spent four summers drilling at Little Dome C near the Concordia Research Station in Antarctica, enduring temperatures as low as minus-35 Celsius (minus-25.6 Fahrenheit). The project involved 16 scientists and support personnel, who worked tirelessly over the course of four years to reach the bedrock. Federico Scoto, an Italian researcher who participated in the drilling, expressed the team's excitement upon reaching the bedrock. "It was a great moment for us when we reached the bedrock," he said.

Isotope analysis confirmed that the

ice is at least 1.2 million years old. The ice core is expected to provide a clearer understanding of the fluctuations in greenhouse gas levels, such as carbon dioxide and methane, over hundreds of thousands of years. Barbante emphasized the significance of these findings, noting that carbon dioxide levels in the present day are 50% higher than the highest levels recorded over the past 800,000 years.

The Beyond EPICA project, which is funded by the European Union and supported by several European nations, is coordinated by Italy's National Research Council. The project's success has been hailed by experts like Richard Alley, a climate scientist at Penn State University. Alley, who was not involved with the project but is a leading expert in the study of ice sheets, said, "Advancements in studying ice cores are crucial because they help scientists understand past climate conditions, and they inform our understanding of human contributions to climate change today."

As scientists continue to analyze the core, the data extracted will likely offer new revelations about Earth's climate history and the long-term effects of human activity on the environment. The ongoing research is expected to be a vital resource for understanding the future of Earth's climate and its delicate balance.

From the Pages of History - MT 70 Years Ago

5th Year No 291**MAURITIUS TIMES**

Friday 25 March, 1960

• *The lower nature must always be denied when you are trying to rise to a higher sphere. — Henry Ward Beecher*

Make Cement in Mauritius



Peter Ibbotson

The reconstruction and repair of destroyed and damaged buildings and houses present a herculean task for the Government and the building industry. Just as there has been strict price control over foodstuffs, there must be strict price control over building to ensure unscrupulous persons do not profit from the misfortunes of others. There must also be strict controls over repair work to ensure correct priorities are

observed.

In short, for quite some time to come, the building industry must prepare for the maintenance of building controls. These controls are necessary to avoid wasted effort and ensure proper priorities. It is always unfortunate when a government must institute controls over private enterprise, but this is done only when it is in everyone's interest. The right wing of Mauritian politicians may protest at what they will call "undue government interference"; the lunatic fringe of the Bloc will likely explode at the thought of government action to ensure efficiency (the Bloc prefers inefficiency so it can hold it up to ridicule). But controls are necessary, and it is good the building industry has recognized this.

The destruction of so many houses and huts provides an opportunity to do two things. First — over the past 15 years, many new huts have been randomly erected across the island. Little effort has been made to plan the siting of new huts or to ensure that good land is not used for huts when less suitable land would suffice. This haphazard use of land for building has lost many arpents of productive agricultural land. Now, however, there is an opportunity to replan the siting of the new houses to replace those destroyed by the two cyclones. Instead of allowing huts to be placed randomly, the Government must ensure that construction is planned, villages and towns are properly rebuilt,

and the best use is made of Mauritius's available land. A rapid land utilization survey is needed. Villages must be planned so that huts are not scattered wastefully, especially as far as the provision of essential services is concerned.

The second opportunity the cyclones present is developing an indigenous cement industry. In 1956, Dr Williams reported on a Mauritius cement project. He concluded that cement could be manufactured in Mauritius from coral sand, Laselle clay, and bagasse ash. It could be produced at competitive prices if a stable market was assured. Reserves of coral sand and clay could sustain the industry for at least 30 years.

Dr Williams based his conclusions on potential annual production of 25,000 to 30,000 tons of cement. In 1953, 27,500 tons were imported at an average c.i.f. price of Rs 144, with wholesale prices at Rs 171 and retail at Rs 180. He provided detailed costs for setting up a cement industry using a dry-process shaft kiln plant producing 30,000 tons annually. His figures showed profitability after accounting for interest, taxation, amortization, insurance, and research.

Would Mauritius need 30,000 tons of cement annually? In 1958, 51½ million kilos of cement were imported, mainly from the UK, South Africa, Belgium, Denmark, France, and Japan, costing Rs 6¾ million. In 1957, 43 million kilos were imported for Rs 6.3 million. Demand in both years exceeded Dr Williams' assumptions. With a local plant, increased demand could be met by increased production, boosting the profit forecast by Dr Williams.

The cement industry could thrive independently and would do so even better with government support. Ideally, the government could operate it as a state enterprise. However, objections persist that higher annual production is



Pic - Istock

required for profitability and that there isn't enough market demand for this. I suggest the cyclone's aftermath will stimulate demand for building materials, including cement. The 51,000 tons imported in 1958 will likely be surpassed in 1961, if not in 1960. Demand will remain high and steady for some time.

The time is ripe for establishing a cement factory as a priority project after the cyclone (Carol). It will supply much of the cement needed for Mauritius's immediate reconstruction. Funds will be invested locally, and home-produced cement will save foreign currency for other imports. Employment will also be created, both in constructing the plant and operating the industry. This will provide a triple benefit:

1. Annual profits from the industry.
2. Additional employment (it is better to pay men to work than to pay unemployment benefits, assuming Professor Titmuss' recommendations are along these lines).
3. Savings in foreign currency and shipping space.

The urgency of establishing a cement industry must be impressed upon the Secretary of State. Mauritian Ministers are already aware of its necessity.

SYLVESTER SPORTING CLUB

Annual General Assembly

The Annual General Assembly of Sylvester Sporting Club will be held on Tuesday 28 January 2025 at Paco Place 17 Route Bassin Le Cornu Ste Croix at 19.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Approval of minutes of last AGM
2. Matters Arising
3. President Report
4. Treasurer Report
5. Election New Office Bearers
6. AOB

Felix Adriano
Secretary

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Raashtriya Sanatan Sansthaan

The Annual General Meeting of Raashtriya Sanatan Sansthaan will be held on Saturday 01 March 2025 at 4.00 pm at Prabhat Hall, Royal Road, Grand-Baie.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Reports from Affiliates
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers (if any)
- AOB
- Finance

All compliant members and affiliates are encouraged to attend.

General Secretary



President-elect Donald Trump has laid America's territorial claim over Canada, Greenland and Panama Canal, the first time in over 75 years that the United States will seek to acquire new territories if Trump maintains this position after taking office on January 20. He has also announced his intent to rename the Gulf of Mexico as the Gulf of America.
Pic - Viral Theories

● Cont. from page 8

In 1941, under President Roosevelt, the US established Thule Air Base on Greenland. In 1946, following the end of WWII, the US formally offered to purchase Greenland for one hundred million dollars in gold bullion.

The strategic importance of Greenland to the United States has not diminished since 1941. If anything, it has increased. The World War II threat posed by the Nazis was replaced by the strategic threats of the Soviet Union during the ensuing Cold War. Today, both Russia and China encroach in the Arctic.

The United States of Amcanpancanalgreenland

As one looks at a map of the world, one sees the great expanse of Canada east of Alaska and there sits Greenland, atop the North East Passage and below the North West Passage. The country that controls Greenland controls access to major shipping lanes and can project power in the Arctic.

It is well known that aside from the geopolitical strategic importance of Greenland, it also has oil, gas, and rare earth minerals, in addition to fishing resources. The acquisition of Greenland will counter China's virtual monopoly on rare earth minerals.

The idea that Greenland is of great strategic importance to the US is obvious. And if one pauses to think how formidable it would be to add Canada to the US, Trump's rumblings are not crazy flights of fancy.

Whether these rumblings will, on a practical level, amount to anything more than a snowball in hell remains to be seen.

Perhaps we should see this as nothing more than Trump's assertion that the Panama Canal, Greenland, and Canada are all in America's strategic sphere of influence and that interference by China and Russia will not be tolerated. President John F. Kennedy used a similar approach during the Cuban Missile Crisis.

Trump seemed to rule out using military force against Canada but has said that he would not rule out using "economic force." And he has called the Panama Canal important to America's economic security. These statements reflect reality and if divorced from threats of the use of force, they should spark no outcries. But when coupled with such threats, the entire picture changes.

One can see easily that it is probably as much in

“Commentary about the motives of a President who is often viewed as transactional in nature have ranged from speculation that he is merely negotiating, to ridiculing his remarks as nothing more than usual Trumpian nonsense on a par with his ephemeral pledge to have Mexico pay for his border wall, the building of the wall itself being another ephemeral promise. Others have commented that Trump is merely trying to deflect attention from negative news as he tries to cruise smoothly to his inauguration. The New York judge who presided over the hush money trial in which Trump was convicted of 34 felony counts for falsifying business records has scheduled sentencing for Friday, January 10. Trump wants to avoid that...”

Greenland's and Denmark's interests as in the interests of the US that Greenland be a strategic resource for the West and NATO.

In the past, the US has acquired or captured the Northern Mariana Islands, the US Virgin Islands, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, Guam, and territories that now make up the states of Alaska, Hawaii, California, Nevada, Utah, Arizona, and parts of Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming. And in 1819, the US acquired Florida, in 1845, it annexed Texas. In 1803, the Louisiana Purchase included territory that makes up all of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Kansas, Nebraska, Missouri and Iowa. The price then was \$15 million.

Cheerz...
Bwana

YOUR STARS

SAGITTARIUS: NOV 22 - DEC 21

A sense of adventure dominates your week.

Whether it's travel or exploring new hobbies, embracing the opportunities.

Relationships thrive with honest communication and shared laughter.

Financial discipline is essential to avoid overspending.

Lucky Numbers: 7, 11, 17, 23, 28, 37

CAPRICORN: DEC 22 - JAN 19

Your disciplined approach at work leads to significant progress. Family matters require your attention, so approach them with empathy. A routine health check-up ensures peace of mind. Plan your finances carefully to support upcoming goals.

Lucky Numbers: 6, 12, 18, 24, 30, 39

AQUARIUS: JAN 20 - FEB 18

Innovation and creativity define your week, making it an excellent time for brainstorming and teamwork. A romantic surprise could brighten your days. Manage stress with meditation or a calming activity. Monitor expenses to stay within budget.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 8, 15, 20, 27, 34

PISCES: FEB 19 - MAR 20

Your intuition is your guiding star, helping you make wise decisions. Strengthen friendships by being a supportive listener.

Financial planning pays off but avoid impulsive spending. Focus on self-care and spiritual growth for overall well-being.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 9, 14, 19, 26, 31

ARIES: MARCH 21 - APRIL 19

A productive week lies ahead. Focus on career growth and seizing opportunities. Avoid impulsive decisions in relationships; patience will strengthen bonds. Health improves with mindfulness.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 14, 18, 23, 30

TAURUS: APR 20 - MAY 20

Financial stability grows as you implement new strategies. A heartfelt conversation could bring clarity to personal matters. Stay grounded in social settings to avoid misunderstandings.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 6, 11, 19, 25, 33

GEMINI: MAY 21 - JUNE 20

Your communication skills shine, opening doors in professional and personal realms. Avoid overthinking; trust your instincts. Balance work and relaxation for better well-being.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 8, 13, 20, 28, 36

CANCER: JUNE 21 - JULY 22

Home and family take center stage. Resolve lingering issues with compassion. Financial surprises may arise; save wisely.

Prioritize self-care to recharge your energy.

Lucky Numbers: 5, 9, 12, 17, 24, 31

LEO: JULY 23 - AUG 22

Your leadership skills are recognized, leading to career advancements. Romantic sparks reignite, bringing joy. Stay cautious with investments; research thoroughly before committing.

Lucky Numbers: 1, 10, 16, 22, 27, 34

VIRGO: AUG 23 - SEPT 22

A week of introspection helps you align goals with actions. Relationships deepen through open communication. Focus on physical health by incorporating a balanced routine.

Lucky Numbers: 3, 7, 15, 21, 29, 38

LIBRA: SEPT 23 - OCT 22

Harmony prevails in partnerships, both personal and professional. Creative endeavours flourish. Keep an eye on expenses to maintain financial balance.

Lucky Numbers: 2, 8, 14, 18, 26, 35

SCORPION: 23 OCT - 21 NOV

Transformation is key this week. Let go of past grievances to make room for growth. Career prospects improve with strategic networking. Stay hydrated for optimal health.

Lucky Numbers: 4, 9, 13, 19, 25, 32

LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

The Annual General Meeting of **LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION** will be held on Saturday 01 March 2025 at 10.00 am at Royal Road, Morc St Andre Community Centre.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising
- Finance
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers (if any)
- All compliant members and affiliates are encouraged to attend.
- President's Report
- Reports from Affiliates.
- AOB

Secretary

Bon-Air Cooperative Credit Society and Other Workers Union

The Annual General Meeting of **Bon-Air Cooperative Credit Society and Other Workers Union** will be held on 01 March 2025 at 11.00 am at Cooperative House, Royal Road, Morc. St Andre.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising
- Finance
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers (if any)
- Compliant members are invited to attend.
- President's Report
- Reports from Affiliates
- AOB

Secretary

Generative AI's limits: Why it's not as smart as it seems

Generative AI models, like GPT-4, have wowed us with their ability to write text, generate programs, and even provide accurate driving directions. But recent research reveals that despite their impressive output, these models don't have a true understanding of the world. They may appear to perform well due to their ability to predict patterns, but they lack coherent internal models of the environment.

A study led by researchers at MIT, Harvard, and Cornell found that a popular AI model, despite giving near-perfect driving directions in New York City, failed when minor changes like detours or street closures were introduced. The model's internal map of the city was flawed, containing nonexistent streets and impossible intersections, showing it didn't actually "understand" the city's layout.

The research introduces two new metrics to assess whether an AI model has a coherent world model: **sequence distinction** (whether the model recognizes differences between states) and **sequence compression** (whether the model understands that identical states have the same outcomes). Surprisingly, the study found that transformers trained on random data created more



accurate world models than those trained on strategy-based data.

These findings have important implications. While

generative AI can perform specific tasks with high accuracy, its lack of a true understanding means that slight changes to its environment can lead to significant errors. For example, a navigation system might fail when faced with unexpected road closures.

The researchers hope their work will prompt a more cautious approach to using AI in real-world applications, especially in fields like science or healthcare, where accurate, adaptable models are crucial. As AI continues to evolve, the challenge will be to build systems that not only generate plausible outputs but also understand the world in a coherent way.



Do cats and dogs understand us when we miaow or bark?

When it comes to their own "voices", studies show that cats and dogs use different vocal signals to communicate different messages

There's been a lot of research about communication between people and domestic animals like dogs and cats. But we don't yet have the answer to your very interesting question. We don't know what cats and dogs think or if they understand us when we use their noises.

As a veterinarian and animal behaviourist who studies different kinds of animals, my view is that we'd have to be very good at mimicking miaows and barks if we would really like to be understood by our pets. Our vocal chords are different to theirs, and they can hear that we make different sounds to what they do.

But we do know that dogs can definitely distinguish between different people's voices. They'll know when it's Mila who's talking, and when it's Alex. They're also sensitive to your tone of voice. They like high-pitched, friendly tones. And did you know that dogs can learn words?

Rico, a border collie, successfully learned more than 200 words representing different items. He could pick the correct item from all the items if asked to "fetch" whichever item. We do not think that he actually learnt the meaning of the words, but he was very good at associating different sounds with different objects.

When it comes to their own "voices", studies have shown that dogs and cats use different vocal signals to communicate different messages. A high-pitched, repetitive bark, for example, may mean your dog is anxious. A low-pitched bark may mean she's feeling aggressive. Cats also use certain sounds while hunting and others when relaxing.

But their "voices" are just one way in which dogs and cats communicate. They also use body language and tactile



Cats and dogs use different vocal signals to communicate different messages. Pic - Lovetoknowpets

gestures –like coming to you for a pat, or nudging your hand with their nose when they want attention.

In the same way people also communicate using gestures and facial expressions. Research has shown that dogs are better than other species, like wolves, at interpreting our gestures and facial expressions.

Different communication forms

If you have dogs, you will have noticed that they're very sensitive to people's feelings and our ways of communicating. That's because they've evolved to live in close proximity with people.

Cats are not naturally social animals, but they also communicate with us and can be highly perceptive about what mood you're in and how you're feeling.

All of this is important when you think about the best ways to communicate with your dogs and cats. Since visual signals are really important to them, it's likely that they consider our body language, before listening to our sounds, so they can decide what it is that we're communicating.

Humans use language as our main means of communication. That's why we tend to want our pets to respond to our words. They certainly can learn to do this, as we have seen with Rico and thousands of other examples.

However, in many instances, they are actually responding to our body language cues and not the verbal cues we are using.

Take for example telling your dog to sit:

most people say the word "sit", and at the same time point their finger at the dog. They think the dog sits because they are saying "sit" – but it's actually responding to the finger pointing. If you say the word "sit" without the hand gesture your dog will, in many cases, not sit. This proves how important body language is to dogs.

I would encourage everyone who owns pets, especially dogs, to learn more about their body language so that we can better interpret what they are trying to say to us. A common perception, for example, is that when a dog's tail is wagging it is always friendly. This is only true when the wag of the tail is wide and accompanied by a relaxed body. A dog whose tail is up in the air, with only the tip wagging, is actually saying "go away" and not "let's play".

The more time you spend learning your pets' body language and getting to know what different gestures mean, the more easily you'll be able to communicate with them – and you won't have to "miaow" or bark to do that.

Quixi Sonntag

Lecturer in animal behaviour and welfare,
University of Pretoria

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The Shampoo Incident

A mother went to her bathroom to find her expensive shampoo bottle empty.

"Why did you use it all up?" she angrily asked her daughter, who was drying her hair in front of the mirror.

"Well, Mummy," the girl replied, "first I washed my hair, then I read the bottle and it said 'Full Body,' so I used the rest of it up having a wash."

* * *

The Mop Fight

A guy gets into a fight with a tough man who says, "I'm going to mop the floor with your face."

The guy replies, "You'll be sorry."

The tough guy sneers, "Oh yeah? Why?"

The guy says, "You won't be able to get into the corners very well."

* * *

Little Bobby's Drawing

In class, Little Bobby's teacher asks everyone to draw something exciting. Isabel draws a puppy, Jeffrey draws a cake, and Little Bobby draws a period.

The teacher, confused, asks, "How is this exciting?"



Bobby replies, "It may not be exciting to you, but my sister's missed two, and everyone's losing their minds at my house."

* * *

Escalators

I like escalators because they can't really break -- they just become stairs.

You should never see a sign that says, "Escalator Temporarily Out of Service."

Instead, it should say, "Escalator Temporarily Stairs. Sorry for the Inconvenience."

* * *

Lying for Ten Dollars

Two boys are arguing when the teacher enters the room.

She asks, "Why are you arguing?"

One boy replies, "We found a ten-dollar bill and decided to give it to whoever tells the biggest lie."

The teacher scolds them, "When I was your age, I didn't even know what a lie was!"

The boys hand her the ten dollars.

* * *

Fiat vs. Rolls-Royce

A Fiat 500 pulls up next to a Rolls-Royce at a traffic light.

"Do you have a car phone?" the Fiat driver asks.

"Of course," replies the Rolls driver.

"Do you have a fax machine?"

"Yes," the Rolls driver sighs.

"Do you have a double bed in the trunk?"

Annoyed, the Rolls driver speeds off. That afternoon, he installs a double bed in the trunk.

A week later, he sees the same Fiat parked on the side of the road, windows fogged up. He bangs on the back window, and the Fiat driver sticks his head out.

"I just wanted to tell you I got a double bed installed!" says the Rolls driver.

The Fiat driver looks unimpressed. "You got me out of the shower to tell me that?"

* * *

Real Friends vs. Great Friends

A good friend will bail you out of jail.

A great friend will sit beside you in the cell and say, "That was fun!"

* * *

Mental Illness

One out of three Mauritians suffers from some form of mental illness.

Think of two of your best friends. If they're okay, then it's probably you.

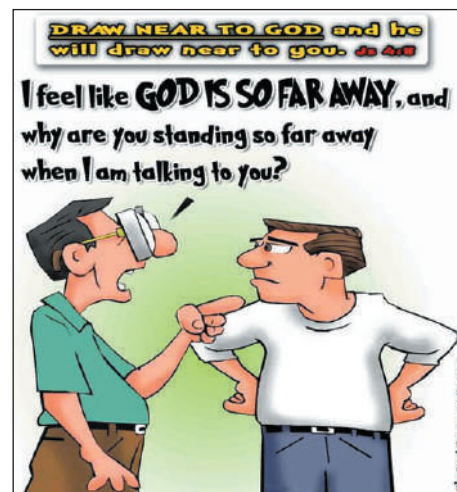
* * *

Paraplegic Humour

Q: Why didn't the paraplegic look in the mirror?

A: He couldn't stand to see himself like that.

* * *



The Weather Seer

A film crew is in the Scottish Highlands when an old Gaelic seer hobbles by and says, "Tomorrow, rain."

Sure enough, it rains the next day.

The seer returns and says, "Tomorrow, sunshine."

The next day, it's sunny.

Impressed, the director hires the seer for weather predictions.

After a few weeks, the seer stops showing up.

The director finds him in a hut and asks, "Why aren't you working?"

The seer replies, "Radio's broken."

* * *

The Barber's Wooden Ball

A man visits a barber for a shave and complains about the difficulty of getting a close shave around his cheeks.

The barber hands him a small wooden ball and says, "Place this between your cheek and gum."

The man does so, and the barber gives him the closest shave ever.

The man asks, "What if I swallow it?"

The barber replies, "No problem. Just bring it back tomorrow like everyone else does."

Union of Employees of the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care

The Annual General Meeting of Union of Employees of the Trust Fund for Specialised Medical Care will be held on Saturday 01 February 2025 at 9.00 am at Prabhat Hall, Royal Road, Grand-Baie.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Finance
- Reports from Affiliates.
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers (if any)
- AOB

Compliant members are invited to attend.

Secretary

Coastal Resorts and Small Enterprises Employees Union

The Annual General Meeting of Coastal Resorts and Small Enterprises Employees Union will be held on Friday 31 January 2025 at 1.00 pm at Prabhat Hall, Royal Road, Grand-Baie.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising.
- President's Report
- Finance
- Reports from Affiliates.
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers (if any)
- AOB

Compliant members are invited to attend.

Secretary

Federation of Local Government and Other Labour Unions

The Annual Delegates Meeting of Federation of Local Government and Other Labour Unions will be held on Friday 31 January 2025 at 11.00 am at Prabhat Hall, Royal Road, Grand-Baie.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Finance
- Reports from Affiliates
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers/ Bureau/ Executive Council (if any)
- AOB

All compliant members and affiliates are encouraged to attend.

General Secretary

Federation of Democratic Labour Unions

The Annual Delegates Meeting of Federation of Democratic Labour Unions will be held on Friday 31 January 2025 at 9.00 am at Prabhat Hall, Royal Road, Grand-Baie.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Finance
- Reports from Affiliates
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers/ Bureau/ Executive Council (if any)
- AOB

All compliant members and affiliates are encouraged to attend.

General Secretary

Something to think about

The Assassination of a British Prime Minister

The only assassination of a British Prime Minister happened in 1812. The killer spent 6 years being tortured in Russian prisons. But he wasn't a terrorist or spy. His motive? Something so shocking it's almost unbelievable. Let's start with betrayal.

In 1812, Prime Minister Spencer Perceval walked into Parliament like any other day. Minutes later, he lay dead on the floor—shot through the heart.

The killer didn't flee. He calmly sat down and said:

"I am the person who shot the Prime Minister. My name is John Bellingham."

He wasn't a spy or revolutionary. He was a merchant with a grudge over... paperwork. Bellingham was a businessman trading with Russia. But in 1804, disaster struck:

- He was falsely imprisoned in Russia
- His travel papers were confiscated
- His business was destroyed

The British government's response? "Not our problem."

Bellingham spent 6 brutal years in Russian prisons:

- Tortured regularly
- Nearly died from conditions
- Marched through streets in chains

When he finally escaped to England in 1809, he wanted one thing: Compensation.

For 3 years, he followed protocol:

- Filed endless petitions
- Wrote to every government office
- Begged for hearings

Each response? "Fill out more forms."

Then in April 1812, a civil servant made a fatal mistake...

The civil servant told him:



"You're free to take whatever *measures* you think proper."

Bellingham took this *literally*.

He bought two pistols, had a special coat pocket sewn, and waited in Parliament. At 5:15 PM, Perceval entered.

Bellingham stood, walked directly to him, and fired point-blank into his chest.

The Prime Minister's last words: "I am murdered!"

The killer sat down and waited for arrest.

The trial stunned England. Bellingham's defense was simple:

"I tried every legal channel. The government left me no choice."

The shocking part? Many people sympathized with him:

A French observer wrote:

"You taught ministers they should do justice when asked."

But sympathy wouldn't save him.

After a one-day trial, Bellingham was hanged.

His last words were chilling:

"I feel no hate for Mr. Perceval. But he led the government that refused me justice."

The aftermath changed Britain forever:

- Government reformed complaint systems

• No PM has been assassinated since

• New protections for citizens' rights

Sometimes, the deadliest threats aren't enemies...

They're ordinary people pushed too far.

The final irony?

Parliament later investigated Bellingham's claims.

He was right — he was owed compensation.

But it was too late for both the merchant and the Prime Minister he killed over paperwork.

This story isn't just about paperwork or bureaucracy.

It's about what happens when systems meant to serve people become their prison instead.

When efficiency trumps humanity.

When following protocol becomes more important than doing what's right.

A Lesson for Leaders

We may say it's not the PM's fault, but *the buck stops on his table*. He's responsible for everything under him. Let the bosses amongst us learn from this to pay attention to details and ensure everyone is treated fairly because not everyone is "normal."

A Short Moral Story

The Old Man and the Sheep

By Chima Dickson

An old man came upon a sheep in the forest. He walked up to it and asked,

"Do you want free food? My wife is an excellent cook, and she prepared some delicious food at home."

The sheep nodded eagerly and replied,

"Oh, yes, I want some free food. I'm starving!"

The old man smiled and said,

"Alright, wait here. I'll bring you some free food."

He left and soon returned with steaks, boiled eggs, and roasted vegetables, which he offered to the sheep. The sheep jumped happily and expressed its gratitude.

"You saved my life; you truly did!"

The next day, the old man met the sheep again in the forest and asked,

"Do you want a free drink? My wife made an excellent wine from grapes and berries. It tastes amazing."

The sheep nodded with enthusiasm and said,

"Yes, absolutely! I'm as dry as a bone."

The old man grinned and said,

"Okay then, just wait a moment. I'll bring you a free drink."

He left and soon returned with sweet wine, which he offered to the sheep. The sheep rejoiced, leaped with joy, and thanked him.

"You are a savior!"

On the third day, the old man came across the sheep yet again in the forest and asked,

"Do you want free shelter for the night? I have a decent and comfortable house where you'll be safe and protected."

The sheep nodded with approval and whispered,

"Yes, please. I need free shelter. I have no fixed abode."

The old man smiled and said,

"Alright, follow me. I'll take you to my house."

Shortly thereafter, they arrived at the old man's house. However, the moment they entered, the old man executed his plan. He picked up a shovel and struck the sheep on the head, killing it instantly.

Quickly, he slaughtered the sheep, skinned it, and roasted the meat. When his wife returned home, he told her,

"We've got free meat for the New Year's celebration."

His wife asked,

"What kind of meat is this?"

He replied,

"Just a foolish sheep that loved free things."

The Lessons

We shouldn't be blinded by the allure of free things without considering the hidden costs. Everything has a price. Greed can lead to our downfall.

When offered something for free, always consider:

1. **What are the long-term costs involved?**
2. **What are the recurring costs associated with it?**
3. **Is the value of getting it for free worth the hidden price?**



Cleaning Enterprises Workers' Association

1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Cleaning Enterprises Workers Association to be held on Sunday 16 March 2025 at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2025-2027
6. Appointment of Auditor for years 2025-2027
7. A.O.B

Julmain Dalambé
Secretary

Building & General Construction Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Building & General Construction Workers' Union to be held on Saturday 01 March 2025 at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 3.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2025-2027
6. Appointment of two Auditors for years 2025-2027
7. A.O.B

Devanand Kodai
Secretary

Know Your Partner in Every Season: The Key to a Successful Marriage

One of the major problems of marriage is that people often marry someone they haven't known in different seasons of life.

You must observe whoever you intend to marry through all their "seasons" before deciding to go ahead. Rushing into marriage without understanding how someone behaves in varied circumstances could lead to a "knotty" marriage you may regret forever.

I have counselled countless individuals who say, "I didn't know he was like this," or "She has changed; I never thought she could behave this way." The truth is, they haven't changed -- they are simply showing their true selves as they encounter a different season of life.

For example, a woman who appeared loving when you flaunted wealth but becomes unpleasant when you're broke or lose your job is only revealing her true nature during your season of lack. She hasn't changed -- she's just stepping out of her shell.

This is why men who flaunt wealth to attract women often marry people who love riches rather than them. Such women remain loyal and supportive only as long as the money keeps flowing.

Likewise, women who trap men with artificial beauty -- fake wigs, heavy makeup, padded features, borrowed clothes -- must continually maintain this image. If you marry a man with the "iPhone look" and later present the "Nokia 3310" version of yourself during pregnancy or motherhood, do you think you'll keep his interest?

That's why I always advise young men to see women in their natural state before deciding on marriage. Visit her early in the morning -- surprise her with a gift at 6 a.m. The woman you see then, free of makeup and filters, is the one you'll live with forever -- not the stiletto-wearing, perfume-scented version at work.



Seasons to Observe before Marriage

1. Season of Riches:

How does the person handle money? Are they wasteful? Ask questions like: "What would you do with a \$10,000 gift?" Pay attention to their priorities and financial mindset.

2. Season of Lack:

How do they behave when they are broke? What will they do when there's no money or food? Their reactions will tell you how they'll handle financial struggles in marriage.

3. Season of Conflict:

How do they handle disagreements? Do they shout, keep malice, walk away, or get violent? This behaviour won't change in marriage; it will only intensify. For instance, a wise girl broke up with a man who justified domestic violence because she foresaw how he would react in conflict.

4. Season of Celebration:

How do they act during parties or celebrations? Do

they get drunk or spend foolishly? Their attitude during good times reflects who they truly are.

5. Season of Sickness:

How do they handle being unwell? Do they seek proper help or blame others? Are they irritable? Understanding their response will prepare you for future challenges.

6. Season of Loss:

How do they handle grief or setbacks? Do they sink into depression, threaten suicide, or lash out? Can you cope with this behaviour in your shared life?

7. Season of Weakness:

Do they justify their flaws, or are they willing to admit them and grow? A willingness to improve is essential for a healthy marriage.

8. Season of Challenges:

How do they handle life's difficulties? Do they face them or run away? Do they constantly seek their mother's help? These behaviours will surface during tough times.

9. Season of Promotion:

How do they handle success? Do they become arrogant and proud, or do they remain humble, grateful, and eager to grow? More success and money will come -- how they behave now is a preview of the future.

10. Season of Temptation:

How do they respond to temptations? Their choices now will mirror their decisions later in life.

In conclusion, never marry someone without knowing how they behave in every season of their life. Observing and understanding these seasons will save you from a lifetime of regrets.

Pa Mulomo Zed

Health Tips

Top Foods for Your Heart

Incorporating heart-healthy foods into your diet can help prevent heart problems and keep your cardiovascular system in top shape. Here are foods that are good for your heart:

Fresh Herbs - Use fresh herbs instead of salt and fat to flavor your meals. Herbs add taste without the unhealthy extras, supporting heart health.

Black Beans - Rich in folate, magnesium, antioxidants, and fiber, black beans help lower blood pressure, control cholesterol, and regulate blood sugar. Add them to soups and salads.

Red Wine and Resveratrol - Red wine contains antioxidants like resveratrol, which protect artery walls and boost HDL cholesterol. Limit intake to one drink a day for women and two for men.

Salmon - Packed with omega-3 fatty acids, salmon reduces heart rhythm disorders, lowers blood pressure, triglycerides, and inflammation. The American Heart Association recommends two servings a week.

Tuna - Tuna, especially albacore, provides omega-3s at a lower cost than salmon. Grilled tuna with dill and lemon is



a great option. Choose water-packed tuna for a heart-healthy meal.

Olive Oil - Olive oil is a heart-healthy fat that can help reduce cholesterol levels. Opt for cold-pressed olive oil for the best flavor and nutritional benefits.

Walnuts - A small handful of walnuts daily may lower cholesterol and protect against inflammation in heart arteries. They're rich in omega-3s and healthy fats.

Almonds - Almonds help reduce LDL cholesterol with their plant sterols, fiber, and heart-healthy fats. A small handful a day is all you need.

Tofu - Tofu provides a great vegetarian protein source with heart-healthy minerals, fiber, and fats. Marinate and grill or stir-fry for a healthy meal.

Sweet Potatoes - With a lower glycemic index than white potatoes, sweet potatoes help regulate blood sugar. They are rich in fiber, vitamin A, and lycopene.

Oranges - Oranges are high in cholesterol-fighting fiber and potassium, which helps control blood pressure. They also support blood vessel health.

Swiss Chard - Packed with potassium, magnesium, and antioxidants, Swiss chard helps regulate blood pressure and offers heart-healthy fiber.

Barley - Barley's fiber helps lower cholesterol and blood sugar. It's a nutritious alternative to rice and great for soups and stews.

Oatmeal - Oatmeal's fiber helps lower LDL cholesterol and stabilize blood sugar. Choose steel-cut or slow-cooked oats for the best benefits.

Flaxseed - Rich in fiber, omega-3 fatty acids, and lignans, flaxseed supports heart health. Grind it for the best nutrition and add it to yogurt or baked goods.

Low-Fat Yogurt - Yogurt is high in calcium and potassium, which help control high blood pressure. Choose low-fat varieties for the best heart benefits.

Cherries - Rich in anthocyanins, cherries help protect blood vessels and improve circulation. They can be added to cereals, muffins, and salads.

Blueberries - Blueberries are loaded with anthocyanins and fiber, supporting

blood vessel health. Enjoy them fresh or dried in cereals, yogurt, or as a sweet sauce.

Dark Leafy Greens - Leafy greens like spinach, kale, and arugula are rich in nitrates, which help open blood vessels and improve circulation. Add them to salads, stir-fries, or roasted dishes.

Medically reviewed by Michael W. Smith, MD -- WebMD

GENERAL TRADE UNIONS FEDERATION

1st Floor Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the General Trade Unions Federation (GTUF) to be held on Sunday 06 April 2025 at its registered seat -- 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am.

AGENDA:

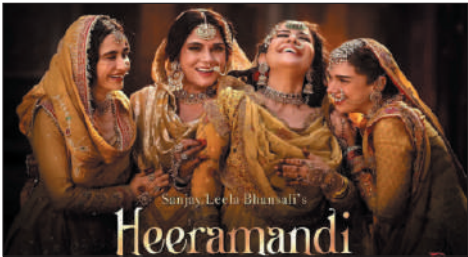
1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2025-2027
6. Appointment of two Auditors for years 2025-2027
7. AOB

Devanand Ramjuttun
Secretary

Bollywood 2025: Hindi Period Films To Look Out For

As the new year begins, industry players have set their plans and strategies for Bollywood 2025. With *Heeramandi*: The Diamond Bazaar being the only Indian project on Google's most-searched films and shows worldwide, filmmakers are now pinning hopes on period dramas. Here's a look at some of the most anticipated Bollywood period films scheduled for release in 2025, as reported by Forbes.

Heeramandi: The Diamond Bazaar



Sanjay Leela Bhansali's Netflix Original

Starring Manisha Koirala, Sonakshi Sinha, Aditi Rao Hydari, Richa Chadha, and Sanjeeda Shaikh, *Heeramandi* explores the lives and power struggles of courtesans in Lahore during British colonial rule. Known for Bhansali's signature grandeur, the show blends opulent sets, intricate costumes, and political undertones. It remains a landmark

project on Netflix.

* * *

Emergency

Directed by Kangana Ranaut

Releasing on **January 17, 2025**, *Emergency* stars Kangana Ranaut as India's first female Prime Minister, Indira Gandhi. The film delves into one of India's most controversial historical periods. With a stellar supporting cast, including Anupam Kher, Milind Soman, Shreyas Talpade, and the late Satish Kaushik, the movie promises a gripping narrative.

Production: Manikamika Films & Zee Studios

Music: Sanchit Balhara & G.V.Prakash Kumar

Screenplay: Ritesh Shah

* * *

Sky Force

Directed by Abhishek Anil Kapur & Sandeep Kewlani

Set against the backdrop of the **1965 Indo-Pak War**, *Sky Force* features Akshay Kumar, Nimrat Kaur, Sara Ali Khan, and Veer Pahariya. The film chronicles India's retaliation on Pakistan's Sargodha airbase and promises high-octane aerial combat



sequences. It's set for release on January 24, 2025.

* * *

Lahore 1947

Directed by Rajkumar Santoshi

Starring Sunny Deol, this period drama explores the traumatic events surrounding India's Partition. With its emotional narrative and historical significance, *Lahore 1947* is expected to be a powerful cinematic experience.

* * *

The Delhi Files

Directed by Vivek Agnihotri

Following the success of *The Kashmir Files*, filmmaker Vivek Agnihotri returns with *The Delhi Files*. The film is said to focus on

lesser-known stories from India's capital during significant historical events. Agnihotri's intense storytelling and eye for detail promise another thought-provoking narrative.

* * *

Chhaava

Directed by Laxman Utekar

Vicky Kaushal steps into the role of Chhatrapati Sambhaji Maharaj in this historical epic based on Shivaji Sawant's Marathi novel *Chhava*. Co-starring Rashmika Mandanna and Akshaye Khanna, the film explores the life and legacy of the Maratha king.

Production: Maddock Films

Music: A.R. Rahman

Screenplay: Rishi Virmani



The Livestock & Allied Industries Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of The Livestock & Allied Industries Workers Union to be held on Saturday 08 March 2025 at Bambous Village Hall at 4.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. AOB

Christophe Colfir
Secretary

The Salt Pans Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Salt Pans Workers Union to be held on Sunday 09 March 2025 at Rivière Noire Village Hall at 11.00 am.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. AOB

Marie France Dumatin
Secretary

Hindu Prabhat Sangh

The Annual General Meeting of **Hindu Prabhat Sangh** will be held on Saturday 01 March 2025 at 6.00 pm at Prabhat Hall, Royal Road, Grand-Baie.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising
- President's Report
- Finance
- Reports from Affiliates
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers (if any)
- AOB

All compliant members and affiliates are encouraged to attend.

Secretary

Moka District Council Employees Union

The Annual General Meeting of **Moka District Council Employees Union** will be held on 01 March 2025 at noon at La Foire St Pierre Building, St Pierre.

AGENDA:

- Approval of minutes of last AGM
- Matters Arising.
- President's Report
- Reports from Affiliates
- Motions/ amendments (if any)
- Election of office-bearers (if any)
- AOB
- Finance

Compliant members are invited to attend.

Secretary

Sugar Industry Labourers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Sugar Industry Labourers' Union to be held on Saturday 15 February 2025 at Emmanuel Anquetil Labour Centre, Grand River North-West, Port Louis at 10.00 am. In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be held on Saturday 01 March 2025 at same place and time.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Amendments to Rules – Articles 7.1 & 18.1
6. AOB

Parmanand Sydamah
Secretary

Union of Workers of Animal Farms

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Union of Workers of Animal Farms to be held on Saturday 15 March 2025 at Flic en Flac Village Hall at 4.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2025-2027
6. Appointment of Auditor for years 2025-2027
7. AOB

Rajeshkumar Jagaraj
Secretary

Beverages Industry Workers' Union

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Beverages Industry Workers' Union to be held on Sunday 16 March 2025 at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Dissolution of the union
6. AOB

Kaviraj Teeluck
Secretary

Local Authorities Workers' Association

1st Floor, Pearl House
Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis
Tel./Fax: 208-0320

Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Local Authorities Workers' Association to be held on Saturday 08 March 2025 at Rose Belle Village Council at 2.00p.m. In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be held on Saturday 22 March 2025 at same place at 2.00 pm.

AGENDA:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. AOB

Sutyandising Runglall
Secretary



Vendredi 10 janvier - 21.05



Samedi 11 janvier - 20.30



Dimanche 12 decembre - 15.20



Programme TV



SERIAL



vendredi 10 janvier

MBC 1

- 07.30 Serial: Under Pressure
- 08.35 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi
- 09.30 Film: La Momie
- 11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Tele: Terre Nostra
- 13.30 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.21 Film: Jurassic World: Fallen..
- 17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.00 Serial: Doree
- 19.20 Sayings Radha Krishna
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: The Mountain Between US
- 22.20 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 23.37 Le Journal
- 00.22 The Bionic Woman
- 01.10 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin

MBC 2

- 06.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes
- 06.35 Local: En Forme
- 07.22 Rodrig: Sa Lavi-La
- 10.32 Rodrig: J'ai Faim
- 12.00 Rodrig: Decouvertes
- 13.37 Rodrig: Nu Lakwizin
- 14.34 Local: J'ai Faim
- 15.05 Local: Metie
- 15.46 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion
- 16.32 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 18.00 Seiral: Passion And Power
- 18.30 Les Riches Pleurent
- 19.20 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir...
- 19.38 Local Production
- 20.52 Local: Not To Use
- 23.13 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.18 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
- 23.38 Local: Meshiagare...
- 23.51 Rodrig Otantik
- 00.20 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 00.32 Rodrig Prog: Zenn Aktif

MBC 3

- 07.00 Mag: Tenali Rama
- 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 08.09 Local: Amrit Vani
- 10.00 Serial: Agniphera
- 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Humse Na Jeeta Koi
- Starring: Amjad Khan, Randhir Kapoor, Raj Kiran, Ranjeeta
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 19.00 Local: Banane With Bhojpuri
- 20.00 Local: Khel Khiladi
- 20.30 Serial: Vidrohi
- 21.00 Film: Nayak
- Starring: Pradeep Pandey
- 23.25 Serial: Mere Sai
- 00.30 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya

Cine 12

- 07.00 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 08.32 D.Anime: Anna Et Ses Amis
- 10.04 Film: Souris City
- 11.30 Mag: Eco India
- 12.26 Mag: Tomorrow Today
- 12.58 Film: Tut! Tut! Cory Bolides
- 13.40 Film: The Secrets Of Gravity
- 14.25 D.Anime: Kids Songs
- 14.29 D.Anime: N*Gen
- 15.21 Story Time With Mr. Booksy
- 15.49 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.13 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 16.35 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 16.57 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
- 17.43 Doc: Shift
- 18.00 Doc: My Body, My Sense...
- 18.42 Mag: Rev Special
- 19.28 Mag: Vous Et Vous
- 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
- 20.50 Doc: Transylvania
- 21.32 Doc: It's In The Air

Bollywood TV

- 14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan
- 14.55 Serial: Doree
- 15.30 Film: Marne Bhi Do Yaaron
- Cast: Krushna Abhishek, Kashmira Shah, R. Chauhaan
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.01 Udaariyaan
- 19.32 Dharam Patni
- 20.01 Mithai
- 20.31 Serial:
- 21.01 Anupamaa
- 21.31 Mere Sai
- 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa
- 23.30 Film: Marne Bhi Do Yaaron
- Cast: Krushna Abhishek, Kashmira Shah, R. Chauhaan

samedi 11 janvier

MBC 1

- 03.10 Serial: F.B.I
- 04.43 Serial: Wanted
- 06.20 Tele: All The Flowers
- 06.45 Serial: Hooten & The Lady
- 08.20 Serial: Blue Lights
- 09.15 Serial: Under Pressure
- 10.00 Serial: Wanted
- 10.49 Serial: F.B.I
- 11.30 Tele: All The Flowers
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Serial: Seal Team
- 13.18 Tele: Barbarita...
- 15.00 Live: Samachar
- 15.25 Film: The Mountain Between US
- 17.20 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa...
- 19.30 Le Journal
- 20.30 Film: Assault On VA-33
- 21.55 Serial: Wanted
- 22.39 Tele: Sublime Mensonge

- 06.00 Local: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig
- 06.31 Local: Aktiv
- 07.05 Local: Itinerer Rodrig
- 08.32 Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini
- 09.59 Rodrig Otantik
- 10.30 Local: Dance Fever
- 12.00 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir
- 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard...
- 13.25 Local: Couleur Marine
- 14.14 Rodrig: Ala Nou Vini
- 15.55 Local: Retrovizer
- 16.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 18.05 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Millions
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.30 Rodrig: Kot Nou
- 20.06 Local Production
- 22.00 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion
- 22.48 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 22.59 Journal Kreol Rediffusion
- 23.20 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL

- 05.00 Mag: Aastha TV
- 06.59 Film: Super Bheem
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog
- 10.27 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2
- 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo
- 12.30 Local: Mati Ke Mol
- 12.55 Banane With Bhojpuri Boys
- 14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan
- 14.30 Mag: Talaash
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.22 Film: Mere Baap Pehle Aap
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Saying Radha Krishna
- 19.15 Local: Best Songs 2024
- 21.00 Film: Setters
- Cast: Aftab Shivdasani, Ishita Dutta
- 23.13 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 23.39 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 23.54 Bet Songs 2024
- 00.54 Bollywood Express

- 06.00 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 06.26 D.Anime: Drole De Bocal
- 09.10 D.Anime: Caillou
- 09.34 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 09.45 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
- 10.46 Film: Gnomeo Et Juliet
- 13.00 Film: Rio
- 14.34 Serial: N*Gen
- 15.00 D.Anime: Nuzo And Zamia
- 15.53 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.17 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 16.40 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 17.01 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
- 18.05 Mag: In Good Shape
- 18.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites
- 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
- 20.50 Doc: Princess For A Day
- 21.40 Film: La Favorite
- 23.39 Doc: Antarctica
- 00.22 Doc: Stolen Soul
- 01.04 Doc: Charlotte Knobloch
- 01.47 Mag: In Good Shape

- 08.00 Dharam Patni
- 09.49 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 10.02 Mithai
- 12.00 Udaariyaan
- 14.10 Anupamaa
- 16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 17.36 Vidrohi
- 18.30 Film: Shubh Mangal Saavdhan
- With: Ayushmann Khurrana, Bhumi Pednekar
- 20.40 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein

dimanche 12 janvier

MBC 1

- 02.25 Film: La Favorite
- 05.50 Serial: Gout De L'amour
- 06.18 Tele: All The Flowers
- 06.40 Film: Assault On Va-33
- 08.10 Serial: Pearson
- 08.55 Film: Florence Foster
- 10.48 Serial: F.B.I
- 11.35 Tele: All The Flowers
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.35 Film: Assault On Va-33
- 14.10 Serial: Zoo
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.20 Film: Mamma Mia
- 17.10 Tele: L'empire Du Mensonge
- 19.30 Le Journal Televisé
- 20.30 Film: The Fault In Our Stars
- 22.27 Serial: Pearson
- 23.13 Mag: Red Carpet
- 23.30 Le Journal
- 00.15 Tele: Sublime Mensonge

- 06.00 Rodrig Prog: Coin Zen
- 07.09 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 09.05 Local Production
- 09.38 Rodrig Prog: Promnad
- 10.03 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion
- 12.00 Rodrig: Rod'Art
- 12.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 14.29 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL
- 15.00 Local Production
- 16.40 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 16.50 Local: En Forme
- 17.08 Local: Saver Kiltirel
- 18.03 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Toris Millions
- 19.00 Journal Kreol
- 19.24 Local: Info En Langue...
- 20.05 Local Production
- 21.47 Rodrig: Nu Lakwizin
- 22.26 Local: Clin D'Oeil
- 22.46 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion

- 06.59 Film: Super Bheem
- 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness
- 08.33 Local: Puranya Pakwan
- 08.59 Duniya Mein Iss Saptah
- 10.30 Serial: Mahabharat
- 12.00 Film: Chaita Hai Yaar
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 17.00 Bollywood Express
- 18.00 Live: Samachar
- 18.30 Planet Bollywood
- 19.00 Local: Tohar Rashi
- 20.31 Serial: Porus
- 21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein
- 21.30 Naagin
- 22.12 Serial: Bahubali
- 22.56 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 23.48 Planet Bollywood
- 00.15 Tohar Rashi
- 01.30 Film: Chaita Hai Yaar
- Cast: Raghubir Yadav, Himani...

- 08.22 D.Anime: Patamuse
- 09.10 D.Anime: Caillou
- 09.26 D.Anime: Tut! Tut! Cory...
- 09.43 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2
- 10.16 Serial: Intelligence
- 10.38 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover
- 10.50 Film: Spies In Disguise
- 12.38 Doc: Top Dive Sites
- 13.07 Film: Rio 2
- 14.48 Mag: N*Gen
- 15.14 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
- 15.40 D.Anime: Story Time With...
- 16.00 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.53 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 17.15 Serial: Espoirs Secrets
- 18.00 Doc: Ageless Gardens
- 18.30 Doc: Brilliant Corners
- 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 20.00 Tele: All The Flowers
- 20.30 Live: News
- 21.40 Film: Pyewaket

- 00.00 Mithai
- 01.45 Udaariyaan
- 03.45 Anupamaa
- 05.49 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani
- 07.34 Tenali Rama
- 08.00 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey
- 10.00 Kundali Bhagya
- 12.00 Rajaa Betaa
- 14.00 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se
- 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya
- 18.38 Film: Cocktail
- Cast: Saif Ali Khan, Deepika Padukone, Diana Penty
- 20.48 Tenali Rama
- 21.00 Mahabharat
- 21.47 Dance India Dance Super Moms
- 22.35 Rajaa Betaa
- 00.27 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey

lundi 13 janvier

MBC 1

- 03.15 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 04.06 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 05.18 Tele: Gout De L'Amour
- 06.06 Serial: The Queen Of Flow
- 07.28 Serial: Supercopier
- 08.37 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent
- 09.35 Film: Jurassic World
- 11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 12.00 Le Journal
- 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin
- 14.10 Serial: Supercopier
- 15.00 Samachar
- 15.25 Film: The Fault In Our Stars
- 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti
- 19.07 Serial: Doree
- 20.10 Serial: Hawaii
- 20.55 Serial: Blue Lights
- 21.55 Tele: Terra Nostra
- 22.48 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune

- 08.05 Local: Sega Tipik
- 09.27 Local: Clin D'Oeil
- 10.06 Local: En Toute Intimite
- 12.13 Local: Nu Rasinn
- 12.57 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 13.02 Rodrig: Spektak Variete
- 14.01 Local: Clin D'oeil
- 16.08 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 16.13 Local: Les Klips
- 17.07 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder
- 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent...
- 19.30 Le Magazine De L'emploi
- 19.34 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel
- 20.24 Local: Metie
- 20.35 Local: Tous Egaux
- 21.06 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante
- 21.53 Les Grandes Lignes
- 22.23 Lir - Ekri Kreol Morisien
- 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard
- 23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris

- 07.00 Tenali Rama
- 07.12 Gadget Guru Ganesha
- 08.00 Local: Planet Bollywood
- 08.41 Local: Sadabahaar Gaane
- 09.40 Bahubali
- 10.20 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...
- 11.30 Radha Krishna
- 12.00 Film: Tulsi Vivah
- 15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar
- 15.50 Kundali Bhagya
- 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna
- 18.30 Radha Krishna
- 18.57 Local: Surya Kranti...
- 19.30 Excerpts From Shiv Abhishek - Medine Camp De Masque
- 20.42 Serial: Ramayan
- 21.07 Film: Banarasi Thug
- With: Manoj Kumar, Vijaya Choudhoury
- 23.32 Serial: Mere Sai

- 06.25 Doc: Brilliant Corners
- 07.18 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 07.48 Doc: Dogs & US
- 09.13 Doc: Umoja-Where Woman...
- 10.42 Doc: Destination Mars
- 11.08 Doc: Ageless Gardens
- 11.30 Doc: Brilliant Corners
- 12.23 Mag: Arts Unveiled
- 13.35 Doc: Rodolfo's Dream
- 15.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids
- 15.19 Serial: Story Time With Ms...
- 15.38 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob
- 16.02 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs
- 16.16 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter
- 16.38 D.Anime: Miraculous...
- 16.59 D.Anime: Espoirs Secrets
- 17.46 Mag: Shift
- 18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent
- 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape
- 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers
- 21.05 Film: The Holiday

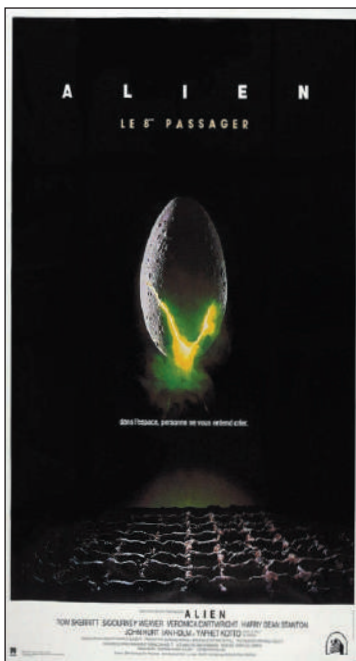
- 14.25 Radha Mohan
- 14.51 Doree
- 15.25 Film: Haathi Mere Sathi
- Starring: Bhuvan Arora, Sheeba Chaddha, Rana Daggubati
- 18.00 Samachar
- 18.31 Kundali Bhagya
- 19.00 Udaariyaan
- 19.30 Dharam Patni
- 20.05 Mithai
- 20.33 Shrimad Ramayan
- 21.09 Anupamaa
- 21.32 Mere Sai



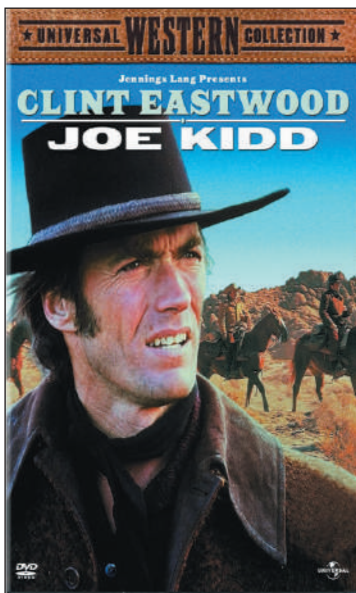
Mardi 14 janvier - 20.30



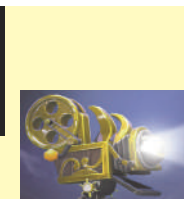
Mercredi 15 janvier - 20.45



Jeudi 16 janvier - 21.00



Programme TV



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 14 janvier	05.23 Tele: Gout De L'Amour 06.01 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 08.12 Tele: All The Flowers 09.30 Film: Viceroy's House 11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 15.21 Film: The Holiday 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.58 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: The Assault 21.40 Tele: Terra Nostra 22.38 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.08 Mag: Red Carpet 23.30 Le Journal 00.39 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	07.45 Local: Metie 10.27 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 11.14 Rodrig Mo Pei 12.00 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.22 Local: Tous Egaux 14.35 Lir - Ekir Kreol Morisien 15.02 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif 15.33 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 16.36 La Journee Sous Le Regard 16.49 Local: En Forme 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.24 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.04 Journal Kreol 19.24 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.04 Local: An Eta Dalert 20.27 Festival International Kreol 20.47 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.23 Local: Le Mag 22.22 Local: Mots En Ecrits 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.23 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 10.07 Kundali Bhagya 11.41 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Yeh Raat Phir Na Aayegi 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajanwa Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Sankranti Utsav 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Baghban Cast: Amitabh Bachchan, Hema Malini, Aman Verma 00.03 Serial: Mere Sai 00.47 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 01.07 Local: Sankranti Utsav 02.03 Local: Sangeet Sankranti	07.00 Mag: Africa 54 07.19 Mag: In Good Shape 07.49 Mag: Planet A 08.02 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.43 Doc: Eyes On The Taiga 12.32 Mag: In Good Shape 13.00 Mag: Planet A 14.29 D.Anime: N*Gen 14.57 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 15.35 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.50 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.14 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.36 D.Anime: Miraculous... 16.54 Serial: Espoirs Secrets 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Healthy Living 18.45 Mag: Red Carpet 19.30 Mag: Global US 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.50 Tele: Seref Meselesi 22.18 Mag: Initiative Africa	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Baar Baar Dekho Cast: Katrina Kaif, Sidharth Malhotra 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.06 Mithai 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Mere Sai 22.04 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.34 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.04 Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Baar Baar Dekho 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan 03.00 Dharam Patni
mercredi 15 janvier	06.02 Serial: The Queen Of Flow 07.28 Serial: Airwolf 08.20 Tele: All The Flowers 09.35 Film: The Assault 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.46 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Airwolf 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Tele: Seref Meselesi 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Serial: Doree 19.20 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.45 Film: Alien, Le Huitieme Passager Cast: Sigourney Weaver, Tom Skerritt, Veronica Cartwright	07.08 Festival International Kreol 08.20 Local: Profil 09.00 Le Mag 10.29 Local: Music Tour 11.29 Local: Rodrig - Plat Du Chef 11.52 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles 13.36 Nou Later Nou Lamer... 14.24 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.25 Local: Glwar Dantan 15.56 Local: Mots et Ecrits 15.40 Local: Aktiv 17.00 Local: Music Tour 18.00 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.20 Local: Rodrig Spor 19.51 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.00 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 20.26 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.41 Local: En Forme 20.56 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.26 Local: Nostalgia	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.33 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Sankranti Utsav 10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.00 Film: Barsaat Cast: Nargis, Raj Kapoor, Premnath Malhotra 15.00 Samachar 15.20 Serial: Radha Krishna 15.33 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 15.53 Radha Mohan 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 19.00 Local: Sankranti 20.30 Talaash 21.00 Film: Ram Balram 23.30 Serial: Mere Sai 00.14 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya	07.00 Mag: Made In Germany 08.43 Doc: Smart New World 10.13 Doc: Multi Tasking 11.41 Mag: Red Carpet 12.26 Mag: Global US 13.00 Mag: Initiative Africa 14.30 Mag: N*Gen 14.57 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 15.29 D.Anime: Story Time With... 15.49 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.13 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.36 D.Anime: Miraculous 16.58 D.Anime: The Avatars 17.20 Doc: Japan Video Topics 17.30 Mag: REV 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Mag: Music Maestra 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Craft Chocolate	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Badhaai Ho Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Neena Gupta, Gajraj Rao 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.28 Mere Sai 22.05 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.20 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Badhaai Ho Cast: Ayushmann Khurrana, Neena Gupta, Gajraj Rao 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan
jeudi 16 janvier	06.03 Tele: The Queen Of Flow 08.11 Serial: All The Flowers 08.37 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.30 Film: Assault On Va-33 11.33 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Terra Nostra 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: L'Homme Qui Valait Trois Milliards 15.25 Film: Alien, Le Huitieme... 17.18 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.56 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: A Thursday Stars: Yami Gautam, Atul Kulkarni, Neha Dhupia 22.19 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.30 Le Journal	06.50 Local: Aktiv 07.59 Rodrig: Kot Nou 08.35 Local: Proze Dime 10.40 Rodrig Prog: A Nou Kwi 12.00 Rodrig Spor 12.26 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 12.57 Local: Toc Toc Doc 14.41 Rodrig: Kot Nou 15.10 Rodrig: A Nou Kwi 16.51 Local: En Forme 17.06 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig Prog: Decouvertes 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 21.05 Local: Ti Zistwar Zanfan 21.48 Reveillon Musical 23.17 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.22 Journal Rediffusion 23.42 Rodrig Prog: Klip Seleksion	07.00 Tenali Rama 08.00 Local: Yatra 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Shama Cast: Nimmi, Vijay Dutt, M. Kumar 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Sajanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.56 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Sayings Radha Krishna 18.41 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 20.35 Serial: Ramayan 21.01 Serial: Shiv Shakti 21.30 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.57 Mag: Dharam Yatra 22.20 Mere Sai 23.05 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.29 Local: Amrit Vani	07.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.47 Doc: Craft Chocolate 08.35 Doc: Turning Vapor Into... 10.00 Doc: Transactions 10.52 Doc: Made To Measure 11.35 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.05 Mag: Music Maestra 13.00 Doc: At Nato's Icy Border... 13.28 Doc: Craft Chocolate 15.00 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 15.25 D.Anime: Story Time With... 15.39 D.Anime: Kika Et Bob 15.51 D.Anime: Les Schtroumpfs 16.02 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.04 D.Anime: The Avatars 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 21.00 Film: Joe Kidd	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.25 Film: Welcome Back Stars: John Abraham, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dharam Patni 20.00 Mithai 20.24 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupamaa 21.34 Mere Sai 22.01 Kismat Ki Lakiron Se 22.29 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.05 Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: Welcome Back Stars: John Abraham, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar

BTV Jeudi 16 janvier - 15.30

Stars: John Abraham, Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar



Jeudi 16 janvier - 20.21

Stars: Yami Gautam, Atul Kulkarni, Neha Dhupia





Kul Bhushan

Month-long European tour made her brave and changed her forever

Travelling solo across ten countries, she became open with new thinking

A month-long solo tour of Europe... When Priya, a young and single bank executive, shared this plan with her parents, they were horrified. "What? Are you crazy?" was their initial reaction. "And how much would you spend on this trip?" they wanted to know. It was working out around Rupees five lakhs (Rs 500,000). "Five lakhs! No way are you going to spend this huge amount! Remember, you have to get married soon and you will need every Rupee you have for that. After marriage, you can go on a honeymoon with this amount. Or you could buy a new car."

Priya was not convinced. She argued that marriage was not on the horizon and has unlimited budget and what if her husband does not want to go on a honeymoon to Europe? And a car can be bought anytime in instalments. "I was taught that I cannot think big because it is only for the rich, high-class people, out of my reach," she mused. And she was travelling all alone. Don't worry, she replied, in the first half of 2024, more than 15 million Indian nationals travelled abroad, which is higher than the same period in 2023.

Shattering these prejudices of family and friends was tough but she managed. "I started travelling because I used to read blogs, watch vlogs and many articles about solo travelling and it always fascinated me. Listening to stories by relatives of their distant travels made me curious. Travelling made me explore the unexplored," she says.

Half A Million

After spending more than a month on the web to plan her trip, she found that a one-week package tour of Europe was priced at Rs 150,000 to Rs 170,000 and a two-week package was more than Rs 250,000. Since she had applied for leave for a full month, she wanted to spend all that time in Europe. Meanwhile, her travel budget rocketed to Rupees over half a million!

Was group travel an option for her? In group travel, you make friends and enemies almost instantly, everyone does not have the same taste or priority. As the tour begins, you quickly identify one person who wants to dominate everybody all the time. Then you will soon identify one person who is always late and keeps everyone waiting. Everyone does not have the same idea of touring, sightseeing, shopping, museums or street music. So, you have to compromise. Some group members are always energetic and raring to go while others are slow and burnt out. Grouses and gossips dominate conversations and when disagreements become quarrels, mini-groups are formed and the atmosphere becomes sour. So, after talking to many people who had survived package tours, she concluded that going solo was best for her.



During her month-long European tour, Priya visited iconic landmarks like the Colosseum in Rome, the charming city of Bruges in Belgium, and a historic church in Prague. She revelled in the serene Swiss snow and even made a new friend in Rome, creating memories to cherish forever



After deciding on the destinations to visit, Priya searched the web for youth hostels in the city center, as well as information on public transport, restaurants, major tourist spots, nightlife, and air and railway connections, among other details. She then finalized her trip and booked her air tickets.

"After I boarded the plane, I could not process the feeling that I was flying abroad on a connecting flight to Barcelona via Zurich. I had a stopover for only 30 minutes at Zurich so I missed the connecting flight," she recalls. Fascinated by seeing a different world: smart lounges, handsome men, sparkling shops, no wonder she missed her flight but got on the next one. She made a video call immediately to the family to show some facets of western culture to them.

Nightlife in Streets

On reaching Barcelona, she took the bus to arrive at the hostel in the city centre. Awed by the unique architecture, she found street walks were different with roadside cafes and ladies in short dresses, smoking in public, drinking beer. The white wheat beer tasted different. "I enjoyed the freedom of travelling alone," she says. The heart of the old town is full of cafes, clubs and bars in Gothic Quarter in the legendary Las Ramblas, Maria Cubi and Santalo streets where people are drinking, dancing, laughing and enjoying till sunrise. No wonder the young crowd from India makes a beeline for Barcelona.

Next stop: Seville. Skydiving was the main attraction for her. Hesitant, she was assured that it was safe with an average injury rate of 0.044 per cent. Just be careful while landing. Imagine jumping from 14,000

feet and conquering her fears, which was a big thrill. In the evening, she went to watch flamenco foot tapping dancing by men and women fascinated me as the energy was very high.

Cash Mobile Stolen

Ibiza, a party island, was the next stop. Famous for its pristine seashore, nudity on beaches, lively nightlife in bars and clubs, quiet villages and retreats, she lapped it all. The carefree atmosphere was sheer bliss.

On to Amsterdam, the city of canals and bicycles, art galleries and museums was overwhelming. Reminded of the actress Kangana Renaut in her hit movie 'Queen', she let go and made friends like her. Enjoying in a cafe, she was tipsy in the morning when, to her horror, she discovered her cash and mobile had been stolen. The shock sobered her and went to report the theft at the police station. Luckily, she had another mobile and phoned her family to help and bought another mobile with her credit card. Like Kangana, she made a friend, but the theft shook her.

Bruges in Belgium was another city of canals, but she found the Burg square in city centre quite enjoyable as she gobbles French Fries and Waffles and walked to nearby Market Square to see shops selling its famous lace. The chocolates were memorable.

Lovers Walking Kissing

On to Paris, the city for romance as she discovered high fashion on its streets, everyone relaxing at street side cafes, lovers walking and kissing on the bridges and banks of River Seine and finally the Eiffel Tower still

displaying the five-rings symbol of the Olympics Games held a few weeks ago. Walking through the Tuileries Gardens was a delight, with people enjoying the beautiful views of Paris, the statues, and the fresh flowers. What a feast for the eyes!

In Switzerland, she found a paradise of nature — silent, peaceful, clean, and well-organized. As she took in the calm scenes, her mental heaviness lifted, and she felt light and refreshed.

During her four-day visit to Prague, she was never without her umbrella as it rained almost all the time. But she managed to see the fairy tale castles, walked the Old Town Square, Charles Bridge with statues of saints and was fascinated by the animated hourly show by the Astronomical Clock.

Bars with Black Dress

Moving to Venice, she found no streets but canals as everyone travelled by boats with their tall oars. Full of tourists, she walked the Saint Mark's Square admiring the great architecture. Venice could not be left out of her grand European tour.

Now it was Italy all the way with Florence. After touring the famous Duomo Cathedral and other sites, she enjoyed some famous artworks. In the evening, she wore her black dress and went to bars to taste different wines, meet people and watched the sunset.

The final stop was the eternal city of Rome. Plenty to see with the Colosseum, Trevi Fountain, Pantheon, Vatican...the list goes on and on. But most of all, she made many friends and gorged on real Italian pasta, pizza and gelatos.

"After roaming ten countries, I am not the same person. Every country was a new challenge especially after losing my mobiles and cash. No time for any social media. Just for myself," she recalls, "It was the most surreal experience of my life," she gushes.

Not Same Person

And how much did she spend? Almost Rs 800,000. Really, all that much!

"It was worth every penny I spent as travelling is always an investment and not an expense. Friends said I could have bought a new car with the same amount but I chose to spend it on my experience. Travelling alone gave me clarity. I did not know that I am this brave. It was just like a movie and the end is where I start again!" she replies.

No wonder the saying, "Travel is the only thing you buy that makes you richer."

"When I returned, I was not the same person who boarded the plane for this trip. I have changed tremendously and am a newborn now. I am open to everything and anything now; this change happened after my trip. Travel more! Explore more! Live More! Laugh more! This is the philosophy of my life now. I got this vision of life when I started travelling. I always loved to know more. It keeps me interested, calm, joyful and happy," says Priya. What more can she ask for?

Anand Kul Bhushan is a writer, journalist, UN media consultant and workshop/meditation leader.