

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• The price of independence was heavy, but the freedom it brings is priceless. - Narendra Modi

Interview: Dharambeer Gokhool, President of the Republic

## “Trust in politics and politicians must be a national priority...”

...we need to commit ourselves to the emergence of a new political culture which is in sync with the expectations and values of the upcoming generations”

● ‘The new government is only a few months old. Give them time to prove that the choice the people made in November was not just another mistake’



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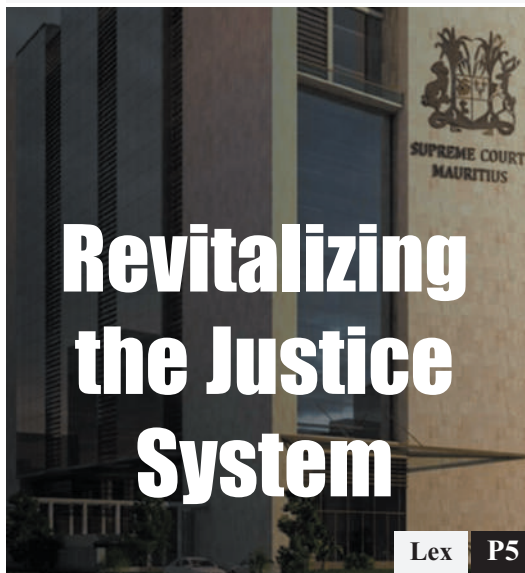


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# Mauritius at 57

**A**s Mauritius marks its 57th year of independence, it is both an occasion for celebration and a time for deep reflection. Last year, we raised pressing concerns about the erosion of democratic values, governance failures, and the need for constitutional reform. While much of what was said then remains relevant, the political landscape has shifted with the newly elected government promising a series of sweeping reforms. The question now is whether these reforms will reinforce the core values of our democracy, or if they will simply remain promises on paper.

Since gaining independence in 1968, Mauritius has undergone a remarkable transformation, transitioning from a mono-crop sugar-based economy to a diversified, upper-middle-income country with robust sectors such as textiles, tourism, and financial services. However, economic progress alone does not define nationhood. For years, concerns have persisted regarding the sustainability of our democratic institutions, the erosion of public trust in governance, and the ability of our constitutional framework to effectively safeguard the rule of law. These issues are not new, but they have taken on greater urgency in recent years.

## A Need for Democratic Renewal

Over the past decade, institutional independence and the rule of law have faced significant challenges. Key institutions such as the judiciary, law enforcement agencies, the media, and independent commissions have often found themselves under political pressure. Reports of executive overreach, selective justice, and suppression of dissent have been frequent. Such issues undermine the very essence of democracy and highlight the urgent need for systemic reform.

**E**ncouragingly, the newly elected government has announced a series of reforms aimed at restoring democratic governance and reinforcing institutional independence. The establishment of a new National Crime Agency to replace the Financial Crimes Commission is a step towards strengthening the fight against financial crime. Similarly, the creation of a distinct Court of Appeal with internationally recognized foreign judges alongside local experts promises to enhance judicial independence and fairness in the dispensation of justice.

For years, legal experts, civil society organizations, and political observers have called for comprehensive constitutional reform. The establishment of a Constitutional Review Commission, as outlined in the government's programme, could provide a long-overdue opportunity to modernize our legal framework. Key issues such as electoral reform, the balance of powers, the independence of oversight institutions, and the protection of civil liberties must be at the forefront of this review.

Electoral reform remains a particularly pressing concern. The current electoral system has been criticized for failing to ensure fair representation and for perpetuating communal divisions. Updating and ensuring the transparency of electoral registers, expediting the resolution of election petitions, and implementing modernized electoral practices in line with international democratic standards must be key priorities.

## Restoring the Rule of Law

The introduction of a Police and Criminal Evidence Bill and related policing reforms is another significant aspect of



the government's agenda. Over the years, the credibility of law enforcement agencies has suffered due to allegations of political interference, police brutality, and inefficiencies in crime control. A reformed police system, operating with greater transparency, accountability, and adherence to human rights principles, is essential to restoring public trust.

The rampant spread of drug trafficking remains a major challenge. Despite previous attempts to curb the crisis, drug networks have continued to expand, affecting all levels of Mauritian society. A robust and independent anti-drug enforcement strategy, combined with stronger rehabilitation programmes and community support initiatives, is urgently needed.

The past years have also seen numerous governance failures, including irregularities in government procurement, opaque decision-making, and controversial appointments to key institutions. Institutions such as the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation (MBC) and the Gambling Regulatory Authority have been subject to criticisms of bias, inefficiency, and mismanagement. The government's commitment to reforming these entities will be closely watched. Genuine efforts to ensure transparency and accountability, rather than superficial restructuring, will determine whether these reforms succeed.

**P**ublic procurement processes have long been a source of concern, with numerous instances of emergency procurement procedures being misused to bypass transparency requirements. Strengthening oversight mechanisms, enforcing strict compliance with procurement regulations, and ensuring independent auditing of major contracts will be critical to restoring confidence in government dealings.

A truly democratic nation requires a free and independent media landscape. The past decade has witnessed increasing attempts to stifle free speech, regulate social media in ways that could enable surveillance, and limit the freedom of independent journalists. The government's com-

mitment to reforming the Independent Broadcasting Authority (IBA) and the Information and Communication Technologies Authority (ICTA) will be a crucial test of its dedication to media freedom.

## Economic Challenges and Inequality

Despite impressive economic growth over the years, rising income inequality and economic concentration continue to pose significant challenges. Wealth accumulation in the hands of a few, coupled with a decline in purchasing power for middle and lower-income households, risks fostering social instability. If economic policies continue to favour a select elite while neglecting broader social welfare, the long-term sustainability of our progress will be called into question.

A more inclusive economic model is necessary—one that ensures fair access to opportunities, promotes innovation, and safeguards the rights of workers. Addressing inequality must also involve better education and healthcare policies, targeted social assistance programmes, and a strong regulatory framework to prevent exploitation in key industries.

**T**he success of these reforms will ultimately depend on the quality of leadership steering them. The 1960s and 70s saw the rise of visionary leaders who guided Mauritius through its early years of independence and economic transformation. Today's complex challenges—ranging from climate change to technological disruption and social fragmentation—require equally capable leaders who can transcend political opportunism and embrace long-term strategic thinking.

A key concern remains whether the current political class, including both veteran politicians and the emerging generation, possesses the will and vision to enact meaningful change. The political culture of patronage, dynastic politics, and self-interest must be replaced with a system that rewards competence, ethical governance, and a commitment to national progress.

## A Crossroads Moment for Mauritius

As we commemorate 57 years of independence, Mauritius stands at a crossroads. The government's ambitious reform agenda presents a rare opportunity to correct the missteps of the past and reinforce democratic principles. However, true progress will only be achieved if these reforms are pursued with genuine intent, rather than serving as mere political posturing.

The nation's democratic foundations were built on principles of justice, equality, and the rule of law. It is imperative that we safeguard these values, ensuring that Mauritius continues to be a beacon of stability and progress in the region. Citizens must remain vigilant, demanding accountability from their leaders and actively participating in the democratic process.

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Prakash Neerohoo  
Auditeur/fiscaliste

## Contrôle des crimes financiers

# La FCC sur les chapeaux de roues

**L**a Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), sous la direction d'une nouvelle équipe, a démarré sur les chapeaux de roues avec de nouvelles enquêtes qui défrayent la chronique. Après l'inculpation de l'ancien Premier ministre sous une charge provisoire de blanchiment d'argent à la suite de la saisie de quatre valises contenant Rs 114 millions en devises diverses, une autre grosse pointure du MSM est tombée dans le filet de la FCC: l'ancien Attorney General, inculpé sous une charge provisoire de corruption relativement à un contrat de bail sur un terrain de l'État. Ces deux affaires, parmi tant d'autres, sont hautement symboliques dans la mesure où ce sont deux hommes forts de l'ancien gouvernement qui sont finalement inquiétés par la FCC.

Dans son plan d'action, la FCC essaie de relever deux défis en même temps: lancer de nouvelles enquêtes, comme celle sur l'ancien Premier ministre et son entourage, et relancer des enquêtes sur des affaires qui, sous l'égide de l'ICAC, avaient trainé en longueur sans aucune issue prévisible. En passant, il faut saluer le service d'information de la FCC qui met à jour son site web avec des nouvelles régulières sur ses enquêtes. Cet effort de transparence contraste singulièrement avec l'opacité de son prédécesseur l'ICAC qui gardait le secret absolu sur ses enquêtes ou simulacres d'enquête.

### Nouvelles enquêtes

Dans la première catégorie, l'enquête sur l'ancien Premier ministre sera un test de la volonté de la FCC d'aller au fond des choses sans peur ni faveur. Ce sera un test de son indépendance et de son efficacité comme une institution chargée de combattre les crimes financiers (fraude, corruption et blanchiment d'argent). Démêler l'écheveau des valises remplies d'argent, dont les suspects ne veulent prendre aucune paternité, ce sera une tâche herculéenne mais pas impossible à accomplir.

Il s'agit pour la FCC d'utiliser tous les outils à sa disposition en mobilisant les compétences nécessaires (légistes chevronnés, experts-comptables rompus aux techniques de l'analyse financière, expertise comptable judiciaire). Déjà la FCC s'est assurée d'obtenir un ordre de la Cour suprême pour vérifier les sources de revenu et les avoirs de l'ancien Premier ministre. Au-delà de l'aspect de blanchiment d'argent, cette enquête pourrait porter sur la richesse inexpliquée, une problématique fondamentale dans tout régime kleptocratique.

### Techniques d'audit

Dans l'investigation financière, pour avoir une idée nette de la richesse d'un individu, il faut recourir à toute une panoplie de techniques d'audit comme suit:

1. Analyser les sources de revenu (salaires ou émoluments officiels, dividendes, gains en capital sur la vente de biens meubles et immeubles, retours sur les placements bancaires, donations reçues, biens reçus en héritage, etc.), et déterminer les montants des revenus tirés de toutes les sources au cours d'une période donnée (disons dix ans).
2. Obtenir des banques concernées les relevés de compte mensuels d'un individu pour une période donnée afin d'établir les rentrées de fonds et les sorties de fonds.



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3. Réconcilier les déclarations fiscales déposées auprès de la MRA avec les sources des revenus pour détecter toute évasion fiscale.
4. Dresser un inventaire des avoirs (propriétés immobilières à Maurice et à l'étranger, propriétés mobilières telles que les véhicules, bateaux et bijoux, comptes bancaires, investissements en actions ou obligations d'entreprise) en traçant leur évolution historique au cours d'une période donnée.
5. Comparer les avoirs (actifs) aux dettes (passifs) en vue de déterminer la valeur nette patrimoniale de l'individu, ce qui indiquerait toute richesse inexpliquée.
6. Réconcilier la déclaration des avoirs déposée auprès de l'ICAC/FCC par un individu (député ou officiel de l'État) avec l'inventaire des avoirs établi afin de détecter tout cas de sous-déclaration.
7. Dresser une liste de sociétés privées dans lesquelles l'individu est actionnaire en prenant soin de dénicher des prête-noms qui servent de paravent pour cacher le propriétaire réel (*beneficial owner*).
8. Examiner toute fiducie (*trust*) où l'individu est un fiduciaire (*trustee*) ou bénéficiaire afin de déterminer les sources des revenus, les avoirs, les investissements et les montants monétaires payés au bénéficiaire comme une distribution de profits ou du surplus (excédent des revenus sur les dépenses).
9. Vérifier les avoirs des enfants pour détecter des transferts des revenus ou d'avoirs effectués par un parent pour le compte d'un enfant.
10. Faire une vérification indirecte des revenus de l'individu en demandant à des tierces parties (sociétés, banques, fiducies) de valider les paiements versés à l'individu (dividendes, intérêts bancaires, coupons d'intérêt sur des obligations d'entreprise, paiements monétaires).
11. Faire une vérification indirecte des dépenses en immobilisations (*capital expenditure*) de l'individu en demandant à des tierces parties (fournisseurs, entrepreneurs, sous-traitants) de valider des paiements reçus de l'individu pour des achats ou des travaux immobiliers.
12. Faire une estimation des plus-values acquises sur la vente/revente de biens immobiliers en comparant le coût historique (prix d'achat) à la juste valeur de marché (*fair market value*). On ne peut comparer le prix d'achat au prix de vente, lequel est bien souvent sous-estimé dans l'acte notarial.

### Enquêtes relancées

Comme nous l'avions suggéré dans un précédent article — *Contrôle des crimes financiers: Est-ce un nouveau souffle pour la FCC?* publié dans notre édition du 21 février 2025 —, la FCC a relancé certaines enquêtes qui n'avaient connu aucun dénouement positif sous l'ICAC, notoirement connue pour sa léthargie. Deux de ces enquêtes sont particulièrement importantes parce qu'elles soulèvent des problématiques fondamentales en matière de gouvernance, notamment les principes et les règles qui doivent guider l'attribution d'un marché public et l'attribution à bail de terres de l'État.

● Suite en page 4



## Contrôle des crimes financiers

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### ● Suite de la page 3

La première enquête relancée porte sur 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. L’État a payé un excédent de Rs 70 millions au fournisseur. Un pharmacien de l’État poursuivi dans cette affaire fut acquitté par une Cour de justice, qui blâma l’ICAC pour les insuffisances de son enquête. La haute hiérarchie du ministère de la Santé, qui avait approuvé le contrat, n’avait jamais été inquiétée par l’ICAC.

### Marché public

Il est donc salutaire que la FCC ait convoqué l’ex-cheffe de cabinet du ministère de la Santé pour un interrogatoire quant à son rôle dans le processus d’adju-

dication de ce marché. Lorsque l’affaire avait éclaté grâce à une question parlementaire du leader de l’Opposition de l’époque (Xavier Duval), la personne en question avait pris sa retraite. On conçoit mal qu’un marché de Rs 79 millions puisse être attribué sur la simple recommandation d’un pharmacien, et ce, sans l’approbation du ministre de la Santé.

Quelque chose cloche dans la chaîne de commande: qui prend les décisions au ministère de la Santé sur les marchés publics et qui est responsable des décisions prises? On sait que durant la période de pandémie Covid-19 des contrats valant plus de Rs 1 milliard avaient été attribués sous la procédure d’urgence (c’est-à-dire, sans appel d’offres) par un comité (*High-Powered Committee*) présidé par le Premier ministre. Ce comité n’avait pas tenu de procès-verbal de ses réunions. Même le

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### Terres de l’État

La deuxième enquête porte sur une affaire («Stag Party Gate») dans laquelle il

la loi anti-corruption (*Prevention of Corruption Act*).

Cette affaire soulève toute la problématique de la distribution de terres de l’État pour divers usages (agricole, commercial, industriel et résidentiel) avec pour toile de fond l’influence du pouvoir politique dans la prise de décisions sur l’attribution des baux à des individus ou à des sociétés. Il est inconcevable que les terres de l’État fassent l’objet de marchandages dans un pays où l’accès à la propriété est toujours un rêve pour beaucoup de gens. De pauvres squatteurs qui avaient monté des bicoques sur des terres de l’État ont été expulsés manu militari alors que des personnes fortunées décrochent facilement un bail sur un terrain de l’État pour monter une clinique, un hôtel, une résidence privée ou un centre commercial.

Il est temps pour le gouvernement de dresser un inventaire complet de terres de l’État avec une base de données accessible en ligne qui donne toutes les informations essentielles: usage du terrain (agricole, commercial, industriel ou résidentiel), nom du locataire, montant du loyer, durée du bail, localisation et surface du terrain. L’accès public à ce patrimoine national serait conforme au concept d’une gouvernance



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est allégué qu’une entreprise a payé un pot-de-vin de Rs 3 millions à certains officiels pour obtenir un terrain à bail de 700 arpents dans le voisinage du lac de Grand Bassin pour un projet d’élevage. Sous l’ICAC, cette enquête tournait en rond sans pouvoir épingle tous les suspects malgré des allégations faites par un entrepreneur. La semaine dernière, la FCC a inculpé l’ancien Attorney General et ministre de l’Agro-Industrie, Maneesh Gobin, sous une charge provisoire (*public official using office for gratification*) en vertu de l’article 7(1) de

transparente (*open-data government*). Ce concept, s’inspirant d’une loi sur l’accès à l’information (*Freedom of Information Act — FOI*), veut que tous les marchés publics, contrats et baux de l’État soient rendus publics, à moins qu’il y ait une exemption à cette exigence pour des raisons de sécurité nationale qui sont rigoureusement définies. Dans les démocraties avancées, les exceptions à la FOI sont rares et sont sujettes à un contrôle parlementaire.

Prakash Neerohoo



## Revitalizing the Justice System

# “Once sweeping changes are made, the judiciary and the legal profession will have to toe the line”

**I**n the wake of recent challenges to the rule of law and institutional independence, the current government has embarked on a series of sweeping reforms aimed at revitalizing the justice system and enhancing governance. Attorney General Gavin Glover’s assertion in the National Assembly, last Friday, that ‘consensus is by far preferable, it is not a requirement’ underscores the government’s determination to enact change, even in the face of potential resistance, particularly from the judiciary.

This raises the critical question: how will the government ensure the judiciary aligns with its mandate? This context sets the stage for a deeper exploration of the proposed reforms, including the restructuring of crime agencies, the establishment of a new Court of Appeal, constitutional reviews, police reforms, and measures to enhance transparency, protect privacy, and expand legal aid. Lex responds to our questions that delve into the effectiveness, potential pitfalls, and broader implications of these initiatives.

### LEX

**\* How effective do you believe the government’s measures to restore the rule of law and institutional independence will be, considering the challenges faced in recent years?**

The true measure of effectiveness will depend not only on the nature and scope of the reforms but also on how they are implemented. Thoughtfully designed reforms, when executed with transparency, efficiency, and accountability, can bring about meaningful and lasting change. However, their success will ultimately be assessed based on their impact on governance, societal well-being, and the overall progress of the nation.

**\* In your view, what advantages and potential pitfalls exist with replacing the Financial Crimes Commission with a new National Crime Agency, and how might this impact the fight against financial crime?**

In the absence of any details, it is difficult to surmise. No doubt the philosophy behind the present legislation will be included in the new legislation. As for the rest we have to wait.

In the absence of specific details, it is difficult to make a definitive assessment. However, it is likely that the core principles and objectives of the current legislation will be incorporated into the new framework. The effectiveness of the National Crime Agency will ultimately depend on its structure, mandate, and operational independence. But until further details emerge, we can only speculate on the extent of its impact.

**\* What are your thoughts on establishing a distinct Court of Appeal that includes internationally recognized foreign judges alongside local experts? How might this move affect public confidence in the judiciary and its perceived impartiality?**

A Court of Appeal will ease the pressure on the



## The previous government’s rationale for SIM card re-registration provoked widespread concerns of potential privacy violations

Supreme Court. Currently, the same judges who preside over trials also handle appeals, which leads to delays. It would be beneficial to have foreign judges serving alongside retired local judges with extensive legal experience. The inclusion of one or two current judges would also be an asset.

**\* Do you think the proposed constitutional review and the formation of a Constitutional Review Commission will adequately address issues of democratic erosion and modernize our legal framework to reflect contemporary values and rights?**

Without clearly defined terms of reference, it is challenging to say definitively whether the proposed constitutional review and the formation of a Constitutional Review Commission will fully address issues of democratic erosion or modernize our legal framework to reflect contemporary values and rights. It is reasonable to expect that the commission will be tasked with reviewing current provisions and recommending reforms that align with today’s standards.

**\* How do you assess the proposed Police and Criminal Evidence Bill and related reforms in policing? What challenges do you foresee in balancing law enforcement efficiency with accountability and citizens’**

If the Police Act is passed as presented in the initial draft, it *may* significantly reduce arbitrary arrests and police abuse. The proposed legislation aims to strengthen citizen

rights and provide clearer definitions and regulations for police powers.

**\* Considering the proposed reforms for institutions like the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation, the Gambling Regulatory Authority, and public procurement, what impact might these measures have on enhancing transparency and accountability in governance?**

The reforms will definitely have an impact of good governance and transparency. Again, all depends on who will head these institutions and whether they will be competent, and honest and bold enough to act independently.

**\* From your legal perspective, will the review and potential expansion of legal aid services be sufficient to address the current barriers to accessing justice for marginalized communities?**

Equality of arms, a fundamental legal principle, ensures that all parties—whether accused and prosecution in crimi-

nal cases, or litigants in civil cases — have equal means and opportunities to present their case. Currently, indigent litigants and accused persons are disadvantaged. To address this, substantial reforms to legal aid access are essential

**\* How do you evaluate the government’s recent steps to protect privacy — such as withdrawing SIM card registration regulations — and what further legal reforms would you recommend to safeguard citizens’ privacy in an era of increasing digital surveillance?**

The removal of the SIM card re-registration requirement is a positive step. The previous government’s rationale for SIM card re-registration provoked widespread concerns of potential privacy violations

**\* How do you perceive the dual role of the Attorney General as both the chief legal adviser to the government and a guardian of the rule of law, especially in light of these sweeping reforms?**

The Attorney General serves as the government’s principal legal advisor, leading a team of experts in legislative drafting, law reform, and providing legal counsel. Potential conflicts of interest are mitigated when the Attorney General maintains independence and acts as an objective legal expert, rather than as a mere instrument of the government.

**\* Perhaps the most important point made by Attorney General Gavin Glover is: ‘This democratically elected Government has a mandate for sweeping change, which necessarily includes our justice system. (...)The resolve of the government must be matched by the willingness of the judiciary to follow suit.’ This appears to be a clear indication of earlier resistance to change from the judiciary. The question is, how will or must the current government ensure the judiciary aligns with its mandate for change?**

Once the sweeping changes are made — for example, if a deadline by which a judgment must be rendered — the judiciary will have no choice. The judiciary and the legal profession will have to toe the line.

“A Court of Appeal will ease the pressure on the Supreme Court. Currently, the same judges who preside over trials also handle appeals, which leads to delays. It would be beneficial to have foreign judges serving alongside retired local judges with extensive legal experience. The inclusion of one or two current judges would also be an asset...”





Anil Madan

*Peace will be welcome, but how much solace will there be in knowing that it depends on Putin's promises?*

**M**uch has been written about the shockingly bad and shabby treatment of Ukraine's President Zelensky at the White House just a few days ago. Some have even suggested that the meeting was a setup to humiliate him. I did not see it as a setup, merely the inexperience of Vice President JD Vance trying to goad Zelensky into obsequious acceptance of Trump's prognostications that Vladimir Putin could be trusted. Abandonment of decency is seldom so elaborately planned. But it can evolve from ignorance, a lack of discipline and from arrogance.

Nor do I believe for a moment we have seen the end of this "peace process" if that term fairly describes Donald Trump's effort to work a ceasefire and perhaps a Nobel Peace Prize for himself. The latter goal will keep Trump from walking away and letting what he views as HIS initiative die, no matter how much he has threatened to do just that. We will see the prospect of an end to the ongoing hostilities revived and an effort to cajole Zelensky into accepting that he is getting at least an implicit security guarantee, with an explicit one out of reach. I have a hunch about that.

My hunch aside, the incident at the White House has already changed the texture and contours of a peace deal. Those changes, I predict, will happen because in the process of assuaging Trump's ego, there will be a transfer to European nations and Britain of the responsibility for their own continental security and, in turn, Ukraine's.

The Trump administration announced an immediate suspension of US military supplies to Ukraine. There were hints that reductions or a stoppage of military training and other forms of cooperation including sharing of military intelligence might also be suspended. This development has, as it well should, raised alarm and concern about whether Europe can take up the slack, and whether we are witnessing the end of NATO, and indeed, the end of the deep bonds that have held the Western nations together against the communist ideologies of the Soviet Union and China that have devolved



Pic - ABC News

**“Trump would want to take maximum credit for ending Putin's attacks on Ukraine — not only for his personal glory but also because he recognizes the transactional value of extracting rare earth minerals in both Ukrainian-controlled territory and the areas under Russian control. The presence of US businesses in those territories will provide a *de facto* security guarantee that Putin, who will benefit from such a deal, will not attack. At the same time, Trump has talked about troops from the UK and France being in Ukraine and that allows him to declare that he has caused those countries to share more of the burden that NATO bears...”**

to today's economic and geopolitical challenges.

### Security guarantee

I wrote those introductory paragraphs early on Tuesday and had put aside this commentary to attend to other matters. At that time, I did not know that President Zelensky would send a letter to Trump reaffirming his willingness to sign a deal with the US. But my expectation and suspicion that something would happen to soothe the rupture turned out to be correct. It was not due to any special insight, but rather the understanding that Trump would want to take maximum credit for ending Putin's attacks on Ukraine — not only for his personal glory but also because he recognizes the transactional value of extracting rare earth minerals in both Ukrainian-controlled territory and the areas under Russian control.

**T**he presence of US businesses in those territories will provide a *de facto* security guarantee that Putin, who will benefit from such a deal, will not attack. At the same time, Trump has talked about troops from the UK and France being in Ukraine and that allows him to declare that he has caused those countries to share more of the burden that NATO bears. That, as we know from his first term, has been Trump's long-time goal. The letter that Zelensky sent was carefully drafted, and it would not be surprising if Macron or Starmer had a hand in its creation.

Getting back to the meeting at the White House, it began on a cordial and optimistic note with President Trump welcoming President Zelensky and even stating that it was an honour to have him at the White

House. The purpose of the meeting, he said, was to sign an agreement, as he put it, “to getting in and digging and working and getting some of the rare earth.” He allowed that he had been speaking with President Putin and that the confines of a deal had been started. The “big thing” Trump said, was to see an end to the killing of soldiers on both sides.

**O**f course, Trump couldn't resist taking a dig at his predecessor, Joe Biden, and blaming him for letting Russia's war of aggression — heaven forbid that Trump should call it that — get started in the first place. But he did compliment Ukrainian soldiers for being unbelievably brave and great fighters and “you have to be very proud of them.”

Trump went so far as to say the signing of the agreement after lunch was “somewhat of an exciting moment” but the “really exciting moment is when they stop the shooting, and we end up with a deal.”

### The opening notes of a requiem

With the table thus set, who would have thought we were listening to the opening notes of a requiem? Yes, to those who see anything and everything that Trump does as sinister, his announcement of having lunch evokes memories of a gangster movie in which the Don (pun intended) has his guests tied to their chairs and proceeds to bash their heads with a baseball bat.

We must, however, pause to reflect that if Trump had thought through just the opening moves of a simple game of checkers — no, it was not a complicated chess match —

he would have realized that his road to a Nobel Peace Prize, which is what I think he was after, lies in ensuring that Ukraine feels secure and the only path to that is a security arrangement backed by the US.

**Z**elensky was gracious but firm. He said that he understood what Europe is ready to do and wanted to discuss what America would do, that is, the security guarantees. Zelensky described Putin as a killer and a terrorist and implored Trump to make it clear that the war had to stop, and that Ukraine would not compromise on its territories. Zelensky made it clear that it was imperative for the US to backstop the UK and France. He went on to discuss some of the atrocities committed by Putin and how untrustworthy his word is.

Zelensky showed Trump photographs of Putin's atrocities and Trump seemed moved by the photos.

So far, so good. Then began the questions from the press. Reporter after reporter pressed Trump about Ukraine's security and whether Putin could be relied on not to attack again. Trump's only response was that he has known Putin for a long time, thinks he is serious about wanting to make a deal, that he wanted to make a deal now and worry about security later. Trump even positioned himself as an arbitrator or mediator, seeming to suggest that such a role precluded leaning toward either Zelensky or Putin.

When a reporter asked directly if Trump would provide security guarantees to Ukraine, Trump said he didn't want to talk about security guarantees because he wanted to get a deal done and security is about 2% of the problem. He even allowed that the US could “conceivably” commit to putting “people” (troops?) in there. He emphasized that when the deal is done, Russia is not going to want to go back (to war).

**Z**elensky then went on to explain why a ceasefire without security guarantees would not work — Putin had broken his word 25 times about deals he had signed. Zelensky emphasized the need for security and air defenses.

Reporters continued to press Trump about why he believed that Putin wanted peace and would not attack again.

Ultimately, Trump said the agreement would protect the minerals that the US companies would mine, a suggestion that the deal with the US provided the implicit security that Zelensky was looking for.

Then J.D. Vance spoke up. Perhaps concerned that reporters were not buying Trump's assurances any more than Zelensky was — and that Zelensky was not being obsequious and sycophantic enough toward Trump — he accused Zelensky of “litigating” the matter before the press.

● Cont. on page 7



# Requiem For The Western Alliance? What's Next For Ukraine?

● Cont. from page 6

Zelensky showed that Vance was spouting off about Ukraine without ever having been there and at one point accused Vance of yelling. Zelensky had lost his cool. Trump came to Vance's rescue and suddenly the tone became dark and the two of them turned on Zelensky.

**S**o, what is going to happen? Zelensky is no fool. He understands that without US military support and intelligence sharing, his country will be at a significant disadvantage against Putin. And looming in the background is the threat that Musk will shut off the Starlink service that keeps Ukraine's communications networks operating.

It was time to make a deal, even a less than desirable deal.

## Threat to Putin

Implicit in Trump's cutting off aid to Ukraine is the threat to Putin that he can restart the flow of the aid.

Trump will have, in addition to a possible Nobel Peace Prize, achieved his longstanding desire to have Britain and



US President Donald Trump and Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky in the Oval Office, Washington, February 28, 2025. SAUL LOEB / AFP

**“Trump will have, in addition to a possible Nobel Peace Prize, achieved his longstanding desire to have Britain and the European NATO countries bear a bigger share of the defense burden. It is not lost on him that greater spending by these countries on defense makes them less competitive in other areas. The US may have a token presence of personnel in Ukraine to protect the rare earth mineral interests, but Trump is a dealmaker, and he will try to loop Putin into the business of mining especially in those parts of Ukraine that Putin has seized. In return, Putin will see an easing of sanctions and the flow of oil revenues into Russia, something that its economy desperately needs...”**

the European NATO countries bear a bigger share of the defense burden. It is not lost on him that greater spending by these countries on defense makes them less competitive in other areas.

**T**he US may have a token presence of personnel in Ukraine to protect the rare earth mineral interests, but Trump is a dealmaker, and he will try to loop Putin into the business of mining especially in those parts of Ukraine that Putin has seized. In return, Putin will see an easing of sanctions and the flow of oil revenues into Russia, something that its economy desperately needs. Membership restored in the G-8 will give back Putin some respectability.

The danger in all this is that Europe will most likely feel forced to form a cohesive defense force with a large army of soldiers, a significant military buildup, with naval and space components, and perhaps even nuclear proliferation among European countries. One possibility is that British and French nuclear weapons will be deployed across Europe.

We are in for quite a mess.

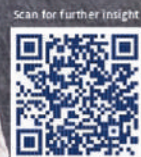
Peace will be welcome, but how much solace will there be in knowing that it depends on Putin's promises?

*Cheerz...  
Bwana*

# SICOM G3+

L'avenir ne se prévoit pas, il se prépare\*

\*Maurice Blondel, philosophe français



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Interview: Dharambeer Gokhool, President of the Republic

# “Trust in politics and politicians must be a national priority...

...we need to commit ourselves to the emergence of a new political culture which is in sync with the expectations and values of the upcoming generations”



“I also pay my tribute to our visionary political leaders like late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and his government, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal and Sir Gaëtan Duval who all took the full measure of the significance of our independence and its challenges, and put their heads together to work for the welfare and well-being of our people...”

**Mauritius Times:** Throughout your career as an academic at the University of Mauritius, a politician, and a Cabinet Minister in previous administrations, you have consistently shared your insights on various issues impacting Mauritian society, politics, and the economy. In your current role as President of the Republic, have your perspectives evolved in any way?

**Dharam Gokhool:** I have been a University academic since 1975 and I retired in 2011. Thereafter, I continued as a Part-Time Faculty for several universities. Alongside, I assumed various academic positions like Dean of the Faculty at the University of Mauritius.

At that time, faculty members at the University of

**T**hroughout his long career as an academic, politician, and Cabinet Minister, Dharam Gokhool has been a keen observer and contributor to national discourse on governance, education, and social progress. Now serving as the President of the Republic of Mauritius, he brings a wealth of experience and a deep-rooted commitment to democratic values, transparency, and nation-building. In this interview with *Mauritius Times*, President Gokhool reflects on how his perspectives have evolved over the years, the progress and challenges Mauritius faces as an independent nation, and the crucial reforms needed to strengthen democracy, foster inclusivity, and restore public trust in governance. From economic transformation to political ethics and the fight against drug proliferation, he shares his vision for the country's future and the role of leadership in shaping a prosperous, united, and just Mauritius.

Mauritius were allowed to actively engage in politics, which I considered an opportunity to better connect with and serve society. My experiences varied with positions like MP in the Opposition, MP in government, Minister of Education and Minister of Industry in government, as well as Secretary-General of the Mauritius Labour Party.

The functions I assumed inevitably brought me in contact with the youth and the public at large. Right from the beginning, I took the utmost precaution in adopting highly principled positions on issues and events after careful reflection. As I progressed in my career, I always paid attention to the advice of my peers and the valuable guidance of my seniors.

I am strongly attached to such core values like integrity, honesty, responsibility, discipline, equity and inclusion. I am very allergic to any form of discrimination, and I strongly believe in the philosophy that those who have been historically marginalized should be given additional opportunities and resources so that we can have a fairer and more equitable society.

Above all, I am always guided by a deep sense of humility and attach a lot of importance to the human touch in interpersonal relations. My passion for learning has never wavered, and I remain on a continuous learning curve, always open to new ideas.

As Head of State, I approach issues from a broader perspective. Rising above party politics, I adopt global strategies to support and oversee initiatives, ensuring the participation of all stakeholders while upholding the distinction between the government and the permanence of the State.

Against this backdrop, my perspectives have continued to evolve, yet I have always strived to live in harmony with

my core values, as mentioned earlier. My goal is for people to live better, happier, and more united. Overall, my outlook has progressed in a positive and optimistic direction.

\* Let's address the issue of Independence. Mauritius has since 1968 made remarkable strides in improving the living conditions of its citizens. From a sugar-dependent economy to a diversified one, encompassing sectors such as textiles, tourism, and financial services, this economic diversification has contributed to political stability and social cohesion. But debates persist on whether we have achieved our full potential. What do you think?

Since our independence in 1968, we have progressed a lot and I take this opportunity to pay my tribute to all our ancestors-descendants of slaves and indentured labourers who, through their blood, sweat and tears have contributed to the progress and prosperity of our country. We are proud of their sacrifices.

I also pay my tribute to our visionary political leaders like late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and his government, Sookdeo Bissoondoyal and Sir Gaëtan Duval who all took the full measure of the significance of our independence and its challenges and put their heads together to work for the welfare and well-being of our people.

We have a well-established Welfare State where Education, Health Services and Public Transport are free. We have a universal old-age pension scheme. A people-oriented public sector and a vibrant public-private sector partnership. A parliamentary system of democracy with regular elections, with separation of powers between the Executive, the Legislature and the Judiciary and the President acting as the protector of the Constitution, the guardian of democracy, the defender of citizens' rights, and a unifying figure for the people.

“I am strongly attached to such core values like integrity, honesty, responsibility, discipline, equity and inclusion. I am very allergic to any form of discrimination and I strongly believe in the philosophy that those who have been historically marginalized should be given additional opportunities and resources so that we can have a fairer and more equitable society...”

From 1976–2022, Mauritius's GDP per capita averaged \$5,814.73. In 2019, Mauritius's GDP per capita was \$10,956.95. According to the World Bank data, the per capita income of Mauritius in 2023 stood at approximately \$11,613 USD. These figures bear testimony to the efforts that the country has been making to improve the quality of life of our people.

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# 'The new government is only a few months old.'

## Give them time to prove that the choice the people made in November was not just another mistake'

**“Our governance structures and legal frameworks, such as electoral laws should be so crafted and administered that they reflect both the spirit and the letter of our Constitution. This responsibility lies with our citizens, lawmakers, law administrators, and courts of justice. Nation-building is always a work in progress, requiring the involvement and commitment of every citizen to forge an authentic Mauritian identity—one that we can all be proud of...”**

● Cont. from page 8

However, we must acknowledge that we live in an interconnected and highly competitive world, confronted with numerous global challenges such as global warming, food security, and technological transformations. These challenges continuously test our ability to refocus, reset, and restart. We must continue to be creative, innovative and entrepreneurial to keep moving up the value chain from a global perspective. As part of the global village, the true test of Mauritian ingenuity will now take place on the world stage.

**\* If it's true that the well-being of the population has generally improved since Independence, inequality has also been on the rise over the past several decades and so has economic concentration. Is this model of progress sustainable, or does it inherently create conditions for future instability?**

The post-independence economic model that ensured our prosperity was labour-intensive, export-oriented and protected with quotas and tariffs. Globalisation has redefined investment flows and trade patterns. We are now a global village, and we operate in a context of global competition. The economic ecosystem has undergone a sea change with technological transformations and geopolitical considerations. We are living in an entirely different world order. The challenges are more complex, and the world is full of uncertainties.

As the world-renowned scientist Albert Einstein famously stated, to solve complex problems, we cannot use the same mindset or approach that created the problem in the first place; we need new perspectives and innovative

thinking to find solutions. There is no standard formula or recipe. To survive and thrive, a nation will have to be creative, innovative and resourceful. As the saying goes, there is no such thing as free lunch.

As mentioned in the Government Programme, the Mauritian ingenuity works best when we all act together and advance in the same direction

**\* Beyond the decline in living standards for low-income households and the middle class, the rampant proliferation of drugs and drug trafficking is wreaking havoc across all strata of Mauritian society, permeating every corner of the island. This crisis seems intractable. What are your thoughts on this issue and how should it be tackled?**

Drugs is a major problem in the country. The limited economic opportunities may have partly driven people towards cheap money but also the contrast between the affluence of the rich and dire poverty may be another factor. Government is fully conscious of the tragedy and disaster that the rampant proliferation of drugs and drug trafficking represents.

As spelt out, it will be a major national priority. To combat this scourge, a multi-pronged strategy is the only solution with foreign assistance where necessary. Government is determined to adopt bold measures in its fight against drugs. A Select Committee of the National Assembly will be appointed, and a National Drug Policy and Monitoring and Coordination Agency will be set up to address the rampant proliferation of drugs and drug trafficking.

Civil society and NGOs engaged in the fight against drugs must join forces with the authorities. As for our young leaders and citizens at large, they possess the expertise to tackle new challenges, but they must be given the opportunity and resources to do so, as they are resourceful and innovative.

**\* As regards Mauritius's journey toward nationhood, do you believe that a cohesive Mauritian identity has fully developed, or are there systemic issues within our governance structures and legal frameworks, such as electoral laws, which are hindering our nation-building efforts?**

We are a multicultural, multi-religious, and multi-ethnic society. Over time, through living and working together, we have come to understand that while our ancestors may have arrived on different ships, we are now all in the same boat and must row together toward a common destiny. From a DNA of diversity, we have cultivated a psyche of unity — unity in diversity. Building national unity is an ongoing process, and every citizen should feel a strong sense of belonging while experiencing and enjoying the freedoms and rights enshrined in our Constitution. However, we must also ensure that our diversity does not translate into systemic inequality.

Our governance structures and legal frameworks, such as electoral laws should be so crafted and administered that they reflect both the spirit and the letter of our Constitution. This responsibility lies with our citizens, lawmakers, law administrators, and courts of justice. Nation-building is always a work in progress, requiring the involvement and commitment of every citizen to forge an authentic Mauritian

identity—one that we can all be proud of.

**\* As the Head of State, how do you see the role of the Presidency in upholding democratic values in Mauritius as well as transparency and good governance, which are key to national progress?**

I assumed office as the 8th President of the Republic of Mauritius. As I had mentioned during my very first interaction with the media on the same day that I assumed office, I had deeply reflected and meditated about the duties and responsibilities of a President.

Chapter Four of our Constitution, article 28, clearly spells out the overriding functions of the President, namely:

- The President must uphold and defend the Constitution
- The President must ensure that the institutions of democracy and the rule of law are protected
- The President must ensure that the fundamental rights of all are respected
- The President must ensure that the unity of the diverse Mauritian nation is maintained and preserved

**“When I interact with people, I perceive a growing concern about the erosion of societal values. This decline has invariably impacted our governance system, weakening the safeguards that ensure transparency and accountability in public life. Consequently, many young individuals seem to have distanced themselves from active politics. To address this issue, we must restore ethics and morality in our political ecosystem. Trust in politics and politicians must be a national priority...”**

I am fulfilling the functions defined in our Constitution and performing my roles and responsibilities as expected by the population: Un Président du Peuple, un Président de proximité (a President of the People, a President of Proximity). I shall continue to do so).

**\* Fifty-seven years after Independence, if we acknowledge the need to refine and strengthen our democracy and constitutional framework, what roadmap should we follow, and which foundational elements require immediate attention?**

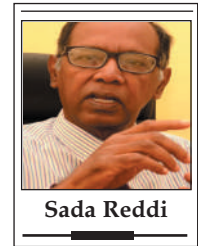
On 24th January 2025, I had the honour to present the Government Programme to the Nation.

The mission of Government as spelt out is: “to reconstruct our democracy, restore good governance and implement constitutional reforms.”

In that respect, a number of measures have been outlined. Our Parliament is the temple of democracy. A Standing Orders Committee of the National Assembly will be set up to revisit and modernize the Standing Orders of the National Assembly.

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Politics

Independence:  
Personal Recollections

*With independence in 1968, optimists proved that independence could be embraced by all*

**H**istory today is written using knowledge from various fields, ranging from the arts to social and other sciences, and employing all kinds of methodologies. Oral sources have also been used to uncover the past in cases where documents are unavailable. It is in this spirit that the present article is being written — based on personal recollections of the political trajectory of certain aspects of Mauritian history, the concept of independence in the 1960s (or the lack thereof), and how it was gradually embraced by all to build modern Mauritius.

I grew up in a family that, on my maternal side, was deeply immersed in politics. In Port Louis, I remember my uncle, a taxi driver who used to transport Rozemont and Seeneevassen to their political meetings, coming to fetch my mother to vote in the municipal elections. He had painted his Vanguard red for that special occasion. When my mother returned, she told me that she had cast her vote after reading a few lines from a newspaper — which I now assume was a literacy test. Later, I learned that those elections were decisive, leading to the election of Dr Dupré and marking the end of proportional representation.

After settling in Mahébourg, my interest in politics remained strong; attending political meetings and playing football became my two favourite pastimes.

#### Independence and Augustin Moignac

The first time I heard the word *independence* was in a speech by Augustin Moignac at an open-air trade union meeting at Pointe des Régates. There, he joyfully explained to his audience that the Gold Coast had become Ghana after gaining independence. It is possible that he had attended Ghana's independence celebrations either as a trade unionist or as a member of the Mauritius Labour Party.

“Political meetings were held across various parts of the constituency by both parties. The main PMSD gatherings featured songs and music by Fanfan and his associates, followed by speeches from various orators. Emmanuel Bussier introduced Koenig as a ‘lion steak,’ while Raymond Devienne delivered portions of his speech in Hindi. Dr. Maingard criticized the government’s housing policies, arguing that constructing homes in close proximity undermined residents’ privacy. Among Labour Party speakers, Harold Walter stood out for his powerful imagery, and Sewgobind Sharma captivated audiences with his mellifluous Hindi...”



Later, at school, I enjoyed looking at posters titled *Commonwealth Today*, which were regularly displayed on the school wall. I remember seeing countries like Sierra Leone and Gambia gaining independence. However, I was most impressed by a poster on Nigeria, where I recall seeing a picture of Sir Abubakar Tafawa Balewa — a name I enjoyed muttering every now and then — inviting Queen Elizabeth onto the dance floor during Nigeria's independence celebrations.

Other events that remain etched in my memory include the by-election in Grand Port-Savanne, where Jay Narain Roy, the Labour candidate, defeated Dr. Curé, the Bisoondoyalist candidate. Later that afternoon, I happened to be in my uncle's car with Seeneevassen's voice blasting through a loudspeaker, shouting Tamil words: *Kirey illey*. When I asked my mother what he was saying, she explained that in Tamil, *kirey* means *brède* (greens) and *illey* means *had lost* — a play on the words *Curé* and *kirey*.

The 1960s in Mauritius were dominated by the politics of independence, though I became conscious of it as a major issue on the political agenda only later. When the Mauritius Labour Party (MLP) lost Port Louis in the municipal elections, the defeat was attributed to the issue of independence, whereas their victory in Quatre Bornes was assumed to be due to the electorate's favorable stance on

independence. However, across Mauritius, it was the contest between the two political parties — the pro-independence MLP and the anti-independence Parti Mauricien Social Démocrate (PMSD) — that caught people's attention.

At school in Curepipe, friends would arrive early in the morning, and before classes started, politics was the main topic of discussion, as our parents were supporters of one party or the other, and our daily morning paper was *Action*. As the 1963 elections drew near, meetings were held all over Mauritius. I attended them both in Port Louis during my vacation at my grandmother's place and in Mahébourg, where I attended most of the meetings of both Labour and PMSD.

#### Independence's divisive nature

I do not recall independence being a major issue in political speeches, partly because the MLP may have played it down, recognizing its divisive nature. The PMSD emphasized social issues, especially housing problems in the wake of cyclones Alix and Carol. However, from 1963 to 1967, as independence gained prominence, the political climate became tense, particularly in Curepipe, Vacoas, and Mahébourg, with tensions often triggered by PMSD agents.

In Mahébourg, a family friend who was a chief agent of the PMSD stirred tension when, in an unprovoked act, he assaulted the chief agent of the Labour Party in Trois Boutiques, resulting in rioting and deaths. This was followed by PMSD supporters going on a rampage at the Odeon cinema, harassing people. This strife was artificial, as most people on both sides knew each other and had friendly relations. For example, when one nicknamed Georges Colique saw the cake seller among the cinema-goers, he simply pushed his friend away with the blunt side of his sabre, and only a few people from neighbouring villages outside Mahébourg were targeted and wounded.

Political meetings became frequent, with John Stonehouse, the Under-Secretary of State for the Colonies, lending support to the Labour Party by participating in open-air gatherings. At Willoughby School in Mahébourg, his speech was translated by Harold Walter. I recall one particular sentence: "Nothing has been given to you on a platter; it needs hard toil and sweat," emphasizing the necessity of hard work to achieve independence.

“After independence in 1968, the major events were Ramgoolam’s policy of “No Victor, No Vanquished,” which led to a coalition government aimed at healing the corrosive divisions of the country and launching it on the path of economic development; the postponement of elections and the declaration of a state of emergency with the rise of the MMM; and the diversification of the economy, along with intense diplomatic contacts to put Mauritius on the world map and secure as much foreign aid as possible...”

At St. Andrew's School, students were attentive to the independence issue. It was debated in general paper classes, with participants like Kelly and Kailash Ruhee focusing on the economics of independence rather than abstract concepts of freedom or liberty. While primarily an academic exercise, these debates were not entirely devoid of partisan sentiments.

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## Politics

# Independence: Personal Recollections



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At St. Andrew's, it appeared that both teachers and students were predominantly pro-independence. Among the staff were Yvette Walter, wife of Harold Walter, the Minister of Works, and Raouf Bundhun, a future Labour Party candidate in Constituency Number 4. The most noticeable change that independence brought was the departure of English teachers. In December 1967, John Russan served as the last English warden, succeeded by Reverend Rex Donat, the first Mauritian warden of St. Andrew's School.

Several months earlier, in December 1966, when elections were announced for August 1967, election campaigns intensified, with meetings held across various constituencies. I attended gatherings in both Port Louis and Mahébourg. In Ward IV of Port Louis, multiple meetings took place, with a fierce contest anticipated between Gaëtan Duval and Michael Leal. PMSD meetings attracted large crowds, with the stout Abdool Carrim emerging as the favourite orator, known for his forceful and humorous language. In Mahébourg, Labour meetings occurred in various localities, while PMSD gatherings were primarily held in the courtyard of the magistrate's court.

Political meetings were held across various parts of the constituency by both parties. The main PMSD gatherings featured songs and music by Fanfan and his associates, followed by speeches from various orators. Emmanuel Bussier introduced Koenig as a 'lion steak,' while Raymond Devienne delivered portions of his speech in Hindi. Dr Maingard criticized the government's housing policies, arguing that constructing homes in close proximity undermined residents' privacy. Among Labour Party speakers, Harold Walter stood out for his powerful imagery, and Sewgobind Sharma captivated audiences with his mellifluous Hindi, even though I couldn't understand the language.

The election campaign unfolded through open-air meetings, the press, and television. Discussions on freedom or liberty associated with independence were largely absent; instead, both parties concentrated on immediate socio-economic concerns. The Independence Party, comprising the Labour Party, the Muslim Committee of Action (MCA), and the Independent Forward Bloc (IFB), emphasized economic and social development, promising foreign assistance post-independence. Conversely, the PMSD and its allies highlighted the benefits of retaining British passports, potential emigration opportunities, and implications of Britain's entry into the Common Market for Mauritian sugar.

### 'Hindou Mon Frère'

Ethnic tensions during the campaign were minimal, notably as the PMSD adopted the slogan 'Hindou Mon Frère.' Overall, the campaign and elections proceeded

peacefully, except for an incident in Plaine Verte where a skirmish escalated into racial riots. The election outcome was uncertain, dividing the nation between optimists and pessimists. The prevailing atmosphere was one of fear and doubt about the future, especially against the backdrop of the Congo crisis and civil war during those years.

Analyzing the distribution of ethnic groups across the 21 constituencies, it was anticipated that urban areas would favour the PMSD, while rural regions would support the Independence Party. This expectation suggested a potential hung parliament or coalition government, a scenario that the British had always favoured in order to prevent a breakdown of law and order. However, unexpectedly, three rural-urban constituencies — Vacoas-Phoenix, Vacoas-Floreal, and Port Louis-Montagne Longue — voted for the Independence Party, granting it the majority needed to govern. This turn of events led to independence under an Independence Party government, whereas a different outcome could have resulted in independence under PMSD leadership.

After independence in 1968, the major events were Ramgoolam's policy of "No Victor, No Vanquished," which led to a coalition government aimed at healing the corrosive divisions of the country and launching it on the path of economic development; the postponement of elections and the declaration of a state of emergency with the rise of the MMM; and the diversification of the economy, along with intense diplomatic contacts to put Mauritius on the world map and secure as much foreign aid as possible. It is the laudable effort to industrialize the country that marked the major success of post-independence Mauritius and the emergence of modern Mauritius.

### Professor Meade

Although Professor Meade had provided a blueprint for Mauritius with his 154 recommendations — which included the setting up of an export sector with tax holidays, an economic development board, and other suggestions — it was only in the 1968 Ringadoo austerity budget that the creation of an export-processing zone was announced and an industrial estate planned at Plaine Lauzan. With membership in the Yaoundé Convention and the Sugar Protocol ensuring Mauritius a stable revenue, the country confidently embarked on industrialization. However, it took two years between the announcement of an export-processing zone in the budget and the passing of the Export Processing Zone Act No. 51 in 1970. During these two years, government ministers, officers, and entrepreneurs explored the concept of the free zone and its implementation in other countries.

The concept of an export-processing zone as a manufacturing sector for exports was first implemented near Shannon Airport in Ireland in 1958 and subsequently spread

to Far Eastern countries such as Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Malaysia, and the Philippines. Extensive visits to these places by entrepreneurs, government delegations, and officials convinced many that the creation of an export-processing zone was the solution for Mauritius. Jose Poncini, based on his personal experience in watchmaking in Mauritius, had broached the idea with Professor Meade when the latter was consulting Mauritian stakeholders. Professor Lim Fat launched and popularized the idea at a conference in November 1969 in Reduit, and in February 1970, further impetus was given by a lecture from Professor Wyn Reilly of the University of Manchester on the factors that led to the success of the Shannon model and how some of these factors could be applicable to Mauritius.

During those years, the implementation of the free zone became a necessity in the eyes of many — such as the delegation that visited India led by C. Sunnasee (which included Jose Poncini among others), Minister Jagatsingh, who was impressed by the free zone sector in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and Guy Marchand, Minister of Commerce and Industry, following official missions to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. A report was prepared around March 1970 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and by that time there was unanimity among the new entrepreneurs and members of the government. Professor Lim Fat recalled that after meeting Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, matters accelerated, leading to the EPZ Act, quickly followed by a large promotion mission in the Far East.

“The implementation of the free zone became a necessity in the eyes of many — such as the delegation that visited India led by C. Sunnasee (which included Jose Poncini among others), Minister Jagatsingh, who was impressed by the free zone sector in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and Guy Marchand, Minister of Commerce and Industry, following official missions to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Singapore. A report was prepared around March 1970 by the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, and by that time there was unanimity among the new entrepreneurs and members of the government...”

### Import-substitution industries

Mauritius thus groped its way toward industrialization. It was already manufacturing several products such as cigarettes, beer, paint, soap, margarine, toothpaste, beauty products, shirts, metal doors, edible oil, fibreglass, shoes, and copybooks, which saved the country Rs 10 million in foreign exchange. However, Mauritius did not have the know-how, capital, marketing networks, or even the infrastructure to start exporting from its factories. Local capitalists had diversified into import-substitution industries, tourism, insurance, and commerce, and those from the agricultural sector did not believe in the export-processing zone.

In the 1970s, Mauritian Chinese entrepreneurs — with business networks in Asia and cultural affinities with entrepreneurs from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan — were able to attract foreign industrialists to Mauritius to set up factories on their own or in partnerships in various sectors, though it was textiles that gradually emerged as the dominant sector.

Sada Reddi

● Cont. on page 28



**Yeo's**  
*The Natural Choice*



Bonn fet l'indépendans



## Titbits

# Mauritius Reclaims Its Voice: Democracy, Reform, and Growth

Jan Arden

Many of our cadres, in their prime forties or fifties, may not be directly aware of the conditions and atmosphere leading up to national independence, but we have all come to agree that the event was momentous and defining for our island.

Despite erudite academic reports that foresaw little future for us, the portrayal of an overcrowded barracoon ravaged by frequent devastating cyclones, or the forlorn aspirations for integration into the UK or even retrocession to France, the moment was seized, and history was ultimately made under the stewardship of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR). Inspired, no doubt, by the ideals of Fabian socialism, initiatives such as free primary and secondary education, healthcare, social security, school food programs, and the expansion of infrastructure — including roads, public institutions, the MBC, and the University of Mauritius — bore the unmistakable imprint of both SSR and his government.

Where SSR was visionary was in fore-



A largely pacified Mauritius looks ready for celebrating Independence Day with style and fervour. Pic - AFP

“Despite erudite academic reports that foresaw little future for us, the portrayal of an overcrowded barracoon ravaged by frequent devastating cyclones, or the forlorn aspirations for integration into the UK or even retrocession to France, the moment was seized, and history was ultimately made under the stewardship of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR). Inspired, no doubt, by the ideals of Fabian socialism, initiatives such as free primary and secondary education, healthcare, social security, school food programs, and the expansion of infrastructure — including roads, public institutions, the MBC, and the University of Mauritius — bore the unmistakable imprint of both SSR and his government...”

seeing the need for social and political equilibrium as a cornerstone of national deve-

lopment. Alliance with the Labour Party's opponent, the PMSD, paved the way in the

70s to some new dynamism on the industrial and tourism development front, both benefitting from the literate workforce and the participation of a private sector that was constituted largely by the sugarcane and land barons. But we remained largely a mono-crop plantation economy, where life in towns and villages depended on crop and harvest seasonality and the vagaries of nature, with activities beginning before dawn and ceasing at sundown.

What is perhaps better known are the industrial development phase of the eighties and nineties, when an energized push by the Alliance Bleu-Blanc-Rouge, corralled investors from Taiwan and Hong-Kong to bring here footloose industries, particularly from those wishing a second passport. The rapid textile development brought a socio-economic revolution, easier money or travel and certainly a liberation from agricultural seasonalities.

Social equilibrium and political triangulation grew increasingly complex, but the island of the dodo was emerging as a noteworthy model for international agencies. It was poised to take flight into its second economic revolution, transitioning into financial and tertiary services — bolstered significantly by a series of Double Taxation Avoidance Agreements (DTAAs) designed to attract high-net-worth investors and related activities. However, this momentum was eventually challenged by issues such as round-tripping, tax avoidance, and crack-downs by foreign authorities, making it increasingly difficult to sustain such investments against more agile international competitors.

Ten years ago, the country still had a good reputation, healthy monetary reserves and a buoyant middle-class with a decent per caput income and standard of living and, perhaps more importantly, a knack for making social equilibrium and inclusivity, institutional checks and balances, investor confidence and political mores work by and large for the benefit of the country. Political alliances changed and upheavals went their way in 1995, 2000 or 2005, but transition did not change those fundamentals and maybe we all assumed that they offered enough in-built resilience to carry us through choppy political waters.

Sadly, it was this fundamental tenet that was overturned in 2014 and we need not go over recent history, nor over how and why the Jugnauth regime were booted out by the population in November last. The present regime, led by Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, his Deputy Paul Bérenger, and Attorney General Gavin Glover, has made it clear that a return to democratic normalcy requires institutions to operate independently — free to investigate without

“That the days of political bosses exerting influence over the Police, the ICAC/FCC, or financial regulatory institutions, the days of using these bodies to hound, harass, manhandle, handcuff, or plant evidence at political opponents' residences, the days of mass surveillance of Mauritian's phone, mobile, and social media activities are over is a significant first step, rightly applauded even by high-profile suspects now queuing at the FCC headquarters. The FCC itself, a prime example of legislative abuse purporting to declare almost *suo motu* who is guilty and who is not, is fittingly destined for replacement by a National Crime Agency...”

## Turning the Page: Rebuilding Institutions and Strengthening Sovereignty

fear or favour — and to transmit their findings to a revitalized Office of the DPP for prosecution and legal action.

That the days of political bosses exerting influence over the Police, the ICAC/FCC, or financial regulatory institutions, the days of using these bodies to hound, harass, manhandle, handcuff, or plant evidence at political opponents' residences, the days of mass surveillance of Mauritian's phone, mobile, and social media activities are over is a significant first step, rightly applauded even by high-profile suspects now queuing at the FCC headquarters. The FCC itself, a prime example of legislative abuse purporting to declare almost *suo motu* who is guilty and who is not, is fittingly destined for replacement by a National Crime Agency — not a product of unchecked imagination but one inspired by proven international models.

The stash of cash in suitcases smack of corruption, but also begs the question whether similar suitcases laden with valuables and forex have already exited the country discretely through the airport. The FCC investigators have obtained a Supreme Court order to analyse all phone and IT equipment of the Jugnauth family and other protagonists and conduct a full financial forensic trail of their bank and other assets.

The authorities have promised a catalogue of changes to ensure that neither the Parliament nor institutions supposed to be free and independent and act as constitutional checks nor those marshalling or guiding foreign investment

can be derailed to suit powerful private agendas. On the social dereliction front, nothing seems more urgent than a vigorous plan to counteract the import and distribution of hard drugs by financial barons, while releasing the pressures on personal and recreational use of cannabis.

On a separate note, it is fitting that the excision of the Chagos Archipelago — imposed on Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam by the UK as a coercive condition for granting Mauritius its independence — now seems to be calling upon his son, Dr. Navin Ramgoolam, as Mauritius' full sovereignty over the territory may soon be recognized by both U.S. President Trump and UK Prime Minister Sir Keir Starmer. The details of the deal are yet to be confirmed, but it should allow the nation to turn a page on that chapter while our best brains endeavour to chalk out our maritime future, with the help of international friends and allies.

Of those who have stood by our side through thick and thin, India has been a steadfast partner. Prime Minister Modi's acceptance — despite his demanding schedule — of Prime Minister Ramgoolam's invitation to be the guest of honour at our upcoming National Day celebrations holds particular significance, not least for the concrete avenues it opens to expand our collaboration. We can expect PMO, several Ministries, India House and even State House to be working overtime to make best use of those 48hrs. A largely pacified Mauritius looks ready for celebrating this national day with style and fervour.





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# Medical and Healthcare in the pre-Independence era

**R**eports of violence against doctors and other health personnel take me back to the couple of decades before our independence when I was growing up, a time when doctors were held in high respect. Their very presence, imbued as they were with the latest knowledge that was available then and combined with their experience, almost commanded trust and inspired quiet assurance. But there were other practitioners too, those who made 'passe' to treat, for example, some skin lesions or who recommended plants that had healing properties. But such plants were known to many families too, who grew them in their yard. Our own garden had many of them.

Besides, there were nurses, male and female, who went around doing dressings, giving injections recommended by doctors, even treating minor injuries and puncturing boils and abscesses. They belonged to particular localities and rendered their services as and when, charging for example, Rs 1.00 for an injection. Big money in those days!

As far as doctors go, mostly in my family, we resorted to well-known general practitioners in Curepipe, and I do not remember that anyone ever attended hospital, the only one we knew about being Candos or Victoria Hospital, mostly referred to as Candos. We'd heard about Civil Hospital and Brown Sequard Hospital - *l'hôpital fou* - where someone we knew had to be taken to for suddenly behaving and speaking very oddly.

There was also 'L'Hôpital Mangalkhan', set up after World War II for the treatment of polio cases, an epidemic of the disease having occurred during the closing years of the war. Much later in my career as a doctor I not only worked as a specialist at

PMOC but also met the English surgeon who had been sent to run the polio hospital and had worked there from 1947 to 1949.

My earliest remembrance of 'treatment' was what systematically happened during the August school holidays, the administration of the purgative known as *botrice* whose smell made us recoil. But there was no running away for any of us children from swallowing that sickly sweet-bitter mixture of *l'huile ricin* and coffee, which we did with Mother or Dadi squeezing our noses tight and that we had to gulp fast. To neutralise the offensive taste in our mouth, we were given pastilles limon - disc-like cent-size lemon lozenges, which we used to buy at 4 for one cent.

The next torture was swallowing *bouillon brede chouchou* after each trip to the toilet, of the bucket type that was in the yard, until the urge had stopped by the evening, and we had a dinner of *khichri*. We were told that the *botrice* was for cleaning our bowels, since worm infestation was rife as we used to go about barefoot when playing on the bare earth, and in fact it was not unusual to pass worms in the stools.

**T**he variety of medicinal plants in our garden sufficed to take care of the common ailments, and obviously our elders had a good empirical knowledge about them. All of them had a very pleasant but distinctive aromatic smell (and I had to wait until Organic Chemistry in HSC to learn what aromatic compounds were made up of), and equally nice taste, so we had no reluctance sipping hot infusions of them, often while sitting around a coal fire burning in the *rechaud* on winter evenings.



reputation as a surgeon at Candos. He had no formal qualifications as a surgeon, but in those days, doctors received a broad training and were able to handle most common conditions, performing Caesarian sections also. It was much later that we started to have 'proper' specialists.

Dr Seegobin lived in Bougainville Street, which is not far from Farquhar Street where we stayed. During the polio epidemic, he went on air with Prof John Seddon, translating the latter's message about precautions to be taken to prevent getting infected with the polio virus. Prof Seddon had been delegated by the Colonial Secretary to make a survey of the situation and make recommendations,

one of which was the setting up of the polio hospital.

**D**r Bathfield, whose brother Bertie was my chemistry teacher in HSC at RCC, was the orthopaedic surgeon at Candos, and Medical Superintendent. When the Princess Margaret Orthopaedic Centre was inaugurated by Princess Margaret in 1956, Dr F. Ghadially came on contract from England to join him as orthopaedic surgeon. I had heard about Dr Ghadially when he had operated on a newborn cousin sister of mine who had a severe deformity of the spine. Much later, 1984-86, I worked with him at the PMOC and benefited immensely from his experience as the pioneer of Plastic Surgery and Burns Treatment in Mauritius.

There was a dispensary, *dispensaire*, in Curepipe Road similar to others in the other districts of the country, providing basic services including vaccinations that were coming up. A friend of mine used to work there, assisting Dr Julia Maigrot, founder of SACIM. He was among the many young Mauritians with GCE/SC pass who had no prospects in the 1950s of Mauritius and who ventured out to the UK by ship, and by dint of hard work and perseverance established themselves in the nursing profession in England. Most of them settled there permanently, as did my friend who used to give graphic accounts to me of how he had drained a *panari* in a finger under guidance, and other procedures that he was proud to accomplish. These dispensaries were later to become Health Centres, as part of the network of Primary Healthcare.

This is only a very brief account of the medical and health scene from which we have evolved to the present day, and there's much more in my next book that I am working on! It's a fascinating journey of what all we have faced to reach to our present situation. The story continues...

*Ayapana* was a standard remedy for abdominal pain, *camomille* serving the same purpose for toddlers in particular. A combination of *la verveine* and *patte poule* took care of the common cold and the stuffed noses and sore throat it was associated with. If we had itchy skin lesions, we boiled *feuilles chandelle* in the water we would use to take our weekly full bath on Sundays; on the other days we cleansed ourselves daily with cold water from the single tap we had in the yard.

However, for *la gratelle* or scabies we applied the foul pungent smelling sulphur-based ointment obtained from the dispensary. For headache we used Aspro tabs bought from the Chinese corner shop.

From time to time though, we had to consult general practitioners, of which there were several well-known ones in Curepipe: Dr Rivalland, Dr Soreefan, Dr Celestin, Dr Bhageerutty, Dr Lallah, Dr Harrel (nicknamed *ti Harel*). Another one, Dr Adolphe to whom my father took me once for stomach pain, was actually not a doctor as I learnt much later afterwards, but an experienced nurse who practised as far as I remember near Pharmacie Cartwright in the Royal Road, Curepipe Road not far from the other well-known Pharmacie Simonet, an iconic fixture for many a long year in Curepipe, alas now extinct. Talk of nostalgia...

**D**r Adolphe had a reputation for treating stomach pain with *potion blanc*, which had a sweetish tangy taste. I remember him as a soft-spoken, warm person, wearing a *chapeau feutre*. Dr Rivalland's consultation was at the rear of what is now Sik Yuen supermarket, and I had consulted him too once, what for I don't remember. He was a huge, rotundman, always smiling, with an expansive paunch, always elegantly dressed, and a completely bald, shiny head.

Among the hospital doctors that we heard about were Dr Seegobin, who had a



Inauguration of the Princess Margaret Orthopaedic Centre by Princess Margaret in 1956





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Sameer Sharma

The Future Is Now

# Mauritius's AI Ascent: A Vision for a Centre of Excellence in the Digital Age

*Let us build a Mauritius where talent thrives, innovation flourishes, and ethical AI becomes our global signature*

In an era marked by rapid technological advancements, small nations like Mauritius face a crucial decision: to remain passive consumers of global innovation or to emerge as agile, forward-thinking pioneers.

With artificial intelligence (AI) reshaping industries from healthcare to finance, Mauritius stands at a crossroads, offering a unique opportunity to leverage its strategic advantages — a bilingual workforce, a robust financial ecosystem, and geographic connectivity — to become a regional AI innovation hub. However, this vision relies heavily on the deliberate cultivation of home-grown talent and the creation of an ecosystem where cutting-edge solutions can thrive. For decades now, pundits have been giving high-level speeches around turning Mauritius into all kinds of hubs in vain. The last AI roadmap Mauritius published almost a decade ago had a vision but no implementation strategy. The following analysis focuses on the 'how'.

## The Imperative for Local AI Mastery

The financial sector in Mauritius, including its offshore industry, already grapples with complex challenges such as detecting sophisticated fraud, conducting accurate 'Know Your Customer' checks, combating money laundering, and managing credit risk. While basic tools and systems are in place, the application of machine learning, and more specifically Generative AI solutions, has yet to take hold. Relying predominantly on external solutions risks stifling local innovation and perpetuating a cycle of dependency, making it imperative to build domestic expertise to make informed "build versus buy" decisions. Mauritian Fintech firms, while unlikely to lead the world in developing foundational models from scratch, have the potential to add significant value by leveraging Generative AI and traditional machine learning solutions in real-world local and regional use cases in a cost-effective and responsible manner. Thus, Mauritian machine learning engineers and application developers can design cost-effective solutions by leveraging foundational models that may need fine-tuning to suit specific tasks. We do not need to reinvent the wheel. We just need to know how to use it.

## Pillars of the AI Centre of Excellence

### Talent Development: From Theory to Practice

Mauritius boasts a small foundation in mathematics and statistics. However, bridging the gap between theory and application is essential. An AI Centre of Excellence (CoE) could prioritize hands-on, industry-aligned training. By partnering with global education firms, the CoE can design curricula focused on practical skills such as data engineering, model development, model deployment (MLOps/LLMOps), and cloud infrastructure management.

### Mentorship Networks

The value proposition of any CoE lies in connecting students with both local and global AI professionals, ensuring knowledge transfer and real-world relevance. The CoE could also promote apprenticeships, embedding trainees within banks, healthcare providers, and logistics firms to solve operational challenges while reducing hiring risks for employers. Mentors bring the real-world experience the stu-



dents need to deliver on real-world projects. Essentially, students would be given the opportunity to work on real-world projects with mentor support, allowing them to build and showcase their work portfolio. Companies get cheap labour initially to work on their pain points. Over time, companies get to work with their future employees or business partners.

### Solving Local and Regional Problems

The CoE, in collaboration with or as part of the Bank of Mauritius Innovation Hub, could pilot AI solutions tailored to the financial sector's specific challenges. Use cases include: Anti-Money Laundering (AML): Implementing models to detect suspicious transactions in real time. Credit Risk Modeling: Leveraging machine learning to evaluate diverse data sources. Regulatory Compliance: Creating transparent AI tools for evolving regulations. Customer Interaction Tools: Developing virtual assistants to enhance customer experiences. Copilot Tools: Deploying AI solutions to augment human productivity by automating routine tasks. Beyond finance, the CoE can drive innovation in tourism (personalized visitor experiences), healthcare (diagnostic support systems), and logistics (smart port management). Government services are full of repeatable tasks that are crying for automation and significant cost savings. In a nutshell, the Government itself is a massive business opportunity.

### Responsible AI: Ethics as a Competitive Advantage

As AI adoption grows, associated risks such as biased algorithms and opaque decision-making increase. The CoE can position Mauritius as a leader in ethical AI by:

- Implementing Governance Frameworks: Establishing guidelines for model explainability, fairness audits, and data privacy.
- Developing a Modern Model Risk Management Framework: Ensuring that developed solutions with embedded models are conceptually sound and fit for use.
- Open Banking as a Test bed: Encouraging innovation while enforcing strict safeguards, transforming compliance into an advantage for foreign developers.

### Hybrid Cloud Infrastructure: Balancing Security and Scalability

Access to the right data and machine learning operations (MLOps) architecture is crucial for AI-enabled solutions. Mauritius and its CoE should partner with global cloud

providers such as AWS and Microsoft Azure to provide trainees access to secure, cost-effective cloud environments. A hybrid model will allow sensitive data to remain on-premises while harnessing cloud scalability for compute-heavy tasks. This infrastructure will also serve as a sandbox for start-ups and foreign developers to test solutions in a regulated yet flexible environment.

### Avoiding the "Vendor Trap"

A recurring theme in the CoE's design should be self-reliance. While global tech giants offer valuable tools, the goal is to empower Mauritians to lead AI projects, not just implement off-the-shelf products. This approach not only reduces costs but also fosters intellectual property retention.

### A Collaborative Roadmap

The success of the CoE hinges on collaborative efforts across various sectors. Academia can reinforce essential math and coding courses while the CoE emphasizes practical skills. The private sector can contribute by proposing challenge statements and providing datasets for trainees to work on. Government involvement is crucial as well, with policymakers expediting open banking reforms, offering tax incentives for AI research and development, and funding scholarships for underrepresented groups. Additionally, engaging the Mauritian diaspora can provide valuable mentorship and investment opportunities.

### From Vision to Reality: A 24-Month Timeline

Transforming the vision into reality for Mauritius's AI Centre of Excellence requires a well-structured, phased approach over 24 months. Initially, securing partnerships with cloud providers, designing specialized boot camps, and identifying pilot projects with firms such as banks are pivotal. Following this, it would be essential to launch the first cohorts and apprenticeships while establishing AI governance guidelines with the Bank of Mauritius and Financial Services Commission. In the final phase, scaling AI solutions across diverse industries, attracting international developers through open banking APIs, and hosting a regional AI summit will firmly position Mauritius as a leader in AI innovation.

### A Small Island, A Giant Leap

Mauritius need not be a bystander in the AI revolution. By investing in its youth, fostering public-private collaboration, and prioritizing ethical innovation, the island can position itself as a beacon for sustainable technological progress. The AI Centre of Excellence is more than a training hub — it's a statement of intent. In the words of the late founding father of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, "A nation is great not by its size, but by the quality of its people." For Mauritius, that quality lies in empowering its people to harness AI not just as end users, but as architects of the future. This is a win-win model for the country.

Mauritius attracts entrepreneurs from around the region with right-sized regulations such as open banking regulations, by selling itself as a regional laboratory while the state gets a new sector, an improved human capital base that is more entrepreneurial and that can significantly enhance overall productivity and save costs.

The time to act is now. Let us build a Mauritius where talent thrives, innovation flourishes, and ethical AI becomes our global signature.



## Editorial

Subsequent to the recommendations made by the Government in Sessional Paper No. 8 of 1958: 'The Luce Report: A Time for Decision', the Central Office of Information was created. The Government recommended that a Government Information Department should be created which will reach every member of the public. That department would impress upon the public that it is a social duty to adopt the recommendations made in the Five-Year Plan and a social crime to ignore its exhortations. To ensure that aim a campaign will have to be launched and carried out with the utmost imagination and ingenuity. The Information Department would have to impress upon the public the need for family limitations. The Sessional Paper made it clear that it was not for Government to advocate methods of birth control which would be offensive to important sections of the population. A campaign for an increase food production, coupled with advice as to how that could be reached; the need to abolish waste of water, electricity, food, petrol, land, etc.; to show the advantages of technical training and discourage the rush towards the grammar school type of education, all these would be the activities of that department, as visualised by that Sessional Paper.

Another aim of the proposed Department would be to foster understanding between the public and the Government and to dispel the illusion that "Government is remote and inimical and available only to be pilfered from or swindled."

The CIO was established in January last year with its head Mr K. Hazareesingh, who has had a thorough war-time training at the Information Office. In fact, it was the Public Relations Office which was expanded. Most of its staff were transferred to the newly formed department and its activities greatly widened. There is no doubt that the CIO has justified its existence. During the last two cyclones when the population was completely cut off from the rest of the world, and even people of one town did not know what was happening in the neighbouring town, the CIO, kept the public fairly well informed. Some of its staff had to work until very late in the evening to ensure a continuous and efficient flow of information which was so eagerly sought for. Even some of the opponents of that department were then compelled to praise the very good job it had done.

As soon as the CIO was created, the urgent and complicated task of informing the public of the mechanism of voting befell that department. For the first time 220,000 people were going to vote on the basis of universal adult suffrage. The CIO got the ready co-operation of the local press, to which even tailored materials had to be given concerning registration of electors and elections. The CIO for its own part printed pamphlets in English, French and Hindi and distributed them throughout the island. Through its Cinema Unit it spread information about the voting system. The election results were broadcast and communicated to the press and the public in a record time. The changes brought about by the new Constitution in the administration were fairly well explained to the public. Statements made by Ministers were translated into French and made available to the press; the publicity of the Five-Year Plan was done on a vast scale. The CIO also managed to get some articles of the Plan published in some of the important papers of the UK.

## Government Information



Port Louis Desforges Street in 1960 - Scene after Cyclone Carol

Last year, 1308 Government press notices and communiqués were handled by the CIO: sixteen press conferences were convened on behalf of Government departments. The Mobile Cinema Unit was extensively used to provide entertainment and also to disseminate government policy. Three hundred and eighty-six shows were given, and which were attended by an estimated audience of 350,000 people. Four publicity campaigns were organised in connection with town cleanliness, anti-poliomyelitis vaccination, water and electricity wastage and road safety. Besides the news reels, the film library of the CIO consisted of 227 films of 16 and 35 mm. That office ran a press cutting service for the benefit of Ministries and Government departments. Five hundred and twenty-three cuttings were issued. A daily news report is prepared and circulated to Ministries and departments. A weekly summary of leading articles and important news items is sent to the Colonial Office. Ninety copies of a monthly news bulletin prepared by the CIO is sent to students in the UK.

Since the establishment of the CIO we find that hardly any rejoinder has been sent to the press to refute false information or allegations made against Government departments. Has the Government deliberately chosen to remain silent in that connection? Obviously, it is not advisable for the Government to get involved into controversy with the press, especially when there are some papers which are bent upon criticizing Government for everything that it undertakes or for anything that happens in a department. These papers would manage to have the last word in any controversy. But that cautiousness is doing the Government more harm than good. As there is no denial to the false news and allegations which these papers dish out to the public, the silence is misinterpreted by the masses. We think that just the bare facts about the case, written in a concise language, should be sent as a rejoinder to the papers involved. In great countries even diplomatic bodies deem it necessary to reply to allegations made against their country. Some time ago a reigning monarch, King Hussein of Jordan, replied to criticisms levelled against his country in the *New York Times*.

Now, can the CIO tell us how many recipients read the daily news report? We know some heads of department who don't even open them. When one can read the newspapers in their original, why should one bother to read summaries? We think it is a sheer waste of time, energy and money to print them.

We learn that the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund Committee has made a grant of Rs 31,000 for the purpose of establishing a Mobile Library Service. There are already 1,000 books in the Library of the Office. Can we know whether the scheme for the running of the Mobile Library has been implemented? The publication of *Maurice Magazine* has been a success, especially the Hindi edition. But as we have already pointed out that topicality is the touchstone of success of a paper, the *Maurice Magazine* has not always adhered to that principle though during the last cyclones it was printed in such a record time and come out with so many varied and useful information that it amazed the public and astonished the professional journalists.

We think it's no use printing thousands of copies of papers, pamphlets and booklets unless the CIO can make proper circulation arrangements.

The monthly *Maurice Magazine* is published too far apart. Things are moving so fast in this island that even with all the goodwill displayed by the publishers, the news are bound to become outdated. There is another thing: Instead of printing the magazines pamphlet and booklets on fine printing paper, why are they not printed on cheaper paper? Even the Central Office of Information of the UK does not print luxurious booklets as we do. The US Consulate in Nairobi has his information sheets cyclostyled.

The rural contacts of the Government had been frightfully poor in the past. It is improving now; but considering the tremendous anti-government propaganda, which is carried out by detractors, there is a need for closer contact with the public by the CIO information machinery.

We very often hear members of the governing party say that the CIO has been a fiasco. While they do very little to inform the public about their party's activities and even less to counter the propaganda of lies and calumnies spread by their detractors, they still expect others to fulfill what is their duty to do. Not that Government propaganda machinery can't go beyond a certain limit, but it is also poorly staffed and financed.

The Information Departments occupy a very important place in Europe. They considerably help to uphold democratic governments. They are placed under a Ministry and provided with the best brains.

Why should we not do the same here? It is high time that the CIO be placed under a Ministry. In the meantime, we suggest that a Ministerial Committee be formed to direct the activities of that department.

We venture to make some more suggestions:

1. More funds and staff should be provided.
2. Important events should be filmed.
3. Fact sheets should be prepared on all the important departments and boards.
4. The CIO should summarise all important Ordinances passed by the Legislative Council, and Government Notices and send them to the press and to its distributing centres.
5. The publication of the Report on Mauritius should be entrusted to the CIO.
6. As far as possible, important CIO publications should be printed in the principal languages of the Colony.



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

## COMMUNIQUE

## NON PAIEMENT DES FACTURES D'ÉLECTRICITÉ

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

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

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

La Direction



# Your Contribution Your Legacy

A compliant taxpayer is a responsible citizen.  
By paying your fair share of tax means securing a  
stronger, fairer, and more resilient country.

**Do your part. Play fair.**

Every cent contributes to a Mauritius that works for  
Everyone!

FAIRNESS

EDUCATION

HEALTHCARE

SOCIAL WELFARE

NATION-BUILDING

TRANSPARENCY

ACCOUNTABILITY

Partners in Progress!





## EU leaders to back defence surge, support Zelenskiy after US aid freeze

European leaders are set to approve bold measures to increase defence spending and reaffirm their support for Ukraine on Thursday, following Donald Trump's suspension of military aid to Kyiv. The move has heightened concerns that Europe can no longer rely on U.S. protection.

At a summit in Brussels, the leaders of the European Union's 27 nations will be joined by Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy. However, their show of unity may be overshadowed by Hungary's refusal to endorse a statement backing Kyiv.

The meeting takes place against the backdrop of major defence policy shifts, driven by fears that an emboldened Russia could target an EU country next —



and that Europe cannot count on the U.S. to intervene.

While U.S. President Donald Trump has affirmed his commitment to NATO, he has also insisted that Europe must take greater responsibility for its own security. He

has previously suggested the U.S. might not defend NATO allies that fail to meet defence spending targets.

His shift from unwavering U.S. support for Ukraine to a more conciliatory stance toward Moscow has deeply unsettled European leaders, who view Russia as their biggest security threat.

"I want to believe that the United States will stand by us. But we must be prepared if that is not the case," French President Emmanuel Macron said in a national address on the eve of the summit.

Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Macron stated that France is open to discussions on extending its nuclear deterrence to European partners.

Meanwhile, Germany's prospective governing coalition has agreed to ease borrowing limits to finance billions of euros in additional defence spending. The European Commission — the EU's executive body — has also proposed measures to mobilize up to 800 billion euros for European defence, including a plan to borrow up to 150 billion euros for lending to EU governments.

## New Trump travel ban could bar Afghans, Pakistanis soon, sources say



A new travel ban by President Donald Trump could bar people from Afghanistan and Pakistan from entering the U.S. as soon as next week based on a government review of countries' security and vetting risks, three sources familiar with the matter said. The three sources, who requested anonymity, said other countries could also be on the list but did not know which ones.

The move harkens back to the Republican president's first term ban on travellers from seven majority-Muslim nations, a policy that went through several iterations before it was upheld by the Supreme Court in 2018.

Former President Joe Biden, a Democrat who succeeded Trump, repealed the ban in 2021, calling it "a stain on our national conscience."

The new ban could affect tens of thousands of Afghans who have been cleared for resettlement in the U.S. as refugees or on Special Immigrant Visas because they are at risk of Taliban retribution for working for the U.S. during a 20-year war in their home country, reports Reuters.

Trump issued an executive order on January 20 requiring intensified security

vetting of any foreigners seeking admission to the U.S. to detect national security threats.

That order directed several cabinet members to submit by March 12 a list of countries from which travel should be partly or fully suspended because their "vetting and screening information is so deficient."

Afghanistan will be included in the recommended list of countries for a complete travel ban, said the three sources and one other who also asked not to be identified.

The three sources said Pakistan also would be recommended for inclusion.

The Taliban, who seized Kabul as the last U.S. troops pulled out in August 2021 after two decades of war, are confronting an insurgency by Islamic State's regional branch. Pakistan also is grappling with violent Islamist militants.

Trump's directive is part of an immigration crackdown that he launched at the start of his second term.

He previewed his plan in an October 2023 speech, pledging to restrict people from the Gaza Strip, Libya, Somalia, Syria, Yemen and "anywhere else that threatens our security."

## Hamas brushes off Trump's threat and says it will only free hostages in return for a lasting truce

The Hamas militant group on Thursday brushed off President Donald Trump's latest threat and reiterated that it will only free the remaining Israeli hostages in exchange for a lasting ceasefire in the Gaza Strip.

Hamas accused Trump and Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu of trying to back out of the ceasefire agreement they reached in January. The agreement calls for negotiations over a second phase in which the hostages would be released in exchange for more Palestinian prisoners, a permanent ceasefire and an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza.

Hamas spokesman Abdel-Latif al-Qanoua said the "best path to free the remaining Israeli hostages" is through negotiations on that phase, which were supposed to begin in early February. Only limited preparatory talks have been held so far, reports AP.

On Wednesday, Trump issued what he said was a "last warning" to Hamas after meeting with eight former hostages. The White House meanwhile confirmed it had held unprecedented direct talks with the militant group, which Israel and Western countries view as a terrorist organization.

"Release all of the Hostages now, not later, and immediately return all of the dead bodies of the people you murdered, or it is OVER for you," Trump wrote on his Truth Social platform. "Only sick and twisted people keep bodies, and you are sick and twisted!"

Both Israel and Hamas have a long-

standing practice of holding onto the remains of their adversaries in order to trade them in hostage-prisoner deals.

Hamas is believed to still have 24 living hostages taken in the Oct. 7, 2023, attack that triggered the war, including Israeli-American Edan Alexander. It is also holding the bodies of 34 others who were either killed in the initial attack or in captivity, as well as the remains of a soldier killed in the 2014 war.



Hamas released 25 Israeli hostages and the bodies of eight more in exchange for nearly 2,000 Palestinian prisoners in the first, 42-day phase of the ceasefire, which ended on Saturday.

Israel supports what it says is a new U.S. plan for the second phase in which Hamas would release half the remaining hostages immediately and the rest when a permanent ceasefire is negotiated. Hamas has rejected the proposal and says it is sticking with the agreement signed in January.



## Violence on TV: Long-Term Impacts on Children

**R**esults from a new study led by Linda Pagani, Professor at the Université de Montréal's School of Psychoeducation, reveal long-term risks associated with early exposure to violent media content and later antisocial behaviour in adolescence. The study involved nearly 2,000 children enrolled in the Quebec Longitudinal Study of Child Development, examining the effects of violent television content consumed at ages 3.5 and 4.5.

### Key Findings

At age 15, boys who had been exposed to violent



media as preschoolers showed increased antisocial behaviours. These behaviours included physical aggression, stealing, threats, insults, and involvement in gang fights. Weapon use was also among the predicted outcomes. Interestingly, no such effects were observed for girls, likely because boys are generally more exposed to violent content.

The study defines screen violence as content featuring physical, verbal, and relational aggression -- often involving fast-paced, appealing characters like superheroes who are rewarded for aggressive acts. Pagani explained, "Children are drawn to stimulating violent content, which increases the likelihood of long-term exposure and its consequences."

The findings highlight the critical role parents and communities play in mitigating risks by carefully monitoring and limiting exposure to violent media content during early childhood.



## Can animals have mental disabilities?

Animals can be born with genetic or developmental issues that make it hard for them to live normal lives. They also can develop mental health problems in response to conditions around them.

**M**ax was a fun-loving Labrador retriever who enjoyed going for car rides and greeting clients at his owner's office. But around age 16, Max suddenly started having accidents in the house and stopped sleeping well at night. He became irritable and seemed not to understand the words and commands he had long known.

Max was showing symptoms of a disorder called cognitive dysfunction syndrome, which can affect cats and dogs as they age. In dogs, it looks very similar to Alzheimer's disease, which causes memory loss and dementia in humans, usually as they grow older.

I study how humans and other animals learn, and my research involves working with many different species, from bees to pigeons and crawfish. Part of my work involves paying attention to conditions that can affect mental health in animals.

Sometimes genetic or developmental changes affect how the brain is built, which can lead to mental disabilities or learning differences. In other cases, animals may be exposed to scary or stressful situations that can cause mental health problems.

### Understanding animal genes

Down syndrome is a common genetic condition that can slow down learning and thinking in humans. People born with Down syndrome may have a harder time learning new things, remembering information and making complicated decisions.

Down syndrome is caused by changes to a chromosome -- the strands in our cells that store our genes. Normally, people have 23 pairs of chromosomes; when someone is born with an extra copy of chromosome 21, it produces the effects of Down syndrome.

Most animals can't have Down syndrome, because their genes are organized



Zoos provide animals like these ring-tailed lemurs at England's Bristol Zoo Gardens with toys and special foods to enrich their activities. Matt Cardy/Getty Images

into chromosomes differently than human genes. However, our closest relatives, including chimpanzees and orangutans, do have a similar organization of genes. Conditions very much like Down syndrome have been observed in these species.

One example, Kanako, was a female chimpanzee born in a research facility in Japan. She had vision and heart problems caused by an extra chromosome. Scientists don't know whether Kanako had trouble with learning, because her vision problems made that difficult to test. However, Kanako enjoyed socializing with other chimpanzees and lived a long life in a wildlife sanctuary.

Wild chimpanzees are probably also sometimes born with genetic conditions like Down syndrome, but the effects make it difficult to survive in the wild, just like being born with a heart or a foot that doesn't develop normally. Kanako was able to live a healthy life thanks to the help of her human caretakers and good veterinary care.

### Coping with trauma and stress

Animals that are born healthy can also develop mental health problems in

response to conditions around them.

For example, just as soldiers may develop post-traumatic stress disorder after experiencing a life-threatening situation, working military and police dogs can develop a similar condition. Dogs with canine PTSD may cling to their owners, startle at everyday noises, or frequently act panicky or fearful.

Veterinarians can prescribe anti-anxiety medication to help these dogs stay calm during scary events, like fireworks or thunderstorms. Owners also can use behavioral treatments to reward the dogs for staying calm and relaxed around things that seem frightening.

Most traumatic events, like earthquakes or car accidents, can't be predicted in advance. However, in some cases, such as capturing and restraining a wild animal to relocate it, workers use tranquilizers or sedatives to make the animal sleepy, or cover its eyes and ears to reduce fear and prevent long-lasting problems.

Another common cause of mental health problems in animals is daily stress. Animals held in captivity at zoos, farms or research labs may experience stress from

sources such as traffic noises, uncomfortable temperatures or not being able to engage in certain natural behaviors.

Animals have many signature behaviors: Penguins swim, meerkats dig, baboons socialize and chickens take dust baths. When animals can't do important behaviors, they may experience stress and mental problems.

To keep this from happening, zookeepers and animal caretakers provide environmental enrichment -- objects, structures and activities that stimulate the animals' minds and help keep them from getting bored.

### Supporting your pet

Sometimes it's easy to see when animals are stressed or anxious. They may pace back and forth, spend their days in hiding or be unusually aggressive. Getting sick frequently or losing weight can also be a sign of poor mental health. Certain hormones, called corticosteroids, can be measured from a poop sample to provide clues about whether an animal is under too much stress.

Even pets in loving homes can experience mental health problems. Some dogs struggle with separation anxiety -- extreme fear of being left alone by their owner. Lack of mental or physical activity can also produce anxiety symptoms.

Whether it means taking your dog to the dog park to run and socialize, or building puzzles that hide treats for your parakeet to find, keeping animals busy is good for them. In more serious cases, veterinarians can prescribe medication or behavioral treatments to help your pet feel better.

Humans can use science to understand the many conditions that affect mental health in animals and find treatments to help them. We also can show compassion and care for others -- whether human or animal -- who experience mental problems.

**Rachel Blaser**

Professor of Neuroscience, Cognition and Behavior, University of San Diego





## Put It on My Bill

A duck walks into a pharmacy and walks up to the counter.

"I'd like some Chapstick," he tells the pharmacist.

"How are you going to pay for that?" the pharmacist asks.

The duck replies, "Just put it on my bill."

A little while later, another duck comes into the pharmacy and approaches the counter.

"I'd like a pack of condoms, please," says the duck.

"Certainly," says the pharmacist. "Shall I put that on your bill?"

"What kind of a duck do you think I am?!"

\*\*\*

### The Perfect Crime

"Last night, somebody broke into my apartment and replaced everything with exact replicas.

I said to my roommate, 'Can you believe this? Everything has been replaced with an exact replica. What do you think?'

And he said, 'Do I know you?'

\*\*\*

### A Hitchhiker's Nightmare

I was driving down the road and saw a hitchhiker. Being in a generous mood, I decided I'd give him a ride.

After I picked him up and we started on down the road, he was very thankful but said, "You aren't scared that I could be a serial killer or something?"

So, I chuckled, looked at him, and said, "The chances that we are both serial killers

is probably pretty low, don't you think?"

\*\*\*

### Into the Woods

A man and a little girl are walking into the woods at night.

The little girl says, "I don't like it here. It's spooky!"

The man replies, "You're telling me — I have to walk back alone."

\*\*\*

### Choose Your Hell

A man dies and goes to hell. He's met by a big ugly demon who tells him he must choose his eternal punishment behind one of three doors.

Behind the first door is endless fire — everyone and everything is burning.

Behind the second door is ice — everything is frozen, people's limbs break off, etc.



Behind the third door, everyone is standing up to their chests in shit, but they're drinking coffee and smoking cigarettes.

The guy thinks, Well, I don't want to burn or freeze, and they're all drinking coffee and smoking. Seems actually kind of nice. So, he chooses door three.

He wades down into the excrement, sloshes his way to the coffee pot, and pours his first cup.

Around five minutes later, the demon enters the room and says, "Alright, everyone, break's over. Stand on your head!"

\*\*\*

### Time Well Spent

A guy from the city is out driving in the country.

He passes a farm and sees the farmer holding a pig up, so the pig can eat apples out of an apple tree.

The city slicker has never seen anything like that, so he stops, hops the fence, and approaches the farmer.

"What in the world are you doing?" the city slicker asks.

"Holdin' up mah pig, so he can eat apples out that tree," the farmer says.

"Why not shake the tree and let your pig eat the apples off the ground?" the city slicker says. "Wouldn't that save a lot of time?"

"Well," the farmer says, "What's time to a pig?"

\*\*\*

### The Birthday Surprise

A woman wakes up on her birthday and says to her husband, "Honey, I had a dream last night that you gave me a diamond necklace for my birthday. What do you think it means?"

Her husband smiles and says, "Maybe tonight you'll find out."

Later that night, the couple go out to a nice show and have dinner at their special place. At the end of the meal, the husband takes out a small gift-wrapped box, gives it to his wife, and says, "Happy Birthday, honey."

The wife opens the box, and inside is a book titled *How to Interpret Your Dreams*.

\*\*\*

Patient: "I can't decide whether to slash my wrists or blow my brains out."

Psychiatrist: "You have difficulty making decisions."

\*\*\*

A guy phones a mental hospital and asks the receptionist if there is someone in room 99. She goes and checks, then comes back to the phone informing him that the room is empty.

"Good, that means I must have really escaped," says the guy.

\*\*\*

### The General's Misunderstanding

An army general is newly stationed at a desert post. On his first day, he calls for a soldier to show him around. While walking, he notices a camel tied to a tent.

He asks, "Soldier, why is that camel tied there?"

The soldier looks awkward and replies, "Er... well, Sir, as you know, there are no women on the base, so... um... the camel is there for when the men get certain... urges."

The general nods slowly. "I don't con-



done this behaviour, but I suppose I understand."

A few weeks into his post, the general starts feeling those urges himself. He calls for the soldier and orders him to bring the camel to his tent.

Once the camel arrives, the general sets up a stool, climbs on, and has wild animal sex with it.

After finishing, he confidently climbs down and sees the soldier staring at him, wide-eyed.

With a grin, the general asks, "So, is that how you boys do it here?"

Still in shock, the soldier replies, "No, Sir. We usually just ride the camel into town where the women are."

\*\*\*

**Mr A:** I have the perfect son.

**Mr B:** Does he smoke?

**Mr A:** No, he doesn't.

**Mr B:** Does he drink whiskey?

**Mr A:** No, he doesn't.

**Mr B:** Does he ever come home late?

**Mr A:** No, he doesn't.

**Mr B:** Wow, I guess you really do have the perfect son. How old is he?

**Mr A:** He'll be six months old next Wednesday.



## VEDA PRATISHTHAN

Regd. No: 4899, Shivala Road, Lavature

### Annual General Meeting

Members of the Veda Pratishthan are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association which will be held on

**Sunday 30 March 2025  
at 14:30 hours**

At Veda Pratishthan Ashram, Shivala Road, Lavature.

#### AGENDA

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the last Annual General Meeting
2. President's report
3. Treasurer's report
4. A.O.B.

**Secretary**  
06 March 2025



## Gaining Influence: Strategies from Pfeffer's Power Rules



Jeffrey Pfeffer's "7 Rules of Power" is a compelling exploration of the strategies employed by successful individuals to gain and maintain influence. This thought-provoking book provides practical insights into navigating the complex dynamics of power in leadership and organisations. Here are ten key takeaways:

### 1. Power Is Fundamental

Power is an essential component of human interaction and success. Pfeffer argues that understanding and embracing power dynamics is crucial for thriving in organisations and society.

### 2. Build a Strong Power Base

Establishing expertise, cultivating relationships, and securing valuable resources are foundational to gaining influence. A strong power base

enhances leverage in various situations.

### 3. Master Networking

Building a robust network is vital. Pfeffer provides actionable strategies to expand connections, strengthen relationships, and utilize social capital to achieve influence.

### 4. Develop Political Savvy

Navigating organisational politics is key to acquiring and wielding power. Pfeffer emphasizes forming alliances, managing conflicts, and understanding the political landscape as essential skills.

### 5. Be Bold and Take Risks

Calculated risks and bold actions are often necessary for growth and advancement. Pfeffer encourages stepping out of comfort zones and challenging the status quo to seize

opportunities.

### 6. Harness Persuasion

The art of persuasion is a critical tool for influence. Pfeffer highlights techniques like effective communication, storytelling, and strategic framing to achieve desired outcomes.

### 7. Build a Personal Brand

A compelling personal brand is a powerful asset. Pfeffer advises cultivating a strong reputation, projecting confidence, and demonstrating competence to enhance credibility and influence.

### 8. Command Presence

Charisma, body language, and public speaking skills are essential for commanding attention and establishing authority. Pfeffer underscores the importance of maintaining a strong presence.

### 9. Adaptability Is Key

The ability to adapt to changing environments is crucial for sustaining power. Flexibility, resilience, and continuous learning help individuals navigate shifting power dynamics effectively.

### 10. Ethics and Responsibility

Power comes with ethical responsibilities. Pfeffer explores the importance of using influence for the greater good and being mindful of the impact of one's actions on others.

## What is compassion?

A young disciple approached his Master and asked, 'Master, you always tell us to be kind and compassionate. But what is compassion?'

After thinking, the wise teacher asked the young student to peek out the window. Master led him to the window and directed his attention to the beggar sitting on the corner of the street. While looking at him, they noticed that an old lady had walked by and given him a coin.

After a while, a merchant wearing elaborate clothes passed by and gave him five coins to the beggar.

After a while, a mother and a child passed the street. The young child noticed the beggar and handed him a flower he was carrying.

After looking at these three incidents, the Master asked the student, "Which of these do you believe felt the most compassion for the beggar?"

"Merchant did as he gave the beggar five coins," answered the young pupil.

The Master smiled at the pupil and answered, "You see, an elderly lady passing by was infuriated by the beggar's poverty, so she gave him a gold coin." The old lady behaved out of pity for the beggar.

After that, we observed a merchant see a small gathering of people talking about him, so he handed the beggar five coins and swiftly left. Merchant acted with pride. He wanted to show off his money to those folks while demonstrating that he has a huge kind heart and enjoys helping others. He tried to up his social image and boost his ego.



Later, we noticed a child carrying some flowers, and when he walked by the beggar, he smiled and handed him a flower. He did not have pride or pity or want to boost his ego or social image. He acted with love. That little child was the one who responded compassionately.

"Compassion is considerably larger and nobler than pity," Master said. Fear is the source of pity. When fear touches someone's anguish, it turns into pity; when love touches someone's pain and suffering, it becomes compassion.

So, to comprehend compassion, we must recognize that all beings are the same and suffer in a similar manner. We must acknowledge those who suffer and realize that we are neither different nor superior to anybody."

## Unlocking the Potential of Your 24 Hours

Arnold Bennett's "How to Live on 24 Hours a Day," though written over a century ago, remains a timeless guide to reclaiming control of our most precious resource: time. In a world saturated with distractions, Bennett's wisdom offers a refreshing perspective on living a life of purpose and fulfillment. Here's a breakdown of the key learnings and how to apply them to modern life:

**1. Value Time Wisely:** Bennett urges us to recognize the finite nature of time and treat it with reverence. Instead of succumbing to the mindless scroll of social media, consider investing those precious minutes in something enriching. Example: Instead of an hour of Instagram, try reading a chapter of a book, learning a new language on an app, or practicing a musical instrument.

**2. Prioritise Meaningful Pursuits:** What truly matters to you? Bennett advocates for aligning your time with your passions and goals. Example: If physical fitness is paramount, schedule dedicated workout time, even if it means saying no to less important social engagements.

**3. Establish a Structured Routine:** Organization is key to maximizing productivity. Create a daily schedule that allocates specific blocks for work, personal development, and leisure. Example: Designate mornings for focused work, afternoons for creative pursuits, and evenings for family and relaxation.

**4. Eliminate Time Drains:** Identify and eliminate activities that steal your time without offering value. Example: A fireman, after a long shift, might be tempted to spend hours passively watching television. Instead, he could limit screen time and engage in a hobby, spend quality time with family, or pursue further education.

**5. Make Commuting Time Count:** Don't let travel time go to waste. Turn it into an opportunity for learning or reflection. Example: Utilize your commute by listening to educational podcasts, audiobooks, or language lessons.

**6. Harness Brief Time Intervals:** Even short periods of time can be productive. Example: While waiting in line or during brief breaks, respond to emails, brainstorm ideas, or practice a skill.

**7. Intentional Leisure Time:** Approach leisure with purpose. Plan activities that rejuvenate and fulfill you. Example: Instead of aimlessly drifting through the weekend, schedule a hike, visit a museum, or engage in a creative project.

**8. Prioritise Quality over Quantity:** Focus on working efficiently rather than simply filling hours. Example: Dedicate focused, uninterrupted blocks of time to important tasks, rather than stretching them out over the entire day with distractions.

**9. Regular Self-Reflection:** Regularly assess how you're spending your time and make adjustments. Example: At the end of each day, take a few minutes to reflect on your time usage and identify areas for improvement.

**10. Strive for Balance:** A balanced life is essential for long-term well-being. Prioritize rest, relationships, and recreation alongside work. Example: Schedule time for relaxation, spend quality time with loved ones, and pursue hobbies that bring you joy.



## Healthy Aging

# Want to Stay Youthful? Avoid these Mistakes

**S**ome seemingly benign habits can cause you to age more quickly than you should. See what you may be doing wrong, as medically reviewed by Poonam Sachdev

If you don't get enough sleep, your skin can start to wrinkle and sag prematurely. This is partly because your body releases more cortisol, a "stress hormone" that breaks down collagen, which keeps your skin smooth and elastic. Try to establish a quiet, soothing bedtime routine with regular hours, and avoid alcohol, caffeine, and electronics before bed.

## You're a smoker

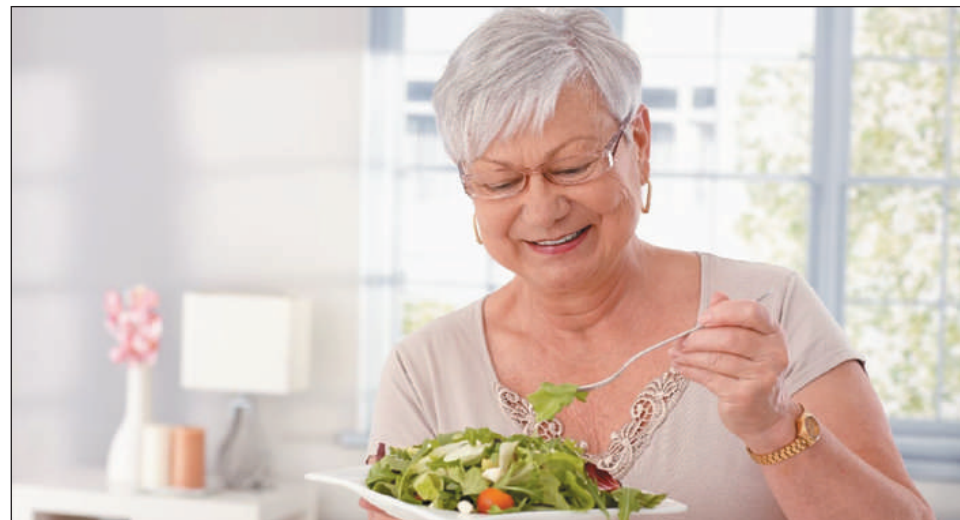
If you use tobacco, you risk wrinkled, sagging skin at a younger age, in addition to increasing your cancer risk. Smoking reduces blood flow, which carries essential nutrients like oxygen to your skin's surface and may also slow your body's collagen production. Talk to your doctor about ways to quit.

## You're in the sun too much

While some sunlight is beneficial, excessive UV exposure damages collagen in your skin and can cause your body to produce too much elastin. This can lead to thickened skin with a rough texture, deep wrinkles, and varied pigmentation (age spots). If you must be in direct sunlight, wear hats, long sleeves, and sunglasses. Use a "broad spectrum" sunscreen with an SPF of 30 or higher.

## You don't moisturize your skin

Dry skin can give you the rough and scaly appearance of older skin. Wash your



skin once or twice daily, using gentle motions, as harsh scrubbing can irritate it. Use a mild cleanser without alcohol or other ingredients that could inflame, roughen, or dry out your skin. Moisturize with cream twice daily to seal in moisture and maintain a youthful look.

## You're not eating healthy

A healthy diet helps prevent heart disease, diabetes, and other illnesses that drain your youthful energy. Consider the heart-healthy Mediterranean diet, which is also beneficial for your brain. While you may need to reduce your intake of fatty red meat, you'll get healthy fats from foods like fish, nuts, olive oil, and avocado, as well as plenty of whole grains, fruits, and vegetables.

## You don't exercise enough

Regular physical activity is key to

maintaining a youthful feeling. It strengthens your muscles, boosts your energy, and improves your mood. Staying active keeps your brain sharp and reduces the risk of age-related diseases like heart disease. You don't need to go to a gym or join a sports team. Brisk walking, yard work, or even dancing for 30 minutes on most days is sufficient.

## You squint a lot

Squinting crinkles the skin around your eyes, which can lead to lines and wrinkles over time. Any repetitive facial expression can cause this. If you're often outdoors, sunglasses can prevent squinting and help avoid "crow's feet." A wide-brimmed hat is also helpful.

## You don't have a social network

Staying connected with friends and family can keep you young at heart and

improve your emotional and physical health. It helps ward off anxiety, depression, and age-related dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. Remember, the quality of your social connections is more important than the quantity.

## You don't watch your blood pressure

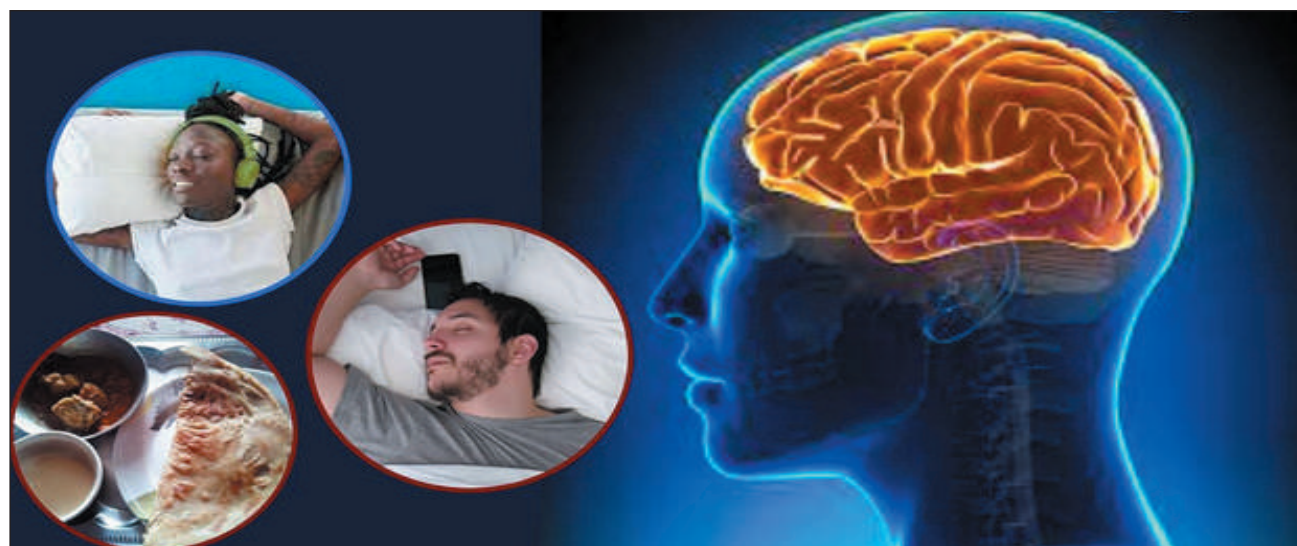
High blood pressure increases your risk of age-related problems like vascular dementia and Alzheimer's disease, likely due to damage to the small blood vessels in your brain. Controlling your blood pressure with diet, exercise, and medication can slow or prevent this cognitive decline.

## You don't lend a helping hand

Your body releases more "pleasure hormones," or endorphins, when you spend on others than on yourself. This isn't just about money; the calmness, pleasure, and connection you feel when helping someone often encourages you to do it more, leading to greater calmness and happiness. It reduces stress and can improve heart health and immune function.

## You skip your checkups

After age 50, you should have a physical exam annually. Your doctor will check your blood pressure, cholesterol, and blood sugar, as high levels can lead to heart disease, dementia, and other age-related illnesses. They may also check for signs of cognitive decline, like memory problems. Early detection allows for quicker treatment.



## Bad habits that can Harm your Brain

**Y**ou probably recognize that eating junk food and spending too much time inside aren't great for you. But did you know they could actually lead to brain decline and memory problems? Poonam Sachdev and Jennifer Robinson, MD, of WebMD explain...

### Lack of Sleep

Many of us occasionally skimp on sleep, but chronic sleep deprivation can take a serious toll on your brain. Lack of sleep has been linked to dementia, including Alzheimer's disease. To protect your brain, maintain regular sleep hours, avoid alcohol and caffeine in the evening, limit screen time before bed, and establish a relaxing bedtime routine.

### Too Much Isolation

Humans thrive on social interaction. It's not about how many online friends you have — it's about genuine connections. Those with strong social bonds are

generally happier, more productive, and less prone to cognitive decline. If you're feeling isolated, make an effort to reach out to friends or join group activities like dancing, sports, or community events.

### Eating Too Much Junk Food

Diets high in processed foods, like hamburgers, fries, and sugary drinks, can shrink areas of the brain responsible for learning, memory, and mental health. In contrast, a diet rich in berries, whole grains, nuts, and leafy greens supports brain function and slows cognitive decline. Next time you crave a snack, opt for a handful of nuts instead of chips.

### Listening to Loud Music

Blasting music through headphones can cause permanent hearing damage in just 30 minutes. But it's not just your ears at risk — hearing loss in older adults has been linked to brain shrinkage and Alzheimer's. Experts believe this happens because your brain works harder to process sounds, leaving less capacity for memory retention. Protect your hearing by keeping volume below 60% and limiting headphone use to a few hours at a time.

### Lack of Physical Activity

A sedentary lifestyle increases your risk of dementia, as well as conditions like diabetes, heart disease, and high blood pressure — all of which are linked to Alzheimer's. You don't need to run marathons; just aim for at least 150 minutes of moderate exercise per week. Simple activities like gardening, brisk walking, or cycling can help keep your brain sharp.



## When stars turned authors

# Bollywood celebrities share their stories and insights through books

In recent years, Bollywood stars have not only entertained audiences on-screen but have also ventured into the world of writing, sharing their personal stories, insights, and guidance through books. Here's a look at 17 Bollywood actors who have written heartfelt memoirs, inspirational guides, pregnancy manuals, and more, as reported by CQ India.

**Kareena Kapoor** – *Pregnancy Bible: The Ultimate Manual for Moms-To-Be*

Released in 2021, Kareena's book, co-authored with Aditi Shah Bhimjyani, is a comprehensive guide for expecting mothers, drawing from her personal pregnancy experiences and expert advice on fitness, diet, and wellness.

**Alia Bhatt** – *The Adventures of Ed-a-Mamma: Ed Finds a Home*

The first in her Ed-a-Mamma series, this June 2024 release is a charming children's book highlighting themes of friendship, animals, and environmental care, brought to life through Tanvi Bhat's illustrations.

**Priyanka Chopra** – *Unfinished*

Priyanka's 2021 memoir captures her journey from Bollywood to Hollywood, her philanthropic endeavors, and her relationship with Nick Jonas. It became a New York Times Best Seller.

**Sonu Sood** – *I Am No Messiah*

In this 2020 memoir co-authored with Meena Iyer, Sonu recounts his journey from a small-town actor to a humanitarian hero during Covid-19, earning the title of "Messiah" for his efforts.

**Nawazuddin Siddiqui** – *An Ordinary Life: A Memoir*

Although controversial and later withdrawn, Nawazuddin's 2017 memoir, co-authored with Rituparna Chatterjee, detailed his struggles and rise in the industry.

**Ayushmann Khurrana** – *Cracking the CODE: My*



*Journey in Bollywood*

Co-authored with his wife Tahira Kashyap, Ayushmann's 2015 book explores his initial struggles and his rise in Bollywood.

**Soha Ali Khan** – *The Perils of Being Moderately Famous*

This 2017 memoir offers insights into Soha's unique life as part of a royal family and a Bollywood family, with a mix of humor and candor.

**Anupam Kher** – *The Best Thing About You Is You*

Published in 2011, this self-help book is based on Kher's personal stories and focuses on self-acceptance, resilience, and positivity.

**Kalki Koechlin** – *Skeleton Women, A Documentary in Madness, and The Elephant in the Womb*

Kalki has co-written plays and essays, along with a graphic memoir, *The Elephant in the Womb*, about pregnancy and motherhood.

**Pankaj Kapur** – *Dopehri*

This 2019 novel by Pankaj Kapur, originally written in Hindi, tells the story of Amma Bi, a lonely widow who finds companionship with a lodger in Lucknow.

**Shilpa Shetty Kundra** – *The Diary of A Domestic Diva and The Great Indian Diet*

Shilpa's two books feature recipes and dietary advice aimed at promoting health through Indian ingredients and traditional cooking.

**Twinkle Khanna** – *Mrs Funnybones, The Legend of Lakshmi Prasad, Pyjamas Are Forgiving, and Welcome to Paradise*

Twinkle Khanna's humorous and insightful books have made her one of India's best-selling female authors since *Mrs Funnybones* in 2015.

**Naseeruddin Shah** – *And Then One Day*

Naseeruddin's 2014 memoir, filled with wit, traces his life from a small village to Bollywood fame.

**Emraan Hashmi** – *The Kiss of Life*

Emraan's 2016 book tells the emotional story of his son's battle with cancer, co-authored with Bilal Siddiqi.

**Sonali Bendre** – *The Modern Gurukul*

In this 2015 parenting guide, Sonali shares her insights on raising children in the digital age.

**Tisca Chopra** – *What's Up With Me? – Puberty, Periods, Pimples, People, Problems and More*

Published in 2021, Tisca's guide is designed for young women dealing with puberty, offering practical advice for this life stage.

**Rishi Kapoor** – *Khullam Khulla*

Rishi Kapoor's 2017 memoir dives into his life, career, and personal experiences in the film industry, offering a candid glimpse of the late actor's world.

These Bollywood stars have not only succeeded in cinema but also captivated readers with their authentic, relatable, inspiring stories, contributing meaningfully to literature and offering fans a deeper look into their lives and perspectives.

## BollyBytes

# Shah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone to reunite for Pathaan 2?



**S**hah Rukh Khan and Deepika Padukone are set to reunite for *Pathaan 2*, with the script nearing completion and production plans in progress.

The highly anticipated sequel to their 2023 blockbuster will see SRK reprising his role as the charismatic RAW agent, while Deepika returns as Rubina. Reports

with *Pathaan 2*.

The first *Pathaan*, released on January 25, 2023, was a record-breaking success. It marked SRK's grand comeback after *Zero* (2018) and set new box office benchmarks. Expectations are sky-high as fans eagerly await SRK and Deepika's return to action.

also suggest that Ashutosh Rana may return as Colonel Sunil Luthra.

SRK is currently filming *King*, where he shares screen space with his daughter, Suhana Khan. The film is slated for a mid-2026 release. Meanwhile, Deepika, on a maternity break since welcoming her daughter, Dua, last September, is expected to make a grand return

# Akshaye Khanna: "The way you look is very important"

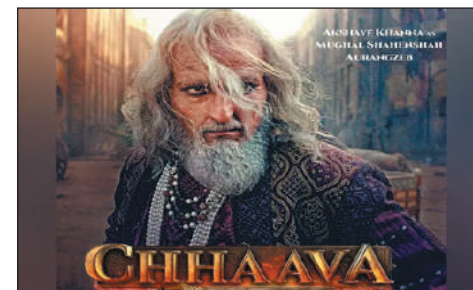
**I**n an interview with a leading news portal, Akshaye shared how appearances play a significant role in an actor's career. Speaking about his personal experience, he likened the challenge to a pianist losing his fingers, emphasizing how crucial physical appearance is in the film industry.

"It's like a pianist losing his fingers, because the way you look, as an actor, is very important," he remarked, highlighting the struggles he faced due to his hair loss.

## A devastating experience

Recounting his journey, Akshaye described the experience of balding at such an early stage in life as both "devastating" and "heartbreaking." He revealed that such changes not only impact an actor's professional life but can also take a severe toll on mental health, leading to lasting effects over time.

Despite the challenges he has faced, Akshaye Khanna continues to impress audiences with his versatility and acting prowess. In *Chhaava*, directed by Laxman Utekar, he plays the role of Emperor



Aurangzeb, undergoing a striking transformation for the period drama. His look in the film has left fans in awe, with many appreciating his ability to disappear into the character. However, the portrayal has also received mixed reactions from a section of viewers.

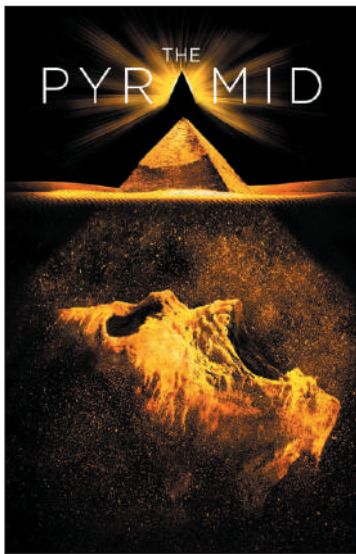
## Rising Above Challenges

Akshaye Khanna's openness about his struggles with balding sheds light on the pressures actors face in an industry where physical appearance often plays a crucial role. His journey is a testament to his resilience and dedication to his craft, proving that talent and perseverance triumph over external challenges.





Vendredi 7 mars - 20.35



Samedi 8 mars - 20.10



Dimanche 9 mars -21.40



# Programme TV



vendredi 7 mars

## MBC 1

07.10 Serial: Briarpatch  
08.24 Les Riches Pleurent Aussi  
09.10 Film: Fast And Furious:  
Hobbs Andd Shaw  
11.30 Your Love Is My Fortune  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.35 Tele: Wildflower  
13.26 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
14.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.21 Tele: Living To Love  
17.30 Your Love Is My Fortune  
18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
19.00 Serial: Doree  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.35 Film: The Pyramid  
22.00 Tele: Wildflower  
23.30 Le Journal  
00.05 Serial: Billions  
01.26 Serial: Le Chemin Du Destin  
01.28 Mag: Close Up

## MBC 2

06.00 Nou Later Nou Lamer...  
06.26 Local: En Forme  
07.30 Rodrig: Nou La Ter  
10.35 Rodrig: Saver Lokal  
12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion  
13.05 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou  
Rises  
14.00 Rodrig: Komanter  
14.18 Local: Artizan  
15.18 Local: Saver Lokal  
17.00 Local: La Sosiete  
18.00 Seiral: Passion And Power  
18.30 Les Riches Pleurent  
19.25 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir...  
19.45 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik  
20.57 Local: Dance Fever  
22.53 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion  
23.20 Local: En Forme  
23.34 Local: Couleur Marine  
00.01 Local: Nos Aines

## MBC 3

07.00 Mag: Tenali Rama  
07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
08.10 Local: MBC Production  
10.00 Serial: Agniphera  
11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Garam Masala  
Starring: Aruna Irani, Mehmood,  
Jeevan Dhar  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar  
16.00 Serial: Ishaaron Ishaaron  
17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna  
18.41 Loca: MBC Production  
20.00 Local: Khel Khiladi  
20.30 Serial: Vidrohi  
21.00 Film: Bairi Kangan 2  
Cast: Ravi Kishan, Kajal R  
23.42 Serial: Mere Sai  
00.33 Serial: Waggle Ki Duniya  
00.57 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar

## Cine 12

07.00 Mag: Border Crossing  
09.13 Doc: Albania's Last Trains  
10.42 Doc: The Politics Of Climate..  
11.37 Mag: Shift  
11.47 Mag: Carnet De Sante  
12.32 Mag: Tomorrow Today  
13.00 Doc: Haiti: The Iron Grip Of...  
14.26 Doc: Bee-Keeping  
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.13 Idefix et Les Irreductibles  
15.36 D.Anime: Polly Pocket  
16.18 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
16.41 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee  
17.30 Mag: Eco India  
18.00 Doc: Wild Isles  
18.42 Mag: Mapped Out  
19.28 Mag: Vous Et Vous  
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers  
20.50 Doc: The Stone Age Diet...  
21.31 Doc: Iran From Above...  
22.18 Doc: Greek Islands

## Bollywood TV

14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan  
14.55 Serial: Doree  
15.30 Film: Operation Romeo  
Cast: Sidhant Gupta, Vedika  
Pinto, Sharad Kelkar  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Kundali Bhagya  
19.01 Udaariyaan  
19.32 Dharam Patni  
20.01 Mithai  
20.31 Shrimad Ramayan  
21.01 Anupamaa  
21.31 Mere Sai  
22.01 Keh Doon Tumhein  
22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
22.59 Serial: Rajaa Betaa  
23.30 Film: Operation Romeo  
Cast: Sidhant Gupta, Vedika  
Pinto, Sharad Kelkar

samedi 8 mars

03.56 Serial: Briarpatch  
04.32 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani  
06.30 Tele: All The Flowers  
06.56 Serial: Pearson  
08.21 Serial: For Life  
09.00 Serial: Briarpatch  
09.45 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani  
10.45 Serial: F.B.I  
11.30 Tele: All The Flowers  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Serial: Seal Team  
13.25 Tele: Barbarita...  
15.00 Live: Samachar  
15.20 Radha Krishna  
15.21 Film: Bowfinger  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Enter: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa...  
19.30 Le Journal  
20.10 Film: Harriet  
21.42 Serial: Doc - Nelle Tue Mani  
23.05 Justice Et Vengeance  
23.51 Le Journal

06.00 Local: Couleur Marine  
06.41 Local: Retrovizer  
07.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard..  
08.49 Local: Lir - Ekir Kreol  
10.00 Local: Metie  
10.25 Local: Dance Fever  
12.05 Rodrig: Koze Zom  
13.05 Local: Nos Aines  
13.27 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig  
13.38 Enn Semenn Dan Lafrik  
14.42 Local: Retrovizer  
15.00 Local: Tous Egaux  
16.00 Local: Nos Aines  
16.30 Local: Dance Fever  
18.05 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.20 Local: Magazine De L'Emploi  
19.40 Rodrig: Coin Zen  
20.06 Local: Les Petits Genies  
20.30 Live From Club Med  
22.30 Local: Glwar Dantan  
22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard...

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness  
08.30 Local: Abhyas Yog  
10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2  
12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo  
12.40 Local: MBC Production  
14.00 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan  
14.30 Mag: Talaash  
15.00 Samachar  
15.30 Film: Ki & Ka  
Cast: Amitabh Bachchan,  
Kareena Kapoor Khan, Arjun  
Kapoor  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Local: Radha Krishna  
19.00 MBC Production  
21.00 Film: Salaam Venky  
Cast: Priyamani, Aamir Khan,  
Kajol  
23.08 MBC Production  
01.22 Film: Salaam Venky

06.00 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
07.30 D.Anime: Croco Doc  
08.19 D.Anime: Polly Pocket  
09.38 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes  
10.08 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
10.47 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover...  
12.40 Doc: The Stone Age Diet  
13.26 Doc: Iran From Above...  
15.08 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.12 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles  
16.21 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
17.02 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee  
17.30 Doc: Superfood Berries  
18.05 Mag: In Good Shape  
18.30 Doc: Top Div Sites  
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers  
20.50 Tele: Living To Love  
22.24 Doc: Life On US  
23.06 Doc: By Train Along The East  
23.48 Doc: Transylvania  
01.53 Mag: In Good Shape  
02.19 Doc: Top Dive Sites

08.00 Dharam Patni  
10.02 Mithai  
12.00 Udaariyaan  
13.50 Anupamaa  
16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki  
Kahani  
17.36 Vidrohi  
18.30 Film: Raksha Bandhan  
With: Akshay Kumar, Bhumi  
Pednekar, Manu Rishi  
Chadha  
20.15 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein



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02.48 Serial: F.B.I  
05.00 Tele: Terra Nostra  
06.26 Film: Harriet  
08.29 Serial: Airwolf  
09.16 Film: Bowfinger  
10.45 Serial: F.B.I  
11.30 Tele: All The Flowers  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.35 Film: Les Affameurs  
15.22 Nouveau Job Pour Une  
Nouvelle Vie  
16.49 Tele: L'Empire Du Mensonge  
18.00 Samachar  
18.31 Serial: Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il...  
19.18 Sayings Radha Krishna  
19.30 Le Journal Televisé  
20.10 Film: Triple Alliance  
21.52 Serial: Airwolf  
22.38 Entre Justice Et Vengeance  
23.30 Le Journal

06.21 Local: Coin Jardin  
07.05 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL  
09.05 Local: Les Petits Genies  
09.30 Live From MGI: Award  
Ceremony Organised By  
The Ministry Of Gender  
Equality And Family...  
13.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
15.01 Mon Jardin Ma Maison  
17.05 Local: Les Petits Genies  
17.30 Local: Glwar Dantan  
18.05 Serial: Entre Justice Et  
Vengeance  
19.00 Zournal Kreol  
19.24 Local: Info En Langue...  
20.20 Local: Les Klips  
21.14 Konferans Internasyonal Lor  
Proze UNESCO  
22.34 Local: Clin D'Oeil  
22.56 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.01 Zournal Kreol

05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness  
08.26 Local: MBC Production  
10.40 Serial: Mahabharat  
12.00 Film: Bhoot Police  
15.00 Samachar  
15.20 Radha Krishna  
15.47 MBC Production  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.30 MBC Production  
20.31 Serial: Porus  
21.00 Keh Doon Tumhein  
21.30 Serial: Crime Patrol  
22.15 Serial: Naagin  
22.54 Serial: Bahubali  
23.37 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...  
00.36 MBC Production  
02.39 Film: Bhoot Police  
Cast: Arjun Kapoor, Saif  
Ali Khan

08.39 D.Anime: Polly Pocket  
09.16 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget  
09.35 D.Anime: Meteo Heroes  
09.46 D.Anime: Baby Einstein 2  
10.10 Serial: Sept Nains Et Moi  
10.50 D.Anime: D.I.Y. Discover  
11.45 Mag: In Good Shape  
12.13 Doc: Top Dive Sites  
12.40 Mag: Afrimaxx  
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.38 D.Anime: Polly Pocket  
15.58 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget  
16.18 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
17.06 Serial: Hiccup And Sneezee  
17.30 Mag: In Good Shape  
18.00 Doc: Ageless Gardens  
18.30 Doc: Submerged Universe  
19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
20.00 Tele: All The Flowers  
21.40 Film: Pound Of Flesh  
Cast: Jean-Claude Van Damme, John  
Ralston

00.00 Mithai  
01.49 Udaariyaan  
03.53 Anupamaa  
05.50 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki  
Kahani  
07.16 Serie  
07.41 Tenali Rama  
08.12 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey  
09.55 Kundali Bhagya  
12.03 Rajaa Betaa  
14.00 Doree  
16.00 Waggle Ki Duniya  
18.38 Film: Paagalpan  
Cast: Karan Nath, Aarthi  
Agarwal, Dr. Vilas Ujawane  
20.44 Tenali Rama  
21.00 Mahabharat  
21.49 Dance India Dance Super...  
22.24 Rajaa Betaa  
00.08 Kabhi Kabhie Ittefaq Sey

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03.05 Tele: Wildflower  
03.49 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
05.08 Tele: Terra Nostra  
06.01 Serial: Amour Secret  
07.43 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man  
08.49 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent  
09.40 Serial: Columbo  
11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
12.00 Le Journal  
12.25 Tele: Wildflower  
13.15 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin  
14.15 Serial: Stan Lee's Lucky Man  
15.00 Samachar  
15.20 Film: Triple Alliance  
17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune  
18.00 Samachar  
18.46 Serial: Shiv Shakti  
19.07 Serial: Doree  
20.15 Serial: Hawaii  
21.00 Serial: For Life  
21.45 Tele: Wildflower

07.00 Local: Itinerer Moris  
09.22 Local: Clin D'oeil  
10.01 Local: Plat Du Chef  
10.32 Rodrig: Les Klips  
12.27 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
14.12 Local: Glwar Dantan  
14.38 Local: Exceptionnelles  
15.04 Local: Itinerer Moris  
16.00 Local: Les Klips  
16.39 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
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  
19.30 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel  
20.30 Local: Business Connect  
21.14 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante  
21.42 Chantons La Liberte  
22.46 Les Grands Moments  
22.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard  
23.20 Local: Itinerer Moris

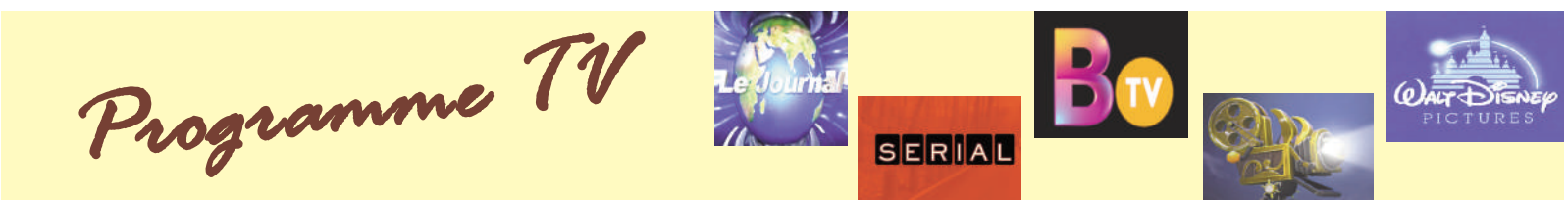
05.00 Mag: Aastha TV  
07.00 Tenali Rama  
07.12 Gadget Guru Ganesha  
07.23 Lambu G Tingu G  
08.00 Humni Ke Sitare  
09.40 Serial: Bahubali  
10.20 Dulhin Uhe Jo Nanad Man...  
11.30 Radha Krishna  
12.00 Film: Do Phool  
15.00 Samachar  
15.21 Serial: Radha Krishna  
15.30 Jai Jai Shiv Shankar  
17.30 Local: Shivopasna  
18.00 Live: Samachar  
18.31 Ved Ki Shikshahein  
20.30 Serial: Ramayan  
21.00 Film: Bawarchi  
Cast: Rajesh Khanna, Jaya  
Bhaduri, Asrani, Harindranath...  
23.04 Serial: Mere Sai  
23.56 Serial: Waggle Ki Duniya

06.25 Doc: Submerged Universe  
07.24 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
08.30 Doc: The Microchip  
09.17 Doc: In China's Shadow  
10.51 Doc: The War Diary  
11.43 Doc: Ageless Gardens  
12.10 Doc: Submerged Universe  
13.02 Mag: Arts Unveiled  
13.28 Doc: Siblings: Love, Hate,...  
15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show  
15.12 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles  
15.35 D.Anime: Polly Pocket  
16.17 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter  
17.04 D.Anime: Hiccup And Sneezee  
17.30 Doc: From Gray To Green  
18.00 Mag: Eco Africa  
18.30 Mag: The 77 Percent  
19.30 Mag: In Good Shape  
20.01 Tele: All The Flowers  
21.05 Film: L'Armee Des 12 Singes  
Cast: Bruce Willis, Madeleine Stowe,  
Christopher Plummer

14.25 Radha Mohan  
14.51 Doree  
15.25 Film: Golmaal Kids  
Starring: Kiran Janjani, Preeti  
Puri, Rahki Tondon  
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







	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
mardi 11 mars	05.27 Tele: Amour Secret 07.23 Serial: Hawaii 08.05 Tele: All The Flowers 09.25 Film: L'Armee Des 12 Singes 11.31 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.40 Tele: Passion And Power 15.25 Film: 47 Metres Down 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.58 Serial: Doree 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: L'Appel De La Foret 21.45 Tele: Wildflower 22.35 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 23.00 Mag: Close Up 23.30 Le Journal 00.59 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin	07.21 Local: Memwar Dan Ros 10.16 Local: Mangeons Veg 10.54 Chantons La Liberte 12.00 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 13.10 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.35 Local: Bricolo Ecolo 14.05 Rodrig Prog: Feminin Pluriel 15.05 Local: Fee Main 15.25 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.45 La Journee Sous Le Regard 16.55 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 18.29 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.04 Journal Kreol 19.24 Le Magazine De L'Emploi 20.20 Local: Metie 20.30 Local: Priorite Sante 21.00 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.35 Local: Le Mag 22.40 Local: Profil 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Serial: Tenali Rama 07.26 Serial: Lambu G Tingu G 10.07 Kundali Bhagya 11.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 12.01 Film: Payal Ki Jhankaar 15.21 Other Serial: Radha Krishna 15.30 Serial: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Tark Vitark 20.30 Serial: Ramayan 21.00 Film: Barsaat Ki Ek Raat Cast: Amitabh Bachhan, Raakhee 23.43 Serial: Mere Sai 00.14 Serial: Wagle Ki Duniya 00.36 Local: Tark Vitark 01.03 Humni Ke Sitare	06.00 Mag: Eco Africa 07.23 Mag: In Good Shape 07.49 Mag: Travel 08.04 Mag: Tomorrow Today 11.38 Mag: The 77 Percent 12.32 Mag: In Good Shape 13.15 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.41 Mag: Washington Forum 15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.25 Idefix Et Les Irreductibles 15.50 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.16 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 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 21.59 Mag: Initiative Africa 22.41 Mag: Euromaxx	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Doree 15.30 Film: Ek Se Badhkar Ek 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 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.30 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.04 Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Ek Se Badhkar Ek 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan 03.00 Dharam Patni 03.30 Mithai
mercredi 12 mars	05.08 Serial: Amour Secret 06.53 Serial: Columbo 08.06 Tele: All The Flowers 09.30 Film: L'Appel De La Foret 11.50 Live From Champ De Mars - National Day 13.14 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Seref Meselesi 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Tele: Seref Meselesi 16.03 Serial: Columbo 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 20.10 Serial: Under Pressure 21.00 Serial: The Last Kingdom 21.50 Tele: Wildflower 22.40 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune	07.08 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 08.05 Local: An Eta Dalert 09.30 Local: Le Mag 10.50 Local: Profil 12.00 Local: Inspiration 12.45 Local: Son Ladan Mem 13.00 La Journee Sous Le Ragard 13.41 Local: Priorite Sante 14.30 Local: Nu Rasinn 15.30 Local: A Nou Kwi 16.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 16.20 Rodrig: Kot Nou 17.00 Local: Music Tour 18.00 Tele: Passion And Power 18.30 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Journal Kreol 19.30 Local: Rodrig Spor 20.00 Rubrique Paroles De Femmes 20.30 Speical Independence 22.26 Local: Les Klips 23.18 La Journee Sous Le Regard	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.13 Gadget Guru Ganesha 07.33 Lambu G Tingu G 08.00 Local: Tark Vitark 10.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 12.00 Film: Aadmri Aur Insaan Cast: Dharmendra, Saira Banu, Feroz Khan 15.30 Serial: Jai Jai Shiv Shankar 16.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Radha Krishna 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Yatra 20.30 Talaash 21.00 Film: Border Cast: Sunny Deol, Suniel Chetty 00.13 Serial: Mere Sai 00.36 Wagle Ki Duniya 00.58 Local: Yatra 01.24 Yeh Shaam Mastani	07.06 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 07.28 D.Anime: Croco Doc 08.05 Le Rythme De La Jungle 09.16 Film: A.R.I 11.32 Doc: The Baobab 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.36 Film: Le Ranch Du Bonheur 15.10 Film: Anastasia 16.36 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 17.26 Serial: Hiccup And Sneez 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Mag: Business Beyond 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Mag: Arts Unveiled 19.30 Doc: A Mediterranean... 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 20.30 Live: News 20.50 Doc: Saving Beavers And... 21.20 Film: Braveheart 00.14 Mag: Close Up 00.40 Mag: Focus On Europe 01.06 Doc: Deep Sea Greed	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Doree 15.30 Film: Mangal Pandey Cast: Shatrughan Sinha, Parveen Babi 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 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.20 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 22.51 Serial: Rajaa Betaa 23.30 Film: Mangal Pandey Cast: Shatrughan Sinha, Parveen Babi 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan
jeudi 13 mars	06.01 Tele: Amour Secret 08.19 Serial: All The Flowers 08.45 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent 09.43 Film: Dream Horse 11.30 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Wildflower 13.20 Tele: Le Chemin Du Destin 13.45 Tele: Pasion Y Poder 14.15 Serial: Entre Justice Et Vengeance 15.25 Film: Les Affameurs 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: Andhadhun Stars: Ayushmann Khurrana, Tabu, Radhika Apte 22.40 Tele: Wildflower	06.45 Local: Metie 08.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 09.00 Local: Dance Fever 10.34 Local: Saveurs Plus 12.00 Special Independence 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.31 Local: Rodrig Spor 14.27 Local: Agir Ensemble 14.53 Local: Metie 17.00 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: La Desalmada 18.31 Tele: Les Riches Pleurent... 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.30 Rodrig Prog: Komanter 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Emotion En Avant Plan 20.45 Local: Evasion 21.00 Local: Le Mag 22.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 22.46 Local: Metie	07.00 Tenali Rama 07.23 Lambu G Tingu G 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Tulsi Vivaah Cast: Abhi Bhattacharya, Jayshree Gadkar, Geetanjali 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.00 Agniphera 17.30 Radha Krishna 17.48 Local: Amrit Vani 18.00 Live From Maheshwarnath, Riche Mare, Flacq 22.30 Local: Holi Chowtaal & Dhamaal 23.00 Mag: Guftgoo 23.55 Mere Sai 00.49 Wagle Ki Duniya 01.20 Local: Amrit Vani 01.32 Local: Holi Chowtaal & Dhamaal	07.47 Doc: Saving Beavers And... 08.41 Doc: Focus On Europe 09.53 Doc: Poison And Poverty 11.09 Mag: Afrimaxx 12.05 Mag: Arts Unveiled 13.21 Mag: Close Up 13.47 Doc: Deep Sea Greed 15.00 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.12 Idefix Et Le Irreductibles 15.35 D.Anime: Polly Pocket 15.56 D.Anime: Inspecteur Gadget 16.40 D.Anime: Hunter X Hunter 16.55 Serial: Hiccup And Sneez 17.30 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Mag: Carnet De Sante 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Mag: Tomorrow Today 20.01 Tele: All The Flowers 22.03 Film: Doom	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Doree 15.25 Film: Lootera Cast: Ranveer Singh, Sonakshi Sinha 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 Keh Doon Tumhein 22.29 Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 23.05 Rajaa Betaa 23.31 Film: Lootera Cast: Ranveer Singh, Sonakshi Sinha 02.00 Kundali Bhagya 02.30 Udaariyaan





Interview: Dharambeer Gokhool, President of the Republic

# 'Nation-building is always a work in progress, requiring the involvement and commitment of every citizen'

● Cont. from page 9

After 57 years of independence, our Constitution needs to be reviewed and updated. A Constitutional Review Committee will be set up, with terms of reference to propose constitutional and electoral reforms as well as measures to protect the fundamental rights of the citizens. Other measures envisaged are:

- The setting up of an electoral college for the election of the President
- The inclusion of « une dose de proportionnelle » in our electoral system
- The removal of the mandatory declaration of community affiliations by candidates.

Already, Government has initiated a number of measures that go in the direction of strengthening our democracy and constitutional framework. For example, a clearer demarcation of the roles of the DPP and the Commissioner of Police, with amendments to the Financial Crimes Commission Act.

**\* Instead of serving as a force for good, politics in the past years has resulted in a marked decline in democratic values, a suppression of transparency, and a deterioration of effective governance. Restoring public trust in Mauritian politics and political parties as agents of positive change should not be an insurmountable challenge. But what would it take to achieve this?**

When I interact with people, I perceive a growing concern about the erosion of societal values. This decline has invariably impacted our governance system, weakening the safeguards that ensure transparency and accountability in public life. Consequently, many young individuals seem to have distanced themselves from active politics.

To address this issue, we must restore ethics and morality in our political ecosystem. Trust in politics and politicians



“The people of Mauritius decided to take their destiny in their own hands and vested their trust in a new government. The new government, made up of a team which combines “the energy and vitality of youth and the experience and wisdom of age”, is only a few months old. Give them time to prove that the choice the people made in November was not just another mistake, but rather a defining moment in the history of the Republic of Mauritius...”

must be a national priority, and we need to commit ourselves to the emergence of a new political culture which is in sync with the changing aspirations, expectations and values of the

upcoming generations.

The political leadership of our country bears a significant responsibility to redefine politics and serve as models of change. We must be the change we want to see.

**\* The 1960s and 70s saw the emergence of leaders who guided the nation through its transition and early socio-economic development. In the current complex landscape, marked by contemporary challenges like climate change, technological disruption, social inequality, etc., do you think we possess today leaders, both men and women, with the vision and capacity to address these issues effectively?**

Circumstances and challenges force nations to rise up and take their destiny in their own hands. As I mentioned during my delivery of the Government Programme:

“The 10th of November 2024 was a defining and pivotal moment in the history of our country.”

The people of Mauritius decided to take their destiny in their own hands and vested their trust in a new government. The new government, made up of a team which combines “the energy and vitality of youth and the experience and wisdom of age”, is only a few months old. Give them time to prove that the choice the people made in November was not just another mistake, but rather a defining moment in the history of the Republic of Mauritius.

**\* Looking ahead, what is your vision for Mauritius in the next decade?**

Let us continue to be guided by values of justice, unity, harmony, and freedom – the foundations of a prosperous Mauritian nation. Much like the different colours of our national flag – Rouge, Bleu, Jaune, Vert.

*Anou ress ni dan nou diversite kouma enn sel pep, lame dan lame pou kontign batir nou nasyon morisien* – As one people, As one nation, In peace, justice and liberty.

This should be the vision of our Republic.

## Politics

# Independence: Personal Recollections

● Cont. from page 11

In the 1970s, company names such as Floreal Textiles, Corona Clothing, Alliance Spinners, Bonair Knitwear, Crystal Textiles, International Fashions Ltd, and others, as well as a few European and South African firms with Mauritian partners, became prominent. Foreign investors from Asian countries brought their capital, technology, and marketing networks, sustained in the 1980s by a buoyant world economy. In factories owned by foreign proprietors, the capital was 100%, while in joint ventures with local entrepreneurs, it was 50%. Similarly, cultural affinities played an important role as some French and other groups began to invest in the EPZ.

There were several difficulties. Several electronic enterprises did not take off and had to close, and Motorola did not establish its office in Mauritius due to inadequate telecommunication facilities. With the Lomé Convention signed in 1975, Mauritius

exported 83% of its goods to Europe without quota or duty, but several countries, including France, the US, and Canada, imposed quotas on textile goods. The table below shows the number of factories, jobs, and the value of exports between 1971 and 1984.

	1971	1976	1982	1984
No of enterprises	9	85	115	197
No of jobs	644	17405	23870	35573
Value of exports	3.9	308.6	1235.5	2100

Source: 'La Zone France. Etapes d'un success story' by Daniel Wong Ng

A Five-Year Plan (1971–1975) was prepared and implemented. It prioritized job creation and turned out to be a resounding success — it created 52,000 jobs and achieved 10% economic growth. This strategy of development on capitalist lines was successful and laid the foundation for economic diversification and industrialization.

The evolution of the country from a colo-

nial outpost to modern Mauritius was achieved in the post-independence period from 1968 to 1975. Ever since Ramgoolam had called for self-government in his proposals at the Second Consultative Committee and Rozemont had expressed hopes in the

1950s that Mauritius would become independent, constitutional development had inched toward full autonomy and independence in fits and starts.

With independence in 1968, optimists proved that independence could be embraced by all and was a viable and feasible proposition — one that would allow people to live and thrive in a free, democratic coun-



try through hard work, sweat, and toil. It was a dream for many — but if one wanted it enough, it would materialize.

Sada Reddi