

# MAURITIUS TIMES

• I suppose leadership at one time meant muscles; but today it means getting along with people. – Mahatma Gandhi



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# Chagos, Trump, and the Test of a Changing World Order

On 20 January 2026, Donald Trump once again reminded the world that geopolitics in the 21st century is no longer governed by quiet diplomacy or settled assumptions. In a characteristically blunt intervention, the President of the United States denounced the United Kingdom's agreement to recognise Mauritian sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago as an "act of great stupidity" and "total weakness." The target of his ire was not merely London, but the broader logic of a rules-based international order that constrains raw power.

For Mauritius, Trump's remarks are not just another episode of international theatrics. They touch the heart of a decades-long struggle for decolonisation, sovereignty, and dignity — one that has now entered a more uncertain global moment. At stake is not only the Chagos agreement itself, signed in May 2025 and currently before the British Parliament, but the wider question of how small states deal with new challenges in a world that is no longer unipolar, not yet stably multipolar, and increasingly transactional.

## Trump's Intervention: Noise or Signal?

Trump's criticism of the Mauritius-UK deal is striking for several reasons. First, it represents a sharp reversal from early 2025, when his administration had indicated support for the agreement on the understanding that the Diego Garcia military base would remain fully operational under a long-term lease. Second, his focus is on geopolitics rather than legalities. He does not challenge Mauritius' claim under international law; instead, he argues that ceding sovereignty — even while retaining the base — is a sign of Western weakness that China and Russia will exploit.

Most strikingly, Trump links the Chagos issue to his renewed push for the United States to control Greenland. In his view, territory equals power, sovereignty is zero-sum, and strategic dominance outweighs legal considerations. From this perspective, Britain's decision to regularise an illegal colonial situation is not a legal correction, but an act of self-sabotage. This framing matters because it signals a broader trend: the return of openly coercive, interest-driven diplomacy in which agreements are judged not by law or legitimacy, but by perceived strength.

## The UK Stands Firm — for Now

In the House of Commons, Prime Minister Keir Starmer rejected Trump's pressure and defended the Chagos agreement as both a legal necessity and a strategic success. He correctly noted that Britain's position on Chagos had become untenable following the 2019 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice and subsequent UN General Assembly resolutions. The choice facing London was not between strength and weakness, but between continued legal isolation and an orderly, negotiated settlement.

Starmer also emphasised that the deal secures Diego Garcia for at least 99 years — longer than any realistic strategic planning horizon — while restoring Mauritian sovereignty. In other words, it resolves a colonial injustice without undermining Western security interests.

Yet Trump's comments have already had political consequences in the UK. Figures such as Nigel Farage and



Pic - Inquisitr News

Conservative leader Kemi Badenoch seized on his intervention to attack the British government, framing the deal as a concession forced by weakness. The danger here is not immediate reversal, but erosion: the slow politicisation of a treaty that was painstakingly designed to remove Chagos from partisan conflict.

## A World No Longer Unipolar

This episode cannot be understood in isolation from the wider transformation of the global order. The post-Cold War unipolar moment — when the United States could enforce rules, norms, and institutions with minimal resistance — has ended. Today's world is best described as uneven or "fragmented multipolarity".

China rivals the United States economically and technologically. Russia, though economically weaker, remains a disruptive military actor. India is asserting strategic autonomy. Middle powers increasingly refuse automatic alignment. International institutions still exist, but enforcement is selective and often subordinated to power. In such a system, the most important shift is not that the United States has become weak, but that others can say "no" more often — and act on it. This makes the international environment more volatile, more transactional, and more prone to coercion.

Trump's language on Chagos reflects this reality. He is not appealing to allies, but warning them. The implication is clear: legal correctness may no longer be sufficient protection.

## What This Means for Mauritius

For Mauritius, the instinctive response to Trump's remarks might be anxiety or indignation. Both would be understandable. However, the country's greatest strength in this matter lies precisely in its calm, legal, and methodical approach adopted by succeeding governments over decades. International law is firmly on Mauritius' side. The ICJ opinion and UN resolutions are not political gestures; they are durable reference points that have already reshaped Britain's position. The 2025 agreement itself is proof that persistence, not confrontation, works.

Mauritius has acted wisely in avoiding the temptation to respond rhetorically to President Trump. This is not a debate to be won on social media or through public sparring. Trump thrives on confrontation; Mauritius prevails by appearing

responsible and predictable. Equally important is the careful separation of sovereignty from security. The Diego Garcia base is not under threat. Mauritius has accepted a long-term lease, provided security guarantees, and avoided any suggestion that the base could be leveraged geopolitically. This must remain central to its messaging — especially towards Washington's defence and diplomatic establishments, where continuity matters more than political rhetoric.

There is a lesson to be drawn from India in this regard. While the sub-continent today plays in the big league of international affairs — no longer a peripheral actor, but a consequential one — India's response, as highlighted by *India Today* in its article "How PM Modi avoided the Trump trap..." (22 January 2026), to President Trump's pressure for a rapid bilateral trade deal offers a useful parallel. Faced with tariff threats and public criticism, New Delhi neither escalated rhetorically nor rushed into concessions. Instead, it maintained engagement while making clear that any agreement must be balanced and respect domestic economic red lines, particularly in sensitive sectors such as agriculture and dairy. By "combining

openness to dialogue with strategic patience", India signalled that partnership with the United States does not imply submission to coercion. In a fragmented and transactional global order, this calibrated firmness has allowed India to protect its interests without provoking unnecessary confrontation.

Regarding the Chagos deal, time now becomes a strategic asset. The faster the agreement is ratified, implemented, and operationalised, the harder it becomes to undo. Legal facts on the ground outlast political moods. Mauritius should discreetly ensure timelines, technical protocols, and administrative mechanisms are in place to prevent backtracking. At the same time, Mauritius should continue to cultivate diplomatic support in multilateral forums — not loudly, but consistently. This is a decolonisation success story grounded in international law. It does not need dramatic declarations, only steady reinforcement.

## Quiet Confidence in a Noisy World

Trump's intervention has injected uncertainty into an already complex process. But it has not altered the fundamentals. The legal case remains solid. The treaty remains intact. The strategic interests of the UK and the US still favour continuity at Diego Garcia.

In a fragmented multipolar world, small states do not win by shouting louder than great powers. They win by anchoring themselves in law, legitimacy, and patience. Mauritius has done exactly that for over half a century.

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# Electoral Reform: What Next?

*There are other crucial battles to fight: ensuring prosperity and sustainability, and recognizing that true inclusion requires confronting discrimination in a society where electoral reform may not be needed*

It is surprising, but not really so when one thinks a little more about it, that forty journalists of a most widely read daily newspaper with ears to the ground did not in their New Year's wishes express their desire for an electoral reform in 2026. Not even a single reference to the subject, though they aspire towards a more inclusive, compassionate and sustainable society. This stands in stark contrast to the various newspaper editorials, interviews, and articles that have sought to keep electoral reform in the public spotlight.

Politicians being interviewed can be expected to toe the party line or to be politically correct by embracing the prevailing narrative on proportional representation, even though they may privately adhere to completely different views on several aspects of the proposed reform. Even the Prime Minister's New Year message highlighted rightly that economic reform remains the priority for 2026.

One may safely conclude that the public's priorities remain the high cost of living, persistent inflation, and law and order, alongside the urgent need to restore economic growth and build an inclusive society. Nevertheless, the government continues to pursue electoral reform. However, inviting public submissions by the end of January may prove ineffective, as the festive season is hardly an ideal time to engage public attention.

However, at this stage, the public remains in the dark about the next stage of the consultation process once submissions have been received. It is expected that a signed report will be published by the Prime Minister's Office with its findings and recommendations so that the public can further discuss the recommendations and consensus reached about the proposed reforms. What mechanism will be put in place for the public to discuss the recommendations is still unknown. These different stages are crucial for transparency, to win public trust and for any reform to gain the stamp of legitimacy.

One may arrogantly dismiss the need for these different stages on the ground that all issues concerning electoral reform had been discussed at least since 1964, at the Lancaster Conference in 1965, and by several electoral commissions and by foreign and local constitutionalists. It is true that the various issues have been discussed — proportional representation, various models of multi-member constituencies, "good losers," separate electoral rolls, constitutional court — to reach a consensus ultimately on the present constitution and electoral system. While everybody agrees that the system has worked very well and reflects generally even the demographic profile of the population while ensuring political stability, the need for reform is argued because of a changing context and society.

However, no one has been able to identify empirically what has changed for electoral reform to become so imperative, except that opposition parties feel that their leverage to get into power or to become kingmaker is considerably reduced by our "First-Past-The-Post" system. This is a legitimate aspiration for any party, or more so for an opposition party which may find it extremely difficult to win national sup-



**“No one has been able to identify empirically what has changed for electoral reform to become so imperative, except that opposition parties feel that their leverage to get into power or to become kingmaker is considerably reduced by our “First-Past-The-Post” system. This is a legitimate aspiration for any party, or more so for an opposition party which may find it extremely difficult to win national support to get into power especially if its main electoral base remains largely and narrowly regional and ethnic...” Pic - barrons.com**

port to get into power especially if its main electoral base remains largely and narrowly regional and ethnic.

The need for a new census or a social survey has been avoided so far for several reasons which may not stand to reason when representation is considered a crucial factor for an electoral system. Maybe a census is avoided so as not to further politicize ethnic representation which is already politicized by all the major parties. On the other hand, even if a new census were to be carried out, it would hardly change the political configuration given the demographic change is marginal, if one considers the census figures of 2022 which show the Hindu community to be 49.6% compared with the 51.8% of 1972, and certainly not the erroneous figures forwarded to the United Nations in 2025.

Yet there is also the strong argument that the 60-0 or 57-3 election result is an aberration in a Westminster two-party system which is expected to produce a government party and an opposition party for democracy to work. Even that idea has been debunked elsewhere on the grounds that even a 60-zero result has not produced any problem of governance. Nor are the entrenched clauses at risk to be wiped away as our democracy has been consolidated by Article One of our Constitution and the need for a referendum for any major constitutional change. Even reforming an electoral system which forms part of our constitutional architecture may have to pass that litmus test.

Any increase in the number of MLAs, whether 12 or 20, is perceived as grotesque and reprehensible, especially in the present economic context, the more so as the electorate remains largely disenchanted with its representatives. Further, the 12 to 20 formula of 2014 has been massively rejected by the electorate and to resuscitate it amounts to whipping a dead horse.

There are other issues which will be raised during the debate, particularly representation in our mosaic society for "invisible" communities which cannot be easily brushed

under the carpet. Also equally controversial is the financing of political parties in a context in which the corporate sector simply 'buy' political parties to tilt the balance of economic power on their side to counteract any political power given by the electorate. Efforts to come with a law on party financing will remain cosmetic simply because political parties resent having to register with the Registrar of Associations, just like any other democratic organisations like trade unions and the hundreds of organisations, for a number of reasons but fundamentally because they want to avoid public scrutiny of their financial donations, more particularly from foreign organisations.

All these issues make electoral reform a tightrope walking. Even if there is a breakthrough, the intended and unintended consequences of reform will remain a riddle to be deciphered. It could well provide some symbolic concessions to aggrieved segments of the population. It could well tilt the balance of power which has existed since independence between economic and political power as the oligarchy too has jumped on the bandwagon singing the chorus of proportional representation, causing such a backlash that could result in dire consequences for the economy and society.

We say symbolic concessions because to build an inclusive society in Mauritius demands much more than electoral reform or even consolidating our various institutions, although these would certainly kickstart some desirable changes. We have had a Constitu-

tion which guarantees our human rights and institutions to enforce these rights. But so far it has been extremely difficult to create an inclusive society that we all aspire because discrimination in our society operates in more subtle ways.

Discrimination persists in daily life through patriarchy, gender subordination, and exploitative, low-paid labour. These issues are compounded by poverty, systemic marginalisation within public and private institutions, and the dominance of oligopolies. Furthermore, what is often labelled as 'merit' is frequently the product of economic and cultural capital — assets an individual cannot easily acquire through hard work alone. One must also recognize that informal structures of discrimination and support exist in a small society like Mauritius, where an individual has a greater chance of thriving by capitalizing on social and family networks — particularly political and economic ones — that often override ethnicity. This dynamic is well-documented in research on how these informal hierarchies sustain a society divided by both class and ethnic lines.

These observations are not intended to diminish the importance of electoral reform, but rather to place it within a broader perspective of improving representation and adopting a 'politics of presence' for our mosaic society. Crucially, there are other vital battles to fight: not only to ensure the country remains prosperous and sustainable but to acknowledge that building a truly inclusive society requires tackling both formal and informal systems of discrimination in a society in which electoral reform may not even be necessary.

At this stage, it is premature to anticipate how the electoral reform process will evolve. One must wait for the submissions, the official report, and the public's response to its recommendations before the direction of the debate and its ultimate outcome become clear. But it is most likely that, given the relentless insistence to get the reform and nothing but the reform, a 'pound of flesh' may eventually be granted — but in a way that avoids spilling a drop of blood.

# Legal Consent Under Scrutiny: ‘Super Cash Back Gold’ Settlement Agreements Challenged

*While settlement agreements are legally binding once signed, they can be contested if there is clear evidence of fraud, duress, or other factors that invalidate consent*

**T**he case involves 92 ‘Super Cash Back Gold’ (SCBG) policyholders who sued the National Property Fund Limited (NPFL) after being required to surrender their policies and accept reduced repayments under a revised payment scheme. Although the plaintiffs later signed settlement agreements and received payments, they allege that these agreements were imposed under pressure and without genuine consent. NPFL argued that the settlements barred any legal action, but the Court held that such agreements may be challenged if obtained through coercion. Consequently, the defendant’s preliminary objection was rejected and the case will proceed on its merits. Lex examines the issues arising from this case.

## LEX

**\* In simple terms, what was the main legal issue the Court had to decide in this case?**

The Plaintiffs were required by the National Property Fund Limited (NPFL) to surrender their *Super Cash Back Gold* (SCBG) policies, in consideration for which they were to be paid specific sums of money on specified dates. The Plaintiffs were duly paid for the periods ending 30 June 2015 and 30 June 2016. In January 2017, the Defendant issued the Plaintiffs with written documents entitled *Repayment Certificates*, which clearly set out the respective amounts payable and the scheduled payment dates from 30 June 2017 to 30 June 2020.

Subsequently, NPFL issued a communiqué requiring the Plaintiffs to register anew and to accept payments lower than those contractually due. According to the Plaintiffs, the issuance of this communiqué exerted pressure on them and placed them before a *fait accompli*, in that failure to register by 31 August 2017 would result in them receiving no further payments of the sums owed.

Put simply, the central issue is whether the agreement signed in these circumstances was lawful and binding as a matter of contractual obligation.

**\* What does the law mean by a “transaction,” and why are settlement agreements normally treated as final and binding?**

A settlement agreement, *accord transactionnel* or *transaction*, is a contract by which parties resolve an existing dispute or prevent



a future one through mutual concessions. As defined by the Civil Code, it requires the existence of an actual or potential conflict and reciprocal sacrifices by the parties. Once concluded — typically in writing — a transaction has binding legal force, equivalent to a final resolution, and is intended to avoid litigation and provide legal certainty.

**\* What is meant by “violence” in contract law, and how does it differ from physical force?**

The use of violence or threats in the context of contractual obligations undermines the requirement of free and voluntary consent. An agreement obtained through force or intimidation is therefore legally defective: in cases of direct physical coercion, the contract is void, while in other cases of pressure or intimidation it is voidable and may be set aside at the request of the affected party.

A void contract has no legal effect from the outset and is treated as though it never existed, making it unenforceable by either party. By contrast, a voidable contract is initially valid but may be annulled at the option of the party whose consent was improperly obtained.

**\* In practice, what kind of pressure or conduct might amount to “violence” sufficient to invalidate a settlement agreement?**

In legal terms, “violence” sufficient to invalidate a settlement agreement generally falls under the doctrine of duress — either physical duress or severe, unlawful coercion that overcomes a person’s free will. Such conduct renders a contract void or voidable because the consent given was not truly voluntary.

Duress provides a legal basis for a party to be released from a contract when they have been forced or coerced into agreeing.

If it can be established that such coercion occurred, the contract cannot be considered a valid and enforceable agreement.

**\* Does this judgment mean that all settlement agreements can now be challenged more easily?**

The primary purpose of a settlement agreement is to resolve a dispute between parties outside of court, providing certainty, speed, and cost savings. Typically, this involves agreed terms — often including compensation — in exchange for waiving future legal claims, ensuring a “clean break.” Settlement agreements serve as formal, binding contracts that end conflict, avoid protracted litigation, and protect sensitive information, and are commonly used in cases of redundancies, grievances, or mutual separations.

Challenging a settlement agreement requires showing that the contract is fundamentally flawed, as courts generally uphold their finality. While settlement agreements are legally binding once signed, they can be contested if there is clear evidence of fraud, duress, or other factors that invalidate consent.

**\* What will the plaintiffs now need to prove for the settlement agreements to be declared null and void?**

For a settlement agreement to be declared null and void, the party seeking to set it aside must generally show that the contract is *fatally flawed* because of serious misconduct, such as fraud, duress, or a fundamental defect in consent.

Courts strongly favor the finality of settlement agreements, so the burden of proof is high: the claimant must produce clear evidence that the agreement was entered into under circumstances that legally undermine free consent (e.g., coercion or misrepresenta-

tation).

**\* From a legal perspective, how risky is it for institutions to impose tight deadlines or “take-it-or-leave-it” payment conditions?**

Imposing tight deadlines or “take-it-or-leave-it” (adhesion) payment conditions carries significant legal risk for institutions, as such practices are frequently scrutinized for fairness and unconscionability.

Courts will examine whether terms create a significant imbalance in rights, exploit a weaker party, or are oppressive, and may refuse to enforce or invalidate such provisions if they are deemed unfair or contrary to public policy.

**\* How does this decision protect individuals who may be in a weaker bargaining position?**

The decision is a significant breakthrough in how contracts leading to agreements should be interpreted. As the judgment states: “In view of the law governing a ‘transaction,’ it is therefore well settled that, although, in principle, a ‘transaction’ has *autorité de la chose jugée*, it can still be challenged by a party to the ‘transaction’ on the basis that there has been *violence* in the process.”

**\* Could this ruling have wider implications for disputes involving banks, insurers, or public institutions, which at times try to force citizens into submission through the threatening prospect of protracted, costly litigation or aggressive recovery measures? Does the new ability of the Revenue Tribunal to award costs against the MRA signal a turning point for the protection of the ordinary citizen?**

Settlement agreements with banks, insurers, or public institutions are generally legally binding contracts intended to provide finality by requiring parties to make a full and final settlement and waive future claims. Once validly entered into, they are enforceable and serve to avoid further litigation.

However, such agreements are not immune to challenge. If a settlement was entered into under duress, misrepresentation, fraud, or similar vitiating factors, it may be set aside or re-opened. Courts will scrutinise whether the party’s consent was truly voluntary: where it was caused by coercion, fraud, or misrepresentation, the agreement may be voidable at the option of the aggrieved party and subject to rescission or annulment.

**\* If the plaintiffs ultimately succeed, what kinds of remedies or outcomes could the Court order?**

If the plaintiffs ultimately succeed, the Court could order remedies such as full payment of the amounts their policies generated, together with interest, to place them in the position they would have been in had the settlement not been imposed under duress.



Anil Madan

# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum

**A** dog sees a car, starts barking and runs after it, full tilt. At some point, we have all wondered: what if the dog caught the car?

At Davos, we saw world leaders, all earnest, barking up the wrong tree. Never have so many, so badly assessed a situation. Or was it that their display of panic and hysteria actually defused a crisis — one that might otherwise have morphed into the end of NATO, the Western alliance, and the rules-based order? Indeed, it could have signaled the end of any expectation that those entrusted with great power will wield it with a commensurate sense of responsibility.

Were we witnessing the end of gravitas itself? And how do you bring an escaped gravitas balloon, seemingly filled with the helium of hubris, down to earth?

The atmosphere at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, was charged. President Donald Trump was coming to town, and he was running after Greenland. In fact, he had refused to rule out the use of force to satisfy his acquisitive thirst for Greenland.

The Gods of imperialism have a sense of humor. They weren't cooperating. First, there was a minor electrical problem with the aircraft designated Air Force One carrying the President on his mission, a latter-day Joan of Arc carrying the banner to the conquest. After all, he had circulated a meme with the US flag covering the US mainland, Greenland, Venezuela, and Canada to boot. The aircraft turned around mid-flight and returned to base — Joint Base Andrews. A suitable replacement aircraft was fueled and

left for a second try. It is not known whether the replacement aircraft once flew under the Qatari banner of an Arab Jamila of Arc.

In the meantime, at ground level in Davos, there was nothing short of hysteria. Let us take a sampling.

Bernd Lange, chair of the European Parliament's Committee on International Trade that must approve the EU-US trade deal negotiated last year before being presented for a final vote before the full parliament, said there is "no alternative" but suspend the deal because of threats over Greenland. He added that European Parliament is clear in its "unshakable commitment to the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Denmark and Greenland".

President Macron of France lamented a shift towards autocracy, against democracy, indeed a shift towards a world without rules, where international law is trampled underfoot and the desires of the mighty prevail. He saw imperial ambitions resurfacing and the end of collective governance and multilateralism. Competition from the US and China was replacing cooperation and common interest. Macron reaffirmed the attachment of France and Europe to national sovereignty and independence, to the United Nations. In this context, he recalled the lessons of WWII and explained thus, France's decision to join a mutual exercise in Greenland without threatening anyone, but just supporting an ally and another European country, Denmark.

Canada's Prime Minister Mark Carney gave what one commentator characterized as a stem-winder of a speech. And it was all of that. Carney said that we are seeing a rup-



Pic - First Post

ture in the world order, not a transition and this is the end of a pleasant fiction and the beginning of a harsh reality where powerful nations have no limits, no constraints.

But Carney was defiant, saying that Canada and other intermediate powers are not powerless, they have the capacity to build a new order "that encompasses our values, such as respect for human rights, sustainable development, solidarity, sovereignty and territorial integrity of the various states."

In a not so-veiled chip shot south, he declared: "The power of the less powerful; starts with honesty."

Carney invoked the aphorism of Thucydides that with the rules-based order fading, the strong can do what they can, and the weak must suffer what they must.

With uncharacteristic but not unexpected bravado from a Canadian, he gave counsel: Going along and showing compliance will neither avoid trouble nor buy safety.

In speaking about options, he cited an essay by Czech dissident and later president Václav Havel on 'The Power of the Powerless'. Living within a lie is unacceptable. "The system's power comes not from its truth, but from everyone's willingness to perform as if it were true, and its fragility comes from the same source." When there is a refusal by even one to comply, the illusion begins to crack.

And so, Mark Carney proclaimed that it is time for middle powers to end this. "[Canada] knew the story of the international rules-based order was partially false that the strongest would exempt themselves when convenient, that trade rules were enforced asymmetrically. And we knew that international law applied with varying rigor depending on the identity of the accused or the victim."

"This fiction was useful, and American hegemony, in particular, helped provide public goods, open sea lanes, a stable financial system, collective security and support for frameworks for resolving disputes."

He concluded: "This bargain no longer works. Let me be direct. We are in the midst

of a rupture, not a transition."

A country that can't feed itself, fuel itself or defend itself, has few options. When the rules no longer protect you, you must protect yourself. But Carney was clear eyed about where this leads: "A world of fortresses will be poorer, more fragile and less sustainable. And there is another truth. If great powers

abandon even the pretense of rules and values for the unhindered pursuit of their power and interests, the gains from transactionalism will become harder to replicate."

Mr Carney drew a standing ovation.

As might be expected, Ursula von der Leyen and British PM Keir Starmer also decried the end of the orderly order.

**I**n contrast, NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte acknowledged the security challenges confronting the West: "When it comes to the Arctic, I think President Trump is right," Rutte said in a video address. But he also gave a nod to Europeans views: "Other leaders of NATO are right."

"We need to defend the Arctic. We know that the sea lanes are opening up. We know that China and Russia are increasingly active in the Arctic," he said.

"There are eight countries bordering the Arctic. Seven are members of NATO," he said, listing Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Iceland, Canada, and the United States. "The only nation with an Arctic border outside of NATO is Russia," adding that a ninth country, China, is increasingly active in the Arctic region.

So, this was the car that Trump was chasing. And he too seemed clear-eyed that not only had he failed to catch it, but that he really wanted nothing to do with catching it. Mr. Trump is adroit at reading polls. If it was not clear before the first takeoff from Joint Base Andrews, the return flight was an omen that there was little support for the use of force either in Europe or at home.

Trump's lengthy, way too long speech, at Davos got off with what seemed a plaintive embrace: "The United States cares greatly about the people of Europe. We really do. I mean, look, I am derived from Europe. Scotland and Germany, 100 percent Scotland, my mother, 100 percent German, my father. And we believe deeply in the bonds we share with Europe as a civilization. I want to see it do great."

This was no Viking warrior coming to raid, no Hun coming to raid and ravage.

Cont. on page 6



“At Davos, we saw world leaders, all earnest, barking up the wrong tree. Never have so many, so badly assessed a situation. Or was it that their display of panic and hysteria actually defused a crisis — one that might otherwise have morphed into the end of NATO, the Western alliance, and the rules-based order? Indeed, it could have signaled the end of any expectation that those entrusted with great power will wield it with a commensurate sense of responsibility. Were we witnessing the end of gravitas itself? And how do you bring an escaped gravitas balloon, seemingly filled with the helium of hubris, down to earth?”

Pic - nationalreview.com

# A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum



US President Donald Trump delivers remarks to journalists as he leaves a plenary session at the Congress Hall, walking past journalists after his speech on the sidelines of the 56th annual meeting of the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Jan. 21. AFP-Yonhap

Cont. from page 5

This was a man invoking his own heritage to forge a common bond. It was a deft correction of his earlier error of belligerence.

But there was also a sense of outrage and despair in the embrace. The Europeans and Scots are destroying themselves, he complained. This echoed his National Security Strategy recently published.

The first part of Mr Trump's speech was long and covered a range of topics, mostly about perceived accomplishments of his second term. Then he elevated Greenland to a prime spot in terms of national security. He did not clarify that he was talking of America's national security, or perhaps of Denmark's or Europe's national security. It was left hanging.

Then the tone of the apologia coupled with apology returned. Mr Trump has tremendous respect for both the people of Greenland and the people of Denmark. Didn't you know? Never mind the details. Because there is no nation or group of nations in any position to be able to secure Greenland other than the United States.

Mr Trump then went back to WWII but after glorifying America for having defended Greenland on behalf of Denmark, he went on: "And then after the war, which we won – we won it big. Without us, right now, you'd all be speaking German and a little Japanese, perhaps. After the war, we gave Greenland back to Denmark. How stupid were we to do that? But we did it. But we gave it back. But how ungrateful are they now?"

Now, we seemed to have come full circle. The Danes and Greenlanders were ungrateful.

At this point, Mr Trump turned to justifying his quest for Greenland: "We need it for strategic national security and international security."

Note the expression of self-interest coupled with the noble goal of protecting the interests of allies. And then he allowed that Greenland is "actually part of North America on the northern frontier of the Western

Hemisphere. That's our territory. It is, therefore, a core national security interest of the United States of America. And in fact, it's been our policy for hundreds of years to prevent outside threats from entering our hemisphere." This was an invocation of the recently published National Security Strategy, the Monroe Doctrine extended, and the so-called modern-day Donroe doctrine.

Mr Trump went on to review his perception of historical attempts by American presidents to acquire Greenland. America alone can protect this piece of land which is mostly ice. Then Trump pivoted to declare that as the reason "I'm seeking immediate negotiations to once again discuss the acquisition of Greenland by the United States."

The acquisition would not be a threat to NATO. And then he lamented that the US is treated very unfairly by NATO.

Admitting that he has been a critic of NATO for many years, he hailed himself as the greatest benefactor of the alliance: "I've done more to help NATO than any other President by far, than any other person. You wouldn't have NATO if I didn't get involved in my first term."

Then came the stunning statements: "We probably won't get anything unless I decide to use excessive strength and force where we would be, frankly, unstoppable. But I don't want to do that. OK, now everyone's saying, oh, good. That's probably the biggest statement I made because people thought I would use force. I don't have to use force. I don't want to use force. I won't use force."

At this point, he turned the quest into a respectful request for Greenland.

The goal is to provide security through a missile defense system which, he argues, will 'by its very nature' defend Canada. So much for Mark Carney's supposed ingratitude.

Trump made a special point of addressing Carney: "Canada gets a lot of freebies from us, by the way. They should be grateful also. But they're not. I watched your prime

minister yesterday. He wasn't so grateful. They should be grateful to us. Canada. Canada lives because of the United States. Remember that, Mark, the next time you make your statements."

And thus, the crisis that had built to a crescendo was defused. All said, there was a bit of bark, but no bite.

On the other hand, the Western alliance was indeed ruptured.

Later that afternoon, Mr Trump announced that he had "formed the framework of a future deal" with respect to Greenland with Rutte.

Danish foreign minister Rasmussen said: "The day ended better than it started." And

making it clear that there is no finality to the discussions, he added: "Now, let's sit down and find out how we can address the American security concerns in the Arctic while respecting the red lines of the Kingdom of Denmark."

Italy's prime minister, Giorgia Meloni, welcomed Trump's retreat from the ledge. Rutte was more nuanced and cautious, saying there is "a lot of work to be done".

We are left wondering if the Western alliance is fractured and NATO undone, or if an entirely new love affair is in the offing. Your guess is as good as mine.

Cheerz...  
Bwana



## EXPRESSION OF INTEREST (EOI) FOR DEALERS WISHING TO AVAIL OF BIN RENTAL SERVICES AT TROU FANFARON FISH COLD STORE

### 1. Introduction

The Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB) is a parastatal body operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries. The AMB is mandated, inter alia, to manage by-catch operations and the rental of cold storage facilities at **Trou Fanfaron Fish Cold Store**.

### 2. Objective

The objective of this Expression of Interest is to invite **eligible and interested dealers** to apply for the rental of bins at the Trou Fanfaron Fish Cold Store, with the possibility of annual renewal, **subject to the same or revised terms and conditions** as may be determined by the AMB.

### 3. Eligibility Criteria

All applicants must possess and submit the following valid documents:

- Fishmonger Licence
- Certificate of Incorporation
- Business Registration Number (BRN) and any other relevant licences
- Recent utility bill(s)
- National Identity Card (NIC) of shareholder(s)

### 4. Rental Fees and Contractual Obligations

Successful dealers shall be required to enter into a **contractual agreement with the AMB**, renewable on an annual basis.

A **monthly rental fee** shall be applicable, based on actual usage, at the prevailing rate of **MUR 175 per bin per night**.

A **surcharge** shall be applicable in the event of late payment beyond the prescribed deadline. The AMB reserves the right to **terminate the contract** in cases of non-payment and/or repeated non-compliance with contractual terms and conditions.

### 5. Submission of Expression of Interest

Interested dealers are requested to submit their Expression of Interest **on or before 05th February 2026** to the following address:

**The General Manager, Agricultural Marketing Board (AMB)**  
Dr G. Leclizio Avenue  
Moka

Shyam Bhatia, London-based Journalist and Author

# Trump and Chagos

## “Powerful states bend rules when they believe the price is manageable”

**I**n this incisive interview, Shyam Bhatia, a London-based journalist and former Diplomatic Editor at *The Observer*, unpacks the shifting tectonic plates of global diplomacy. With a career forged in the war zones and high-stakes political corridors of the Middle East, Africa, and South Asia, Bhatia brings a seasoned reporter’s eye to the “New Indian Ocean Chessboard.”

The discussion centres on the sudden destabilization of the Mauritius-UK Chagos agreement following inflammatory rhetoric from the Trump administration. Shyam Bhatia explores how the archipelago has been transformed from a landmark case of decolonisation into a “transactional real-estate asset,” used as a rhetorical prop to justify a renewed American expansionism — most notably the push for Greenland. Through the lens of what he terms the “Donroe Doctrine,” Shyam Bhatia argues that we are witnessing a move away from a rules-based international order toward a world where legal principles are treated as mere “risk management” and sovereignty is negotiable for the weak.

**Mauritius Times:** In early 2025, the Trump administration signalled support for the Mauritius-UK Chagos deal. Why do you think he chose today (Tuesday, January 20) to characterize the deal as an ‘act of total weakness’ and ‘great stupidity’—specifically in relation to his push for Greenland?

**Shyam Bhatia:** Donald Trump’s timing is rarely accidental. Chagos itself is not a domestic political issue in the United States, but it is symbolically powerful. It represents a rare case where decolonisation norms, international law and sustained moral argument combined to constrain Western strategic discretion. By denouncing Chagos at precisely the moment he is pushing the idea of acquiring Greenland, Trump constructs a simple, almost theatrical contrast between what he calls weakness — giving territory up — and what he calls strength — taking or securing territory.

The language Trump uses is revealing. “Weakness” and “stupidity” are not legal arguments; they are moral judgements designed to delegitimise the very idea of concession, even when that concession corrects a colonial injustice. This fits Trump’s long-standing political instinct: portray predecessors as naïve, depict allies as feeble, and present himself as the figure who restores dominance. In that sense, Chagos becomes a prop in a larger performance about lost power and recovered greatness.

There is also a signalling effect beyond domestic politics. Trump is warning allies that foreign-policy continuity can no longer be assumed. Agreements reached under previous administrations, even those grounded in international law, may be treated as provisional. Chagos thus becomes collateral damage in a broader attempt to normalise revisionism as a governing principle rather than an aberration.

There is also a historical echo here that Trump instinc-

“Trump avoids engaging with the specific legal and historical arguments behind the Chagos settlement and instead shifts the terrain onto instinct and emotion. The implication is that any leader who respects international law over territorial advantage is unfit for power. That is a dangerous lesson to normalise, because once law is framed as weakness, every future legal obligation becomes politically vulnerable...”

tively exploits. The language he uses — weakness, stupidity, surrender — draws on an older imperial vocabulary in which territory was the ultimate marker of status. In that world, giving land back was not moral progress but decline. Trump’s political genius, such as it is, lies in reactivating that vocabulary for a contemporary audience that feels economically and culturally insecure. Chagos, in this telling, is not about colonial history or displaced populations; it is about a West that has supposedly forgotten how to be strong.

Linking Chagos to Greenland therefore serves a strategic narrative purpose. It collapses very different cases into a single story of loss and recovery. By doing so, Trump avoids engaging with the specific legal and historical arguments behind the Chagos settlement and instead shifts the terrain onto instinct and emotion. The implication is that any leader who respects international law over territorial advantage is unfit for power. That is a dangerous lesson to normalise, because once law is framed as weakness, every future legal obligation becomes politically vulnerable.

**\* Donald Trump explicitly linked the Chagos “stupidity” to the “imperative” of acquiring Greenland. Is this a sign that international territories are now being treated as transactional real estate assets rather than sovereign entities governed by international law?**

Yes, and it marks a deeper shift in how sovereignty itself is being discussed. Trump speaks of territory as if it were an asset on a balance sheet — valued for location, minerals or military utility — rather than as a legal and political status shaped by history, population and treaty obligations. In this worldview, sovereignty is conditional: secure for the powerful, negotiable for the weak.

Great powers have always pursued advantage, but what has changed is the disappearance of rhetorical restraint. For decades, even when states bent rules, they maintained the appearance that those rules mattered. Trump often discards that convention. He replaces legality with bargaining and consent with leverage. Territory becomes something to be “won”, “secured” or “dealt with”, not something governed by binding norms.

The danger lies in normalisation. Once publics become accustomed to territorial questions framed as transactions, the post-1945 assumption that borders and sovereign status are not simply up for negotiation weakens. International law does not vanish, but it becomes something invoked selectively rather than a discipline that constrains behaviour. Small states feel that erosion first, because their security



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depends most heavily on the idea that rules apply regardless of power.

What makes this moment especially consequential is that transactional language, once normalised at the top, filters down. Bureaucracies, militaries and diplomats take their cues from how leaders speak. If territory is openly described as negotiable property, then the restraint traditionally exercised by officials begins to loosen. Legal advisers become risk managers rather than guardians of principle. Negotiators draft clauses with exit ramps rather than closure.

For small states, this is profoundly unsettling. Their sovereignty has always rested less on power than on predictability. When sovereignty becomes something that can be revisited, repriced or reframed as a “deal,” the incentive structure changes. Law becomes a tactic rather than a foundation. The deeper danger is not a single transaction, but a cumulative shift in expectation: that everything is, ultimately, negotiable if sufficient pressure is applied.

**\* Trump claims global rivals have noticed this “weakness.” Based on your analysis of the “New Indian Ocean Chessboard,” does a Mauritian Chagos actually increase Chinese leverage, or is this merely “performative” security language used to justify US expansionism elsewhere?**

A Mauritian Chagos does not automatically increase Chinese leverage in any operational sense. Mauritius lacks both the military capacity and, so far, the political inclination to alter the realities around Diego Garcia.

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# 'Small states can't outmuscle great powers, but they can outlast their arrogance.'

By framing the Chagos issue as a matter of international law and regional stability, Mauritius increases the reputational cost of disruption'

☞ Cont. from page 7

The lease arrangements were designed precisely to preserve continuity, and there is no evidence that Port Louis seeks to turn the archipelago into a platform for rival powers.

China is therefore being invoked rhetorically rather than analytically. "China" becomes a shortcut that converts a legally grounded decolonisation settlement into a security scare. This is performative language: it compresses complexity into alarm and makes dissent appear irresponsible.

In the Indian Ocean context, the subtler risk is reputational. When Western powers appear to treat lawful decolonisation outcomes as negotiable, rivals gain narrative advantage across Africa, Asia and island states. That legitimacy gap can, over time, translate into diplomatic leverage — votes, partnerships and access — without Mauritius doing anything dramatic at all.

**\* Your article published in this paper last week cites Henry Kissinger's view that the US does not allow international law to constrain its freedom of action. Does Trump's sudden pivot on a mutually agreed treaty between the UK and Mauritius serve as the ultimate "real-world" validation of this doctrine?**

It does, in a particularly stark form. Kissinger's observation was often criticised as cynical, but it was descriptively accurate: international law constrains power only when power consents to be constrained. Trump strips away the diplomatic veneer and states the hierarchy openly — strategic preference overrides legal settlement.

What makes the Chagos case especially revealing is that the United States is not even a signatory to the agreement. Yet Trump speaks as if Washington has an inherent right to judge and delegitimise outcomes that affect its strategic environment. That reflects an expansive conception of authority in which multilateral process matters only insofar as it aligns with US discretion.

This is more than unilateralism; it is legal relativism. Treaties cease to be binding endpoints and become temporary arrangements, valid only while they remain convenient. For small states, the implication is sobering: winning a case and securing an agreement are necessary achievements, but they are not self-executing. They still require political defence in a world where power reserves the right to reinterpret legality.

Kissinger at least acknowledged this reality with a certain tragic realism. Trump goes further by celebrating it. That distinction matters. Kissinger saw the tension between law and power as something to be managed discreetly; Trump treats it as something to be performed publicly. By doing so, he weakens not only the authority of international law but also the credibility of the United States as a steward of any rules-based system.

For allies, this creates a corrosive ambiguity. If law binds only when convenient, then alignment becomes a gamble.

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Today's legal settlement may be tomorrow's strategic mistake. That uncertainty pushes states to hedge, diversify and insure themselves against sudden reversals. In that sense, Trump's validation of Kissinger's doctrine does not merely describe the limits of law — it actively accelerates the fragmentation of the order that law was meant to sustain.

**\* You also noted that in cases like Venezuela, "necessity is asserted first, legality debated later." Do you see Trump's "National Security" justification for Greenland as a template for how he might eventually attempt to override the legal framework of the Chagos treaty?**

Yes. "National security" has become the master key. Once invoked, legal nuance is sidelined and moral hesitation is reframed as irresponsibility. Greenland is a test case for how far an acquisitive claim can be repackaged as defensive necessity within a democratic system.

If that narrative holds politically, it becomes a template. Agreements are questioned not because they are unlawful, but because "circumstances have changed" or "threats have evolved". Legal commitments become contingent, and reinterpretation becomes routine.

Applied to Chagos, this need not involve formal repudiation. A treaty can be hollowed out through delay, re-review, new conditions or administrative obstruction — preserving the appearance of compliance while draining confidence

“Greenland is a test case for how far an acquisitive claim can be repackaged as defensive necessity within a democratic system. If that narrative holds politically, it becomes a template. Agreements are questioned not because they are unlawful, but because "circumstances have changed" or "threats have evolved". Legal commitments become contingent, and reinterpretation becomes routine...”

and finality. That is how legal orders decay: exceptions multiply until they become normal practice.

**\* You wrote that Mauritius won its case through "moral clarity" and meticulous law. Does moral clarity hold any currency in an era where, as Robert Kagan noted, powerful nations "bend or break the rules" whenever they deem it necessary?**

Moral clarity still matters, but it no longer guarantees enforcement. It matters as legitimacy, narrative and historical record. Mauritius demonstrated that a small state can win the argument even if it cannot compel compliance by force.

Moral clarity also exposes hypocrisy, raising reputational costs for Britain and, indirectly, the United States. In democratic systems, reputational costs can later become political costs. They narrow the space for quiet backsliding and force explanations that may prove uncomfortable over time.

Kagan's point remains valid: powerful states bend rules when they believe the price is manageable. Moral clarity is therefore not a shield, but a slower, cumulative form of leverage that depends on persistence rather than immediate effect.

**\* The Chagos agreement is often described as a "settled and irreversible" outcome. After Trump's intervention last Tuesday, and given the political fallout in the UK, do you still believe the deal is truly "irreversible"?**

Legally, the settlement stands. Politically, it has been destabilised. Trump's intervention shows that "irreversible" no longer means closure; it means an agreement's capacity to withstand sustained political assault.

The greater danger is erosion rather than outright reversal. Delay, reinterpretation and bureaucratic obstruction can hollow out a settlement while preserving plausible deniability. That corrosion is often more damaging than open repudiation, because it destroys trust without triggering accountability.

When prominent figures in Britain suggest the deal has effectively been "vetoed", they normalise the idea that decolonisation outcomes can be reopened by rhetorical force alone. That is precisely how supposedly settled questions become unsettled again.

The word "irreversible" now functions more as reassurance than as reality. It reassures domestic audiences and international partners that a difficult chapter has closed. But Trump's intervention exposes how fragile that reassurance can be. If a single external actor can destabilise a settlement simply by denouncing it loudly enough, then irreversibility is no longer a legal condition but a political achievement that must be constantly defended.

This has implications far beyond Chagos.

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# 'Greenland is a test case for how far an acquisitive claim can be repackaged as defensive necessity within a democratic system'

☞ Cont. from page 8

It suggests that decolonisation itself is never quite finished — that it remains subject to revision if strategic moods change. That is a deeply unsettling message for former colonies that believed law offered finality. It means that even success carries an afterlife of vulnerability, and that vigilance replaces closure as the price of sovereignty.

**\* You warned that for former colonies, formal sovereignty is often acknowledged while “substantive control” is retained through technicalities. Is Trump’s outburst a signal that Washington intends to re-assert “substantive control” regardless of the paperwork signed in 2025?**

It is at least a warning that Washington is prepared to speak as if it retains decisive authority regardless of formalities. Substantive control does not require rewriting treaties; it can be exercised through security dependence, information asymmetry and political pressure.

That is why sovereignty can become symbolic rather than operational if vigilance lapses. Paper victories must be defended in practice.

**\* If, as you say, “law no longer enforces itself,” what diplomatic or political mechanisms does Mauritius actually have left to ensure the UK and US honour the 99-year lease agreement if the US Presidency remains hostile to it?**

Mauritius’s tools are limited, but not negligible. Persistent multilateral diplomacy keeps the issue visible and imposes reputational costs, particularly on Britain, which remains sensitive to accusations of legal bad faith and neo-colonial manoeuvre.

Coalition-building with other small and middle powers can amplify Mauritius’s position, raising the diplomatic price of ignoring law. Implementation discipline also matters: regular consultations, clear benchmarks and public reaffirmations reduce the scope for quiet backsliding.

There is also a pragmatic argument Mauritius can continue to make: stability. A lawful settlement reduces long-term controversy around Diego Garcia; undermining it creates a permanent legitimacy problem around the base. Even Washington values basing arrangements that are politically defensible.

Mauritius can also think in generational terms. International disputes rarely resolve on a single timeline. What matters is how narratives harden over years. By consistently presenting itself as the party acting in good faith — implementing, consulting, documenting — Mauritius builds a record that outlives any one US administration. That record matters when political winds shift, when courts are revisited, and when new leaders seek to re-anchor legitimacy.

In this sense, patience becomes strategy. Small states cannot outmuscle great powers, but they can outlast moments of arrogance. By embedding Chagos in a broader story about lawful decolonisation, regional stability and international responsibility, Mauritius increases the reputational cost of disruption. Over time, that cost can outweigh the convenience of obstruction.

**\* You also mentioned that “exceptional measures normalize.” If a US administration successfully refuses to recognize a decolonization treaty backed by the ICJ and UN, what does that signal to other small nations currently negotiating “rules-based” settlements with great powers?**

It signals that legality offers procedure, not protection. Even the most meticulous legal strategy cannot guarantee finality if a great power later decides the outcome is incon-



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venient.

Small states will conclude that legal success must be paired with political architecture — allies who will speak, votes that matter and relationships that create mutual interest. Otherwise, negotiation becomes an exercise in managed vulnerability.

Ironically, this weakens the very order powerful states claim to defend. When law loses credibility, coercion becomes normalised and predictability — the quality that prevents crises from spiralling — is eroded.

**\* With the recent military operation to capture Nicolás Maduro and the renewed push to acquire Greenland, are we seeing the emergence of a “Donroe Doctrine”?**

Yes. It resembles a hierarchy-based doctrine that revives spheres of influence in transactional form. Success is measured by leverage and control rather than consent.

**\* To what extent is the administration’s interest in Greenland driven by genuine Arctic security concerns versus rare-earth minerals and symbolic “real estate” value?**

Arctic security concerns are real, but they do not require acquisitive language. Minerals and supply chains matter as well. The insistence on ownership points to symbolism and status as much as defence.

**\* Given the EU’s threat to activate its Anti-Coercion Instrument, does Europe finally have the “teeth” to respond, or is internal fragmentation still its greatest weakness?**

Europe has tools; cohesion remains the constraint. Teeth matter only if action is collective and predictable.

**\* Is the Kremlin successfully using this friction to weaken NATO without firing a shot?**

Russia benefits from Western discord. Doubt and division do the work cheaply.

**\* How might Beijing retaliate if the US squeezes it out of Venezuelan oil and Greenland minerals?**

China tends to respond structurally: diversification, alternative partnerships and calibrated economic pressure. Competition hardens and spreads rather than disappearing.

“There is a pragmatic argument Mauritius can continue to make: stability. A lawful settlement reduces long-term controversy around Diego Garcia; undermining it creates a permanent legitimacy problem around the base. Even Washington values basing arrangements that are politically defensible...”

**\* Does the ability of the US to act unilaterally in Venezuela prove that we are still in a unipolar world, or is this “solo-act” diplomacy accelerating the shift toward a multipolar world?**

It demonstrates capacity, not unquestioned dominance. Unilateral action may succeed tactically, but it accelerates strategic hedging by others.

This is how multipolarity advances — quietly. States diversify partners and reduce dependence. Influence erodes not because power disappears, but because trust does.

There is also a psychological dimension to this shift that often goes unnoticed. Unipolar moments depend not only on capability, but on belief — belief among allies that the dominant power’s leadership is broadly benign, predictable, and worth investing in. When unilateral action becomes habitual, that belief erodes quietly. States may continue to cooperate tactically, but

they do so with shorter horizons and sharper exit strategies.

In practical terms, this means that even when Washington “wins” a confrontation, it may lose something less visible but more important: the willingness of others to internalise US preferences as their own. Instead of shaping the system from within, the United States increasingly finds itself pushing against it from outside, relying on pressure rather than attraction. That is a hallmark of transition rather than dominance.

Multipolarity, in this sense, is not announced; it accumulates. It takes the form of parallel financial channels, alternative security dialogues, and regional arrangements designed to reduce exposure to any single power. None of these moves are dramatic on their own. Together, they mark a world in which influence must be constantly renegotiated, and where unilateral success no longer translates automatically into lasting authority.

**\* Is there anything in the current US political or legal system that can effectively check this executive-led foreign policy?**

Formally, yes. Practically, checks weaken when norms erode and security narratives dominate public debate.

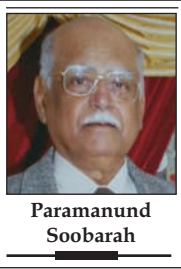
**\* If a different administration takes office, how much of this transactional framework will remain? Has the “rules-based international order” been permanently disrupted, or is it merely on a four-year hiatus?**

Some damage will endure because precedent endures. Trust takes longer to rebuild than to lose.

The order is not dead, but it is thinner and more contested. Rebuilding credibility will depend on consistent behaviour over time, not rhetoric. Allies will hedge until that consistency is proven.

The danger of describing the current moment as a “hiatus” is that it understates how habits form. Once officials, allies and rivals adapt to a more transactional United States, they do not simply revert when the rhetoric softens. Hedging strategies, alternative partnerships and parallel systems develop their own momentum. They are not dismantled out of goodwill.

Any future administration will therefore inherit a thinner, more sceptical international environment. Commitments will be tested more quickly; assurances will be discounted until proven repeatedly. That does not mean cooperation is impossible, but it does mean the cost of rebuilding trust is far higher than the cost of losing it was. The rules-based order, if it survives, will do so in a more conditional, negotiated form — less an architecture than a continuous process of repair.



# The Cambridge SC Exams results 2025 and the State of Mauritian Education System

The overall picture is one of decline all the way. A serious effort is required from the authorities to reverse this trend

**T**hese observations are limited to the segment of the school cohort intent upon further study, as shown by their scores (Credit 4 or better). Furthermore, the data is restricted to the three subjects taken by every student regardless of their specialization in Science, Arts, or Economics: English, French, and Mathematics. To provide an overall view, the results of the two English papers have been combined, as have the two Mathematics papers.

The results are set out in four tables. Table 1 gives the overall picture for 2025; Table 2 shows the results broken down by the gender of the candidates. Table 3 sets out the results of 2024 and 2025 side by side for comparison purposes, and Table 4 shows the comparison with the results of the year 2012. The year 2012 must remain a base year for considering the ups and downs of our education system as it was the last year unaffected by populist ideas, such as “three credits are enough”, “Grafilarmoni” script for the Creole language, “one graduate per family”, “every child must pass”, etc.

Before diving into the study properly, one key feature of the overall results must be highlighted: the continued decline in the country’s student population. Compared to 2012, the drop in the total number of school candidates is massive, standing at **18.65%**. There are signs, however, that this decline may be tapering off; compared to the previous year (2024), the decrease was only **1.66%**. Regardless of this slight stabilisation, the trend remains a significant matter of concern for the authorities. A further point of concern is the ethnic breakdown of this decline — a subject that authorities often avoid, and which is looked down upon by a section of the press.

**Table 1 - Performances of Mauritian School System at Cambridge SC Exams in 2025 in English, French and Mathematics**

(Compiled from online MES SC Statistics)			
Subject	Total Examinees	Total Scoring Credits 1-4	Success Rate (%)
English (both syllabi combined)	13534	3670	23.93%
French	13871	3850	27.76%
Mathematics (both A & D combined)	13764	2947	21.41%

A further observation needs to be made about the performance of the educator body. With a decline in the school population, and no decline in the resources allotted (so far as we are aware), one would expect an improvement in performance. Such regrettably is not the case. Performance has instead been declining year after

year.

Table 1 shows that roughly one quarter of our students did well in English and French, with performance in French being better than in English, and roughly one fifth did well in the mathematics. There is much room for improvement. At least one-third of our school population needs to reach this level of achievement in these three subjects, and at least two-thirds needs to be in the band of credits 1-6. Even as they are, the results show a great disparity in the performances of boys and girls, as is evident from Table 2. To begin with, the number of girls showing up for these papers is significantly higher than the corresponding number of boys – by about 16%. Proportionately, more than 30% of girls do well in English and French compared to less than 25% for boys. In Mathematics, the proportion is about the same – 21% for girls and 22% for boys.

**T**he results in English Literature, French Literature and Additional Mathematics examined. These are best studied in conjunction with HSC results in English, French and Mathematics at Principal Level after a gap of two years.

Table 3 compares the performances of the year 2025 with those of 2024. In 2025, performance in English is about 10% worse than in 2024, and in Mathematics about 7.5% worse. But performance in French has actually risen by about



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5%. While this may give some room for hope, we must also remember that compared to the base year of 2012, the decline particularly in French is massive – all of 40%. This is shown by Table 4. The table also shows that the decline in performance compared to 2012 in English is about 6% and in Mathematics about 22%.

The overall picture is one of decline all the way. A serious effort is required from the authorities to reverse this trend.

**Table 3 - Performances of Mauritian School System at SC Exams in 2024 and 2025 compared**

(Compiled from online MES SC Statistics)							
Subject	2024			2025			% Change in 2025 v/s 2024
	Total Examinees	Total Scoring Credits 1-4	% Success Rate	Total Examinees	Total Scoring Credits 1-4	% Success Rate	
English (both syllabi combined)	13837	3669	26.52%	13534	3670	23.93%	-9.77%
French	14055	3737	26.59%	13871	3850	27.76%	+4.4%
Mathematics (both A & D combined)	13971	3323	23.14%	13764	2947	21.41%	-7.48%

**Table 2 - Cambridge SC Exams 2025: Performance Comparison of Boys v/s Girls with Credits 1-4**

(Compiled from online MES SC Statistics)									
Gender	English			French			Mathematics		
	Total Examinees	Passes with Credit 1-4	% Success	Total Examinees	Passes with Credit 1-4	% Success	Total Examinees	Passes with Credit 1-4	% Success
Boys	6138	1426	23.23%	6352	1530	24.09%	6301	1369	21.73%
Girls	7396	2244	30.34%	7519	2320	30.86%	7463	1578	21.14%

**Table 4 - Performances of Mauritian School System at SC Exams in 2012 and 2025 compared**

(Compiled from online MES SC Statistics)							
Subject	2012			2025			% Change in 2025
	Total Examinees	Total Scoring Credits 1-4	% Success Rate	Total Examinees	Total Scoring Credits 1-4	% Success Rate	
English (both syllabi combined)	16900	4294	25.41%	13534	3670	23.93%	-5.82%
French	16895	7849	46.46%	13871	3850	27.76%	-40.25%
Mathematics (both A & D combined)	16813	4626	27.51%	13764	2947	21.41%	-22.17%



Nandini Bhautoo

# We are not witnessing the return of empire. We are witnessing the end of its politeness

*Trump's America has made explicit what was long implicit: power precedes principle*

For decades, the world comforted itself with the belief that imperial ambition had been consigned to history. Power, we were told, now moved through institutions rather than invasions, procedures rather than plunder. Even when states violated norms, they did so with embarrassment – through euphemism, deniability, and ritualised diplomacy. That illusion is now collapsing.

Donald Trump's return to power has not revived imperialism; it has stripped it of its manners. What previous American administrations practised discreetly – economic coercion, territorial exceptionalism, alliance hierarchy – Trump performs openly, theatrically, and transactionally. The danger is not simply his behaviour, but what it does to the standards by which power is judged. This shift is reshaping South Asia's most enduring fault lines – and exposing the precarity of small states like Mauritius, whose survival has long depended on the very norms now being eroded.

When seemingly the most powerful state in the world speaks casually of acquiring, invading, appropriating territory, publicly insulting allies, monetises diplomacy, and treats tariffs as instruments of humiliation rather than policy, it sends a worrying signal: coercion no longer requires justification. This is disastrous for regions like South Asia, where restraint has always been fragile and regionally problematic. These newly unleashed, undisguised neo-imperialist ambitions hold a different type of challenge for small island states like Mauritius.

Nothing reveals the double standards of the Western moralising mainstream institutions more starkly than their selective outrage. When Trump threatens punitive tariffs against European economies, alarm bells ring across Brussels, Paris, and Berlin; commentators invoke trade law, alliance norms, and systemic risk, and editorials warn of systemic collapse. Yet when similar – indeed, reportedly far harsher – tariffs are imposed on Indian goods, the response is muted. There is no equivalent invocation of the “rules-based order,” no sustained alarm over precedent.

The implication is unmistakable: coercion becomes a crisis only when it touches the West. For India, this reinforces a long-standing structural reality. It is expected to absorb pressure quietly, to uphold norms even when they are unevenly applied, and to remain strategically “responsible” in a system that increasingly rewards blunt power. This asymmetry weakens universalism and strengthens the logic of strategic autonomy – not just for India, but across the Global South.

**“When a dominant power treats sovereignty as negotiable and legal process as expendable, it nullifies the paradigms of international diplomacy and returns us almost to a pre-modern imbalance of power. Trump's defenders argue that blunt realism merely reflects how the world has always worked.**

**But this misses the point. For a lot of these keyboard warriors, historical amnesia or the global failures of the education system have silenced some stark truths – that the economic take off of all western nations was based upon the plunder of the rest of the world – a fact carefully still hidden from the mainstream...”**



Pic - Le Monde

**“When seemingly the most powerful state in the world speaks casually of acquiring, invading, appropriating territory, publicly insulting allies, monetises diplomacy, and treats tariffs as instruments of humiliation rather than policy, it sends a worrying signal: coercion no longer requires justification. This is disastrous for regions like South Asia, where restraint has always been fragile and regionally problematic. These newly unleashed, undisguised neo-imperialist ambitions hold a different type of challenge for small island states like Mauritius...”**

The consequences are even starker for small states. Mauritius offers a textbook case. Its decades-long struggle over the Chagos Archipelago was a rare post-colonial success story achieved by the book: international law, UN resolutions, an ICJ advisory opinion, and painstaking diplomacy. The eventual UK-Mauritius agreement preserved Western security interests while restoring sovereignty in principle. Trump's abrupt denunciation of that deal – and his implied willingness to reopen it – reveals how fragile such victories are in an age of imperial candour. What changed was not the legality of Mauritius's claim, but the political mood in which legality operates. For small island states like ours, power lies in international law, multilateral consensus, reputational legitimacy, and procedural persistence.

When a dominant power treats sovereignty as negotiable and legal process as expendable, it nullifies the paradigms of international diplomacy and returns us almost to a pre-modern imbalance of power. Trump's defenders argue that blunt realism merely reflects how the world has always worked. But this misses the point. For a lot of these keyboard warriors, historical amnesia or the global failures of the education system have silenced some stark truths – that the economic take off of all western nations was based upon the plunder of the rest of the world – a fact carefully still hidden from the mainstream.

If the post-1945 order functioned, it was not because power disappeared, but because power was ritualised.

Hypocrisy, paradoxically, acted as restraint. By removing shame, Trump lowers the cost of aggression for others. China no longer needs to pretend that its territorial ambitions in Asia are defensive; it can call it interest-assertion. Pakistan can normalise occupation as “ground reality.” Small states can be told that law matters only insofar as it aligns with the convenience of power.

For small states like Mauritius, survival lies in density, dense diplomatic networks, regional embedding, issue-linkage across climate, trade, and security, and ensuring that any violation triggers multiple stakeholders simultaneously. Isolation is fatal; entanglement is protection.

We are not witnessing the return of empire. We are witnessing the end of its politeness. Trump's America has made explicit what was long implicit: power precedes principle. For small island states, it exposes a dangerous truth: legality without power is fragile unless collectively defended. The task ahead is not to abandon norms, but to re-anchor them in coalitions, endurance, and strategic clarity. In a world that has lost patience for pretence, restraint must be rebuilt – not through illusions of benevolence, but through the hard work of making coercion costly again.

The real crisis, then, is not that rules are broken – but that only some breaches are deemed worthy of concern.

## GENERAL TRADE UNIONS FEDERATION

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the General Trade Unions Federation (GTUF) to be held on Sunday 05 April 2026 at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am.

#### AGENDA:

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

**D. Ramjuttun**  
Secretary

## Pravesh Lallah

**“The 1926 elections were significant for their symbolic value, demonstrating that electoral success was possible and political exclusion was not permanent”**



Pravesh Lallah

**T**he 100th anniversary of Dunputh Lallah’s historic election to the Legislative Council on 22 January 1926 will be marked tomorrow with a commemorative forum at the Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee Tower in Ebene. Dunputh Lallah became the first Indo-Mauritian elected to the Council, representing the Grand Port constituency—a milestone achieved alongside Rajcoomar Gujadhur’s victory in Flacq. Their successes are widely recognized as breaking decades of political exclusion and paving the way for greater representation in Mauritian public life.

Reflecting on this centenary, Pravesh Lallah, the great-grandson of Dunputh Lallah and an accomplished international lawyer based in London specializing in large-scale development, infrastructure, and energy projects across Africa, shares insights on his ancestor’s life, principles, and public battles. Pravesh embodies both a personal duty and a broader commitment: to preserve Dunputh Lallah’s legacy and ensure that his contributions to Mauritius’ political and cultural life are remembered and passed on to future generations.



Dunputh Lallah

and Rajcoomar Gujadhur be situated within the broader trajectory of colonial political reform in Mauritius?

The 1926 victories must be situated within a slow, tightly managed process of colonial reform. Mauritius had representative institutions since 1831, but elected seats only appeared after 1885, and always within structures dominated by nominated officials and the planter

**Mauritius Times: A commemorative forum to mark the 100th anniversary of Dunputh Lallah’s election to the Legislative Council on 22 January 1926 will be held tomorrow. Dunputh Lallah made history as the first Indo-Mauritian elected to the Legislative Council, winning the Grand Port constituency. His victory, achieved alongside Rajcoomar Gujadhur’s simultaneous success in Flacq, is widely regarded as having shattered decades of political exclusion. How did this historic breakthrough occur?**

**Pravesh Lallah:** The 1926 elections represented a seismic shift produced by converging forces rather than a single cause.

There was significant expansion of the electorate. Constitutional reforms after 1885 gradually widened eligibility, but by the mid-1920s Indo-Mauritian voter registration had increased markedly. In constituencies such as Grand Port and Flacq, an emerging middle class increasingly met property and literacy requirements.

The candidates themselves mattered. Dunputh Lallah and Rajcoomar Gujadhur were educated, economically independent, and socially credible figures. They could appeal across communal lines while articulating Indo-Mauritian aspirations with seriousness and restraint.

Finally, decades of political exclusion generated pent-up demand. The nominated system had failed to provide genuine representation and instead fuelled resentment. By 1926, the conditions were ripe for an electoral challenge that could no longer be contained.

**\* To what extent was Dhunputh’s victory the result of individual leadership versus structural changes such as voter registration growth and Arya Samaj mobilisation?**

Both were indispensable. Structural changes created opportunity; leadership converted it into political success.

The Arya Samaj and allied reform movements had spent two decades building networks of educated, politically conscious Indo-Mauritians, undertaking voter education and registration well before the campaigns began.

The Arya Samaj had created organisational networks, and an Indo-Mauritian middle class had emerged. But structures do not win elections. Candidates do.

Dunputh Lallah’s legal training, financial independence, linguistic range and personal authority gave him credibility

across communities. He combined dignity with clarity of purpose. These qualities transformed latent potential into electoral victory.

It is notable that similar conditions existed elsewhere, yet breakthroughs occurred only in Grand Port and Flacq. Leadership quality was therefore not incidental but decisive.

**\* Can the Arya Samaj of those days be seen primarily as a religious reform movement, or should it be understood as an early vehicle for political organisation among Indo-Mauritians?**

The Arya Samaj was both, and that duality was its strength. In Mauritius, religious reform quickly became political because education, social equality, and cultural dignity required institutional protection.

It is important to note that the movement was founded and driven by Dunputh’s elder brother, Khemlall Lallah.

The Arya Samaj established schools, promoted Hindi, challenged caste hierarchy, and fostered collective identity. Its branch networks, meetings, and discipline provided an organisational skeleton for later political mobilisation.

Operating initially as a cultural movement allowed it to grow beyond early colonial suspicion. By the time its political implications were clear, both infrastructure and consciousness were already established.

**\* How should the 1926 election of Dunputh Lallah**

class.

Reforms in 1885, 1907 and 1924 slightly widened the franchise but preserved oligarchic control. These changes were designed to co-opt a small elite, not to produce genuine popular representation.

1926 marked the moment when this gradualist strategy began to yield unintended consequences. Electoral mechanisms created for containment were used for mobilisation. That said, the balance of power did not fundamentally change. The Legislative Council remained dominated by appointed members. Real self-government only arrived with the 1948 reforms and independence in 1968.

The significance of 1926 was therefore primarily symbolic and psychological: it demonstrated that electoral politics could be won, and that political exclusion was not permanent.

**\* Both Dhunputh Lallah and Rajcoomar Gujadhur obtained support from progressive Franco-Mauritians in the 1926 elections. Maxime de Sornay and Maxime Boullé filed Gujadhur’s nomination papers; Ernest Leclézio encouraged him to run; Edgar Laurent and Arthur Rohan (elected in Port Louis) joined the celebrations of Gujadhur’s victory at Flacq. Was it unusual for Indo-Mauritian leaders and progressive Franco-Mauritians to work together during those elections?**

It was unusual, but not unprecedented. It reflected divisions within the Franco-Mauritian community often overlooked.

Alongside the dominant planter oligarchy existed a smaller progressive current of lawyers, intellectuals, and professionals who supported gradual democratic reform. Figures such as Ernest Leclézio and Maxime de Sornay belonged to this minority.

Their support combined principle and pragmatism. Some believed oligarchic rigidity was unsustainable; others sought cross-communal progressive alliances. Though marginal within their own group, they were strategically important.



In September 1926, Aryan leaders gathered at the Dayanand Dharmshala in Champ de Mars to celebrate a landmark victory: the election of the first Indo-Mauritians to the Council of Government. Captured from left to right are Dunputh Lallah and Rajcoomar Gujadhur, adorned with ceremonial garlands, accompanied by Mehta Jaimini in traditional Sannyasin attire

# 'Systems that make politicians financially dependent on special interests will produce compromised politics. The solution isn't to reserve politics for the wealthy...'

Cont. from page 12

**\* Dunpath Lallah opposed premature "representative government" proposals in 1927. How should this stance be interpreted in light of later constitutional developments?**

Dunpath Lallah's 1927 opposition reflected political sophistication. The proposal would have created an elected majority while preserving a severely restricted franchise, entrenching minority domination under democratic appearance.

He understood that premature reform could legitimise injustice and make future change harder. His position was later vindicated: genuine representative government in 1948, under universal suffrage, transformed political outcomes in ways the 1927 proposals never would have.

**\* What impact did Dunpath's retirement from politics after 1931 have on the family's outlook toward public life and political engagement?**

Retirement did not mean disengagement. It meant transition from candidacy to mentorship.

In 1931 Dunpath actively supported and advised his nephew Dhiraj Seetulsing, who stood for election. He contributed organisational insight, political judgment, and campaign guidance, demonstrating that withdrawal from office was not withdrawal from responsibility.

This also characterises his relationship with Seewoosagar Ramgoolam: influence exercised through counsel rather than dynastic politics.

Within the family, retirement shifted emphasis toward law, education, and civic engagement. Bougainville Road remained politically alive but wary of electoral ambition. Though politics resurfaced in later generations, the dominant ethic became public service rather than office-seeking.

**\* We learn that Seewoosagar Ramgoolam was a close family friend who sought Dunpath's counsel. Are there any "unrecorded" family anecdotes about the advice Dunpath gave to the future "Father of the Nation" during his time at the Lallah household?**

Family recollections suggest that Dunpath's counsel to the young Seewoosagar Ramgoolam emphasized several enduring themes, though we must acknowledge that memory and family tradition may have shaped these accounts.

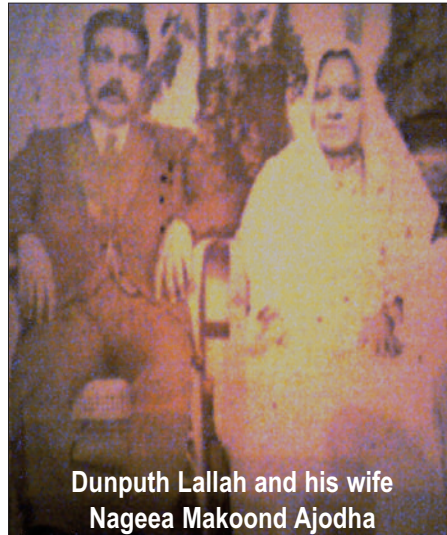
Dunpath apparently stressed the importance of economic independence for political effectiveness. He had witnessed too many politicians compromised by financial dependence on the oligarchy. He counselled that one must have independent means or professional credentials that couldn't be taken away.

He emphasized education — not merely formal degrees but deep cultural and linguistic competence. His own mastery of Hindi, Bengali, English and French had allowed him to bridge communities and navigate complex political terrain. He apparently advised Ramgoolam to develop similar capabilities.

There are suggestions that Dunpath advised against the politics of ethnic grievance divorced from broader democratic principles. While he recognized that community mobilization was necessary and legitimate, he apparently warned against narrow communalism that would preclude cross-ethnic alliances essential for achieving independence.

These themes — economic independence, educational excellence and democratic universalism — would indeed characterize Ramgoolam's later political career, though whether this resulted from Dunpath's counsel or from Ramgoolam's own judgment is impossible to determine definitively.

**\* Would you say that Dunpath Lallah has been overlooked by historians in comparison to later indepen-**



Dunpath Lallah and his wife  
Nageea Makoond Ajodha

**dence leaders, and if so, why?**

Dunpath Lallah has indeed been relatively overlooked by historians compared to later independence leaders, though perhaps not as severely as some might feel.

This relative obscurity results from several factors. There's a natural tendency for historians and public memory to focus on ultimate achievements — independence — rather than earlier struggles that established

**“Family recollections suggest that Dunpath's counsel to the young Seewoosagar Ramgoolam emphasized several enduring themes... Dunpath apparently stressed the importance of economic independence for political effectiveness. He had witnessed too many politicians compromised by financial dependence on the oligarchy. He counselled that one must have independent means or professional credentials that couldn't be taken away...”**

foundations. The independence generation captures attention because they achieved the dramatic breakthrough; pioneers like Dunpath did essential groundwork that is less cinematically compelling.

Dunpath operated in a period when change was gradual and victories were incremental. He didn't lead mass movements or achieve independence — he won a seat in a colonial legislature with limited powers.

The significance requires context and analysis; it's not immediately obvious in the way that independence is.

**\* As you mentioned earlier, the Lallah household at Bougainville Road was famously disciplined — only Hindi, Bengali, English, and French were allowed. Has this emphasis on linguistic and cultural "immaculateness" shaped the perspectives of the descendants of that generation, and has it continued to influence the family today?**

The Bougainville Road household's insistence on Hindi, Bengali, English, and French reflected a belief that cultural rootedness and intellectual rigour were mutually reinforcing.

This ethos transmitted respect for education, precision, and discipline. It conveyed that excellence itself was a form of resistance against imposed limitation. Its influence continues to shape family outlooks, even as contexts have changed.

**\* The Dunpath Lallah State Secondary School stands as a tribute to your grandfather's work in education. How does it feel to see his name associated with the very thing (education) that allowed your family to rise from "immigrant number 134527" to the legal elite?**

The school bearing Dunpath Lallah's name creates a powerful symbolic bridge between his life journey and his enduring legacy. For the family, this is profoundly meaningful because education stood at the very centre of Dunpath Lallah's personal rise and his public philosophy. He did not simply benefit from education; he fought for it.

His political intervention in the Rohinee Ruggoo case, where he challenged the exclusion of a young girl from a school on religious grounds, placed him at the forefront of one of Mauritius's earliest struggles for equitable access to education. That episode affirmed his conviction that schooling must not be a privilege of denomination, race, or class, but a public right.

At the same time, the name carries responsibility. A school bearing Dunpath Lallah's name ought to embody the values he championed: intellectual seriousness, discipline, openness, and social purpose. For both the family and the educational system, the challenge is to ensure that the institution does not simply preserve a memory but actively advances the ideals for which he fought.

Ultimately, the school affirms a lesson that remains as true today as it was a century ago: that education is the most enduring instrument of social mobility, civic participation and democratic depth.

**\* It would seem that the Lallah family's economic independence played a significant role in enabling political dissent against the oligarchy of the time. Dunpath Lallah also appears to have differed markedly from earlier nominated representatives in the degree of political freedom and assertiveness he exercised. Does this hold a lesson for the way politics is conducted today? And, does it suggest that politics and the broader public interest are best served when politicians are financially independent?**

The connection between the Lallah family's economic independence and Dunpath's political freedom holds crucial lessons for contemporary politics, though we must be careful about drawing overly simplistic conclusions.

Dunpath's economic independence — derived from his legal practice and family property — gave him freedom that most politicians of his era lacked. He could oppose the oligarchy because he didn't depend on them for his livelihood. He could take principled positions that might be politically costly because he wasn't financially vulnerable. He could retire from politics when he felt it compromised his principles because he had other sources of income and status.

The lesson for contemporary politics seems clear: politicians who are financially dependent — whether on party patronage, government contracts, or special interests — face systematic conflicts of interest. Their ability to serve the public interest is compromised when it conflicts with their financial interests.

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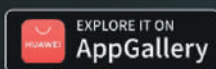
However, the modern application is complicated. Few people have the independent wealth to finance political careers without outside support. Modern democracies address this through public financing of campaigns, transparency requirements, conflict-of-interest laws and anti-corruption measures. The goal is to create structural independence comparable to what Dunpath enjoyed through personal wealth.

The deeper lesson may be about the relationship between economic structure and political freedom. Systems that make politicians financially dependent on special interests will produce compromised politics. The solution isn't to reserve politics for the wealthy — that would be anti-democratic and impractical — but rather to create institutional structures that protect political independence.

For Mauritius today, this raises questions about political financing conflicts of interest, and whether the current system adequately protects political independence. Dunpath's legacy challenges us to consider whether we've created structures that enable politicians to serve the public interest even when it conflicts with their personal financial interests.



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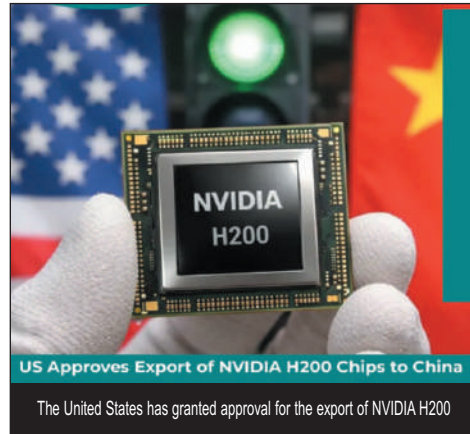


## Across the Globe

## Anthropic warns on chip sales to China

Anthropic CEO Dario Amodei equated Washington's decision to allow Nvidia to manufacture AI chips for China with "selling nuclear weapons to North Korea." Speaking at the World Economic Forum, he told Bloomberg that the US is "many years ahead of China" in chipmaking, but that the move by Nvidia — a major Anthropic investor — and the Trump administration was "crazy" and had "incredible national security implications."

There are two summits underway in Davos: one geopolitics-focused, centred on "Greenland, Venezuela, and the rewriting of the world order," and the other a



high-end tech conference of dealmaking and selling. Amodei's comments are a reminder that the two sides remain closely linked.

## US eyes new mineral markets

The US is looking to Australia and Africa for minerals in an attempt to sidestep Chinese restrictions. Energy Fuels will buy an Australian miner for \$300 million, the latest deal since Beijing briefly imposed export controls on refined rare earths last year. Washington and Canberra have also agreed to each invest \$1 billion in mining projects to bolster supply chains.

The Democratic Republic of Congo, meanwhile, offered the US access to state-owned mining projects producing cobalt, copper, gold, lithium, and manganese in exchange for development investment and security guarantees,



Reuters reported. The move would reduce US reliance on Chinese-controlled mineral processing.

## China courts US allies

The UK and China want to revive a "golden era" of business dialogue when their leaders meet in Beijing next week, part of Xi Jinping's push to court longtime US allies frustrated by Washington. British Prime Minister Keir Starmer's visit follows a trip by Canada's leader to sign several new trade agree-

ments. Germany's chancellor is also set to visit next month.

All three nations have faced tariff threats from Washington and worry about the Trump administration's stance on NATO. Yet warming to Beijing is a tricky alternative: "Frustrations with one American president need not give way to the agenda of dictators," The Washington Post's editorial board wrote.

## US seizes another Venezuela tanker

The US seized a seventh Venezuela-linked oil tanker, further consolidating its control over the country's crude industry. Since ousting former President Nicolás Maduro, Washington has tightened its authority over Venezuela, selling its oil abroad — Trump said Tuesday the US had taken 50 million barrels — and pushed Caracas to ease foreign invest-

ment rules.

Both the regime and the opposition have become reliant on Trump's directives: Caracas confirmed the first proceeds of a US crude sale helped support the bolívar, while Trump said he was considering giving opposition leader María Corina Machado a role in determining Venezuela's future.



## Jeff Bezos' Blue Origin to launch New Shepard rocket with 6 new passengers

Jeff Bezos's aerospace company, Blue Origin, is set to launch a rocket from West Texas carrying six passengers on a journey to the edge of space. The travellers will soar more than 60 miles above Earth, experiencing breathtaking views of the planet and brief moments of weightlessness in microgravity. Upon returning safely, they will join a select group of individuals who have completed the company's suborbital spaceflights, including celebrities, business leaders, and other private space travellers.

Blue Origin's launch of its New Shepard rocket is scheduled for Thursday, January 22, with liftoff scheduled for 9:30 am ET. The flight will take off from the company's private facility, Launch One Site, situated near the US-Mexico border in West Texas, the company confirmed, reports Hindustan Times.

Once the New Shepard rocket launches, its six passengers will become part of a growing group of 86 individuals who have flown on the spacecraft across 16 previous human missions, including six who have made multiple trips. The upcoming flight, designated NS-38, will mark the 38th overall launch of the New Shepard vehicle.

## Trump and Kushner's real estate push in Gaza: 'No plan B' for 'beautiful piece of property'

At least 19 countries co-signed with US President Donald Trump his 'Board of Peace' charter at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Thursday, with plans for Gaza at first and other conflicts in parallel or later. Trump's business record as a real estate developer showed up too in his plan for the Palestinian territory ravaged by Israeli military action.

Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner showed a slide deck presentation at the board launch. It included real estate development plans by zones, reports Hindustan Times.

"We do not have a plan B," Kushner, who has been involved in Middle East negotiations for Trump, said. He asserted that people in the Middle East build cities in two or three years.

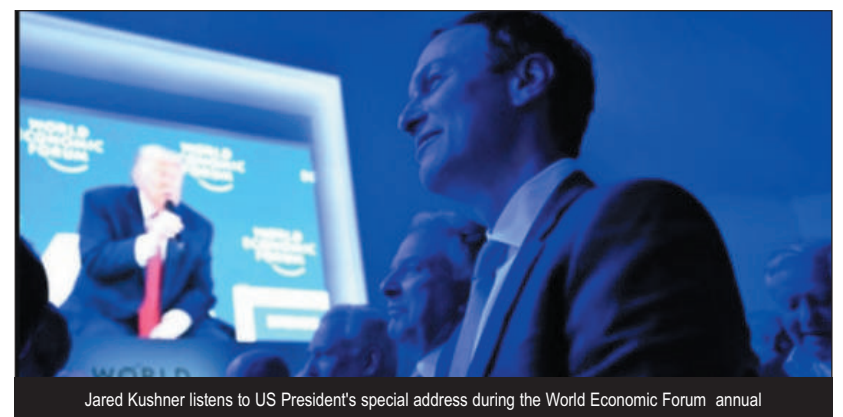
Trump, during his closing remarks, described Gaza as "this beautiful piece of property" and suggested his push for peace between Israel and Hamas "all began with the location".

Even when Israel was carrying on its military action in Gaza, killing around 70,000 people, Trump had remarked he saw the place as potential location for a "resort-like city" along the Mediterranean coast.

### Who's signed Trump's peace board charter at Davos so far?

While presidents, prime ministers and top diplomats from more than a dozen countries touted his international plan — being seen by critics as a needless challenge to the United Nations — the list ran short on major US allies from Europe.

The signatories included Pakistan and countries from the Middle East and South America, with India reportedly



Jared Kushner listens to US President's special address during the World Economic Forum annual

not sure yet. The full membership list still was not clear, reports news agency PTI.

Trump was joined on stage by founding members of the board, including some allies who share his populist worldview, Argentine President Javier Milei and Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban, as well as representatives from Bahrain, Morocco, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Turkey, the United Arab Emirates and Uzbekistan, among others.

Trump initially proposed the board as part of a peace plan for war-torn Gaza, tasked with helping oversee its reconstruction.

But the draft charter seen by news agency Bloomberg suggested a broader remit to "secure enduring peace in areas affected or threa-tened by conflict", an expansive vision that has alarmed many US partners who worry it will seek to rival or undercut the UN.

Those fears have persisted despite efforts by the Trump administration to convince nations the board will complement, not supplant, the UN.

\* Contd on page 16

## Ukraine-Russia talks 'down to one issue': Trump envoy Steve Witkoff

Talks to end the war in Ukraine have made "a lot of progress" and are "down to one issue" between Kyiv and Moscow, US special envoy Steve Witkoff said on Thursday ahead of a trip to Russia.

"I think we've got it down to one issue, and we have discussed iterations of that issue, and that means it's solvable. So if both sides want to solve this, we're going to get it solved," Witkoff said at a Ukrainian event on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in Davos.

Asked by AFP for details about the remaining issue, Witkoff declined to comment, saying he would talk after his trip.

President Donald Trump's envoy will travel to the Russian capital later on Thursday with the US leader's son-in-law Jared Kushner, reports AFP.

Witkoff said the pair would not stay in the Russian capital overnight and would fly straight to Abu Dhabi, where talks would continue in "military to military" working groups.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky said in December there were two main sticking points in a draft plan being negotiated with the United States.

Those were the long-term fate of territory captured by Russia and areas still under Kyiv's control that Moscow is demanding, and who gets control of the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant, under Russian occupation in southern



Kremlin dragging its feet over Ukraine peace deal as impatient US takes anger out on Zelensky. Pic - The Guardian

Ukraine.

Trump repeated on Wednesday his oft-stated belief that Putin and Zelensky were close to a deal.

"I believe they're at a point now where they can come together and get a deal done. And if they don't, they're stupid -- that goes for both of them," he said after delivering a speech to the annual meeting of global elites.

The talks come as Russian strikes this week have left most of Kyiv without electricity, with residents of 4,000 buildings without heat in sub-zero temperatures.

NATO Secretary General Mark Rutte praised Trump's efforts to end the war but said Ukraine still needs military help as it continues to come under Russian missile and drone attacks.

"What we need is to keep our eyes on the ball of Ukraine. Let's not drop that ball. And that means. Yes, great, peace talks. Fantastic. We will do everything to conclude them successfully but that will not happen tomorrow," he said.

## Death toll in Pakistan mall fire rises to at least 55

The death toll from a mall fire in Pakistan's biggest city rose to at least 55 people on Thursday, with rescuers in Karachi still searching for more missing in the devastating inferno.

Investigators are yet to announce what caused the fire, five days after the blaze gutted the three-storey Gul Plaza, reports AFP.

"A total of 55 bodies have been recovered since Saturday night," said Javed Nabi Khoso, deputy commissioner of Karachi's southern district.

Families have criticised the slow pace of the recovery operation, with more than 50 giving DNA samples in the hope of finding their missing relatives.

"We will hand over the bodies to the family, once DNA samples are matched," health official Summaiya Syed told journalists on Wednesday.

Faraz Ali, whose father and 26-year-old brother were inside the mall said he wants "the bodies to be recov-

ered and handed over to their rightful families".

"That is all so that the families may receive something, some comfort, some peace. At least let us see them one last time, in whatever condition they are, so that we may say our final goodbye," the 28-year-old said on Wednesday.

The provincial government has announced that it will give 10 million rupees to each family of the deceased. All 1,200 shopkeepers will also be compensated.

"The Gul Plaza incident is a tragic and heartbreaking tragedy," said provincial information minister Sharjeel Inam Memon.

Fires are common in Karachi's markets and factories, which are known for their poor infrastructure, but a blaze on such a scale is rare.

"Approximately 90 percent of buildings across Pakistan lack a fire safety system," Memon told a news conference.

The provincial government was taking measures to ensure fire safety procedures were followed at malls and markets, he said without giving further details.

## Across the Globe

### Stocks tumble on Greenland uncertainty

US stocks suffered their worst day since October as transatlantic tensions flared over President Donald Trump's efforts to seize Greenland. The rout also sent the dollar lower while long-term Treasury yields edged up, signaling that traders' tolerance for geopolitical shocks "is beginning to erode," Bloomberg wrote.

Trump's use of tariff threats for territorial aims — rather than domestic economic goals — marks a new and unpredictable escalation. "A country will tolerate a lot of economic misery rather than giving up territory," *The Wall Street Journal* noted. Another tariff round, coupled with European retaliation, could reignite fears of a US slowdown while denting Europe's GDP, Goldman Sachs warned.

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### Nuclear power gathers pace globally

The global dash to reboot nuclear power has accelerated. Britain moved to extend the life of a major reactor by 20 years, while Japan's Kashiwazaki-Kariwa plant, the world's largest, restarts operations today after 15 years.

Building new sites remains slow: France's EDF once completed dozens in six years each, but its most recent took 16. The company is now turning to China to learn "nimble construction," the *Financial Times* reported. China is building 35 units, each expected to take about five years. The US is building none.



Nuclear station. Pic - IntelliNews

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### The rise of 'romantasy' fiction

"Romantasy" novels — sword-and-sorcery romance for female readers — are propping up the publishing industry. *Onyx Storm* by Rebecca Yarros became the fastest-selling adult novel in 20 years, while the *Court of Thorns and Roses* series has sold more than 75 million copies. The genre generated an estimated \$610 million in 2024.

The protagonists are usually women, and the stories blend fantasy and romance tropes. US women read more than men, recent polling found, with romantasy likely a major driver.

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### UK approves Chinese mega-embassy

Britain approved plans for China's largest European embassy in London, clearing the way for Prime Minister Keir Starmer's China visit later this month. Critics cited security and espionage risks, but Starmer is betting on closer trade ties and investment.

The visit would be the first by a British leader since 2018 and comes as Beijing seeks to rebuild Western partnerships amid US-driven geopolitical turbulence.



Chinese mega-embassy. Pic - FT

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### US NATO pullback sparks concern

The US is reportedly planning to partly reduce its participation in NATO, exacerbating worries among alliance members already grappling with Washington's threats towards Greenland. The shifts will be gradual and have been planned for months, *The Washington Post* and the *Financial Times* reported.

However, their symbolic impact — coming amid a transatlantic crisis over Trump's call to annex Greenland and disagreement over supporting Ukraine — is significant. A senior *Time* journalist contrasted the Trump administration's approach with that of George W. Bush after 9/11: "Unlike that stretch of norm testing, Washington is not leaning on the decades-old alliance of NATO but rather seems intent on destroying it from within."

From Our Archives -- A Glimpse into 1960

7th Year No 326

## MAURITIUS TIMES

Friday 25th November, 1960

• Popular opinion is the greatest lie in the world. — Thomas Carlyle



Dr Philippe Forget

# Science and Our Needs

This second part of Dr Forget's article, published in last week's edition, examines the central role of science and technical progress in meeting Mauritius's economic and social needs at a critical moment in its history. Building on Professor Meade's diagnosis of the prerequisites for development, it argues that sustained advance depends not only on material investment but also on a cultural shift that embraces scientific thinking, research, and merit-based expertise. Overcoming resistance to change, integrating research into community life, and fostering local talent are presented as essential steps if technical knowledge is to become a genuine engine of national progress.

A number of measures must be designed to achieve this integration of research and the scientific method (as an attitude) in the community. No foreign scientist should be brought here on contract before and unless a suitable Mauritian candidate has been selected and sent abroad to acquire the equivalent knowledge. A greatly expanded programme of scholarships must be pushed forward and candidates selected strictly on merit. The closed-shop attitude which restricts the selection of candidates to privileged groups — whether these be social groups or the civil service — must be mercilessly tracked and eradicated. Within all technical departments, the arrogance of seniority must be stigmatized and combated. Not only must merit be given its due, but the country must exploit merit to the full — the kind of national suicide which consists in holding back enthusiasm and skill until it succumbs into tepid conformity must not be tolerated.

Research facilities, the proper freedom of scientific thought, must provide the desirable environment. We must be constantly on our guard lest we accept scientists who in their country would be third-rate, and should not watch complacently technicians in one field becoming experts in other fields — a metamorphosis catalyzed by bigger and bigger emoluments. Specialists must not abandon their special field for administrative duties, for this represents a misapplication of the public funds devoted to their acquiring specialist training. We must undoubtedly forgo the luxury of overseas leave and invest the corresponding savings in study leaves, more scholarships and refresher courses. These and many more things we must do quickly to provide a substantial increase in technical know-how.

## Scientific Advance

It is apparent however that the impetus, control and safeguarding of this scientific advance programme, at least in its technical aspects, cannot come entirely or even primarily from the Legislative Council, Ministers or ministry advisers. Nor could the P.S.C. be entrusted with the selection of candidates for specialist training or the appointment of the most suitable technician to a specific job. In the specialists' fields, laymen, however shrewd and willing, are apt to sink into deep waters, and this too often allows for favoritism, prejudicial practices like give-and-take policies or unconscious submission to the wiles of unscrupulous advisers. It would seem that the body most likely to safeguard the interests of science would be a Council of all science graduates, freed from political or employer loyalties, not excluding departmental ones.

In addition to having a say in selection, the council would scrutinize and advise on the differential importance of the technical branches, priorities, anomalies, scientific planning, etc. That the freely expressed opinion of this corporate competent body could be a superior safeguard than present in camera proceedings is certain. The actual modalities of its machinery can be worked out to provide a harmonious integration with present departmental machinery. The council



would also fulfill a number of other duties. It could be the foundation of a research institute; it could be a forum for discussion and the reading of papers; it could constitute the kernel of a future Faculty of Science.

It would draw public attention with regards to opinion on relevant matters and thus obviate to individual opinions being exploited as representative professional opinion. It would re-establish a proper balance in favour of many branches of science at present obscured in the public eye by the relative predominance of medical graduates. It could play an important role in linking its didactic efforts with those of the Ministry of Education. Existing organizations like the Mauritius Institute and the R. C. of Arts and Sciences, founded a century ago, are totally inefficient in the present age. The opportunity arises to realign them to conditions which have altered since their foundation and provide Mauritius with institutions more suited to present needs.

## Pressure Group State

Present needs. But whose needs? This question must be answered by conceding: the needs of science. Not necessarily the needs of the country, however much the country depends on science and technical know-how for further advance. This theoretical paradox arises from the anti-democratic trend of professional associations — "the shift from open social rights to concealed professional syndicalism." (3) Although this trend is incidental to the main theme of his essay, Professor Richard Titmuss has given an illuminating analysis of its dangers in "The Irresponsible Society" 1960. He warns that "the growth of a 'Pressure Group State' generated by more massive concentrations of interlocking economic, managerial and self-regarding professional power points... towards more inequality."

He remarks that in view of the "growing conservatism of professionalism," to substitute "professional protest for the

social protest" is no answer. It is acknowledged that in the UK, the B.M.A. "has become an indispensable provider of political services to the medical profession, and that, one may suppose, is the chief secret behind its success." (4) There is some ground for believing that lately, in Mauritius, professional associations have begun to move in a parallel direction. If this tendency should become consolidated, there is no doubt that the substitution of democratically chosen representatives of the country (who are relatively unfamiliar to the needs of science) by a professional body of competent scientists (who may be relatively insensible to the needs of the country) would be no more than a partially satisfactory answer.

## References

- (1) and (3) — Richard M. Titmuss; "The Irresponsible Society"
- (2) — Marie Jahoda; "Race Relations & Mental Health" UNESCO 1960
- (4) — Harry Eckstein; "Pressure Group Politics"

## Cleaning Enterprises Workers' Association

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Cleaning Enterprises Workers Association to be held on Sunday 08 March 2026 at its registered seat – 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am.

**AGENDA:** 1. Reading & approval of the minutes of proceedings of last AGM  
2. Matters arising out of minutes  
3. President's report  
4. Treasurer's report  
5. A.O.B

*Julmain Dalambé*  
Secretary

## Union of Workers of Animal Farms

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly invited to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Union of Workers of Animal Farms to be held on Saturday 14 March 2026 at Flic en Flac Village Hall at 4.00 pm.

**AGENDA:** 1. Reading & approval of the minutes of proceedings of last AGM  
2. Matters arising out of minutes  
3. President's report  
4. Treasurer's report  
5. A.O.B

*R. Jagarah*  
Secretary

## Local Authorities Workers' Association

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Local Authorities Workers' Association to be held on Saturday 28 February 2026 at Rose Belle Village Council at 2.00 pm. In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be held on Saturday 14 March 2026 at same place at 2.00 pm.

**AGENDA:** 1. Reading & approval of the minutes of proceedings of last AGM  
2. Matters arising out of minutes  
3. President's report  
4. Treasurer's report  
5. Election of Executive members for years 2026-2028  
6. Appointment of Auditor for years 2028-2028 7. A.O.B

*Sutyandising Runglall*  
Secretary

## Aliens can't be bothered, apparently

A new report suggests we haven't been contacted by aliens simply because they're too bored to find us. Scientists have long pondered why Earth's greatest minds have detected no signs of extraterrestrial life in the universe. One paper from US-based scientists chalks it up to "radical mundanity" -- the idea that the Milky Way is home to civilizations not much more advanced than ours that hit a technological plateau and "stopped bothering" with cosmic exploration, The Guardian wrote. Some researchers, though, voiced reservations about the paper, which hasn't been peer reviewed: One said it "projects a very human-

like apathy on to the rest of the cosmos. I find it hard to believe that all intelligent life would be so uniformly dull."

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## Illegal immigration down in Europe

Europe has seen a substantial drop in illegal immigration this year as the continent pursues a widespread crackdown beyond its borders. The continent's 52% decrease in irregular crossings during the first eight months of 2025 compared to 2023 is the result of "harsh policies far from its beaches," The Economist wrote. The EU built a "big, invisible wall" by striking deals with foreign governments to intercept migrants enroute-- a strategy that has sparked criticism over the abuse of migrants.

The clampdown mirrors the decline in illegal entries into the US during President Donald Trump's second term, which has been marked by a staunch anti-migrant drive; Trump most recently deployed federal troops to Portland, Oregon to protect immigration agents there.



Pic - The Guardian

## 'Messy' transition into changed global order

Analysts and world leaders warned the transition to a new global order-- defined by the US power vacuum-- will be a rocky one. Singapore's prime minister called for "new trade connections" to combat a "messy" shift as Washington steps back from global institutions and embraces protectionism. The era of "rising powers is ending, but its immediate aftermath may prove no less violent," Foreign Affairs wrote. Those changes, wrought by US President Donald Trump's shakeup of global alliances, pose an opportunity for his domestic opposition, former diplomat James Rubin wrote in Liberties: The American left should lean into a mid-20th-century approach to foreign policy, defined by "an enlightened global role" for the US and "dual containment" of China and Russia.

## SOAP AND DETERGENT WORKERS UNION (SDWU)

Affiliated to CTSP – Rose-Hill  
TEL : 4549919/59473201 FAX: 4652677  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Soap and Detergent Workers Union will be held on Monday 19 February 2026, from 7:00 am to 9:00 am, at the Soap and Allied Industries Ltd Welfare Block, Bell Village.

### AGENDA:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the last AGM
2. Matters arising
3. President's Report
4. Treasurer's Report
5. Election of Committee Members for 2026
6. Any other business

Members wishing to stand as candidates for the Executive Committee for the year 2026 must submit their applications in writing to the Secretary by 15 February 2026 at 4:00 pm. Motions, if any, must also be submitted by the same date and time.

Rehaz Toonah  
President

## YOUR STARS

### Sagittarius (22 Nov – 21 Dec)

Next week invites reflection and reassessment of your priorities. You may feel inspired to explore new knowledge or plan a short journey. Relationships require patience—think before speaking. Career opportunities grow if you concentrate on long-term objectives. Health: gentle exercise supports well-being.

**Lucky numbers:** 3, 7, 12, 18, 25, 32

### Capricorn (22 Dec – 19 Jan)

Career focus brings recognition. Financial opportunities come from structured planning. Relationships improve through reliability and support. Avoid unnecessary conflicts at home. Health: stay active but don't overwork.

**Lucky numbers:** 4, 8, 14, 21, 27, 36

### Aquarius (20 Jan – 18 Feb)

Innovative ideas and social interactions dominate. Networking benefits career prospects. Relationship growth depends on openness and shared activities.

Financially, avoid risky deals. Health: mental exercises and fresh air boost energy.

**Lucky numbers:** 2, 9, 13, 19, 26, 38

### Pisces (19 Feb – 20 Mar)

Intuition guides decision-making. Creative projects succeed if consistent effort is applied. Relationships require empathy and clear communication. Financial stability improves through careful budgeting. Health: practice relaxation techniques to avoid fatigue.

**Lucky numbers:** 3, 5, 11, 16, 23, 30

### Aries (21 Mar – 19 Apr)

Next week brings energy to tackle pending tasks. Financial opportunities may appear; evaluate carefully before committing. Relationships benefit from honesty and small gestures. Avoid overexertion; balance work with relaxation.

**Lucky numbers:** 4, 9, 14, 20, 27, 35

### Taurus (20 Apr – 20 May)

You may feel a need for stability in personal and professional life. Conversations with family bring clarity. Career progress requires patience, especially on collaborative projects. Financially, cautious planning pays off. Health: prioritize sleep and mental calm.

**Lucky numbers:** 2, 8, 15, 22, 29, 38

### Gemini (21 May – 20 Jun)

A week of networking and communication. New ideas may spark creative projects. Avoid misunderstandings in relationships by listening carefully. Career moves favor those willing to learn and adapt. Health: short outdoor walks can relieve stress.

**Lucky numbers:** 1, 6, 11, 17, 23, 31

### Cancer (21 Jun – 22 Jul)

Emotional awareness peaks; use it to resolve lingering conflicts. Home and family matters need attention. Career growth is steady but demands diplomacy. Financial caution is advised, especially with shared resources. Health: mindfulness and light yoga help.

**Lucky numbers:** 5, 10, 16, 21, 28, 36

### Leo (23 Jul – 22 Aug)

Confidence rises, helping you assert ideas at work. Creative pursuits thrive. Relationships may require compromise to avoid friction. Avoid impulsive purchases. Health: maintain regular exercise and stay hydrated.

**Lucky numbers:** 3, 9, 13, 19, 26, 33

### Virgo (23 Aug – 22 Sep)

Organization and planning are your strengths this week. Focus on completing old projects. Relationships benefit from clear communication. Financial decisions are best made after careful review. Health: avoid overthinking; include light cardio.

**Lucky numbers:** 2, 7, 12, 18, 24, 37

### Libra (23 Sep – 22 Oct)

Balance is key—between work, home, and personal life. Travel or study opportunities may arise. Relationship harmony improves through listening and patience. Career prospects favor teamwork. Health: meditation supports emotional stability.

**Lucky numbers:** 5, 10, 15, 20, 30, 39

### Scorpio (23 Oct – 21 Nov)

Intense focus drives career advancement. Financial gains are possible with careful investment. Relationships may experience minor tensions; avoid secrecy. Health: maintain routine and stress management. Reflection helps long-term growth.

**Lucky numbers:** 1, 6, 12, 17, 25, 34



Wastewater Management Authority

## WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY (WMA)

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

(Authorised under Section 14(2) of the Public Procurement Act 2006)

### Contract WW 550 W

### Sewerage Project at Palma, Quatre-Bornes & Environs – Phase 1

Procurement Reference: WMA/IFB/2025/1629

CPB Reference: CPB/38/2025

### Open International Bidding

The Wastewater Management Authority is inviting bids from eligible and qualified local and international bidders or entities incorporated in Mauritius through the Government E-Procurement System for the **Contract WW 550 W – Sewerage Project at Palma, Quatre-Bornes and Environs – Phase 1**.

Bidding documents may be downloaded from the E-Procurement System

<https://eproc.publicprocurement.govmu.org>. Reference Number on the system: **WMA/IFB/2025/1629**.

A Pre-Bid Meeting and site visit shall take place on **04 February 2026 at 10:00 am** as detailed in the Bidding Document.

Bids must be submitted online on the E-Procurement System at latest by **Monday 16 March 2026 up to 13:30 hours (Mauritian Time)**.

Bidders who have submitted bids online by the closing date and time shall **decrypt and re-encrypt** their bids from **Monday 16 March 2026 from 14:31 hours till Wednesday 18 March 2026 up to 14:00 hours**.

Bidders shall submit an Original Bid Security amounting to **MUR 3.2 M** at the address mentioned below before the deadline for submission of bids. The bids security shall be valid up to **12 August 2026**.

Bids will be opened online in the presence of the bidders/ bidders' representatives who choose to attend at the address given hereunder on **Wednesday 18 March 2026 as from 14:01 hours up to 18:00 hours**:

**The Conference Room  
Central Procurement Board  
1st Floor, Social Security House  
Julius Nyerere Avenue  
Rose Hill  
Mauritius**

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

15 January 2026

## War has pushed Gaza's children to the brink – “Like the Living Dead”

After more than two years of relentless conflict, Gaza's children are facing a humanitarian and educational crisis so severe that many are no longer able to learn, play, or imagine a future, according to a new study led by the University of Cambridge and published on 11 Jan. Researchers warn that war, hunger, and trauma have pushed an entire generation to the edge, with children described as feeling “like the living dead.”

The report paints a stark picture of childhood in Gaza, where prolonged violence has nearly collapsed the education system and stripped children of physical strength and emotional resilience. Many are so malnourished and exhausted that teachers advise them not to play in order to conserve energy. Before the recent ceasefire, some families survived on little more than a bowl of lentils a day, forcing parents and educators to choose between survival and schooling.

Education, once a cornerstone of stability and identity for Palestinian families, has been deeply disrupted. Researchers estimate that repeated school closures since 2020 -- first due to COVID-19 and then war -- have already cost children in Gaza the equivalent of five years of learning. If schools remain closed until 2027, some teenagers could fall as much as ten years behind



expected educational levels.

The emotional toll is equally devastating. Interviews conducted with aid workers, teachers, and students reveal growing anger and despair among young people. Some children now believe they will be killed simply for being Gazans, while others openly question the meaning

of peace and human rights. Professor Pauline Rose, Director of the Research for Equitable Access and Learning (REAL) Centre at Cambridge, warned that conditions have rapidly worsened. “A year ago we said education was under attack,” she said. “Now children's lives are on the brink of a complete breakdown.”

The human cost is staggering. By October 2025, more than 18,000 students and 780 education staff had been killed in Gaza, with tens of thousands more injured. Nearly 13,000 children were treated for acute malnutrition, and dozens died. Teachers report profound despair among parents, some of whom ask why education matters if their children may not survive.

The study also highlights serious disruptions in the West Bank and East Jerusalem, where violence, arrests, and school closures have caused children to lose at least 2.5 years of schooling.

Despite the bleak outlook, the report notes small signs of hope. During a brief ceasefire in early 2025, schools reopened quickly and high-school exams resumed -- an event one teacher described as “a miracle.” Researchers stress, however, that without urgent international investment, Gaza risks losing an entire generation to war, hunger, and forgotten classrooms.



## Are there thunderstorms on Mars? A planetary scientist explains the red planet's dry, dusty storms

*A rover recently captured sounds of lightning crackling on Mars, over a decade after scientists uncovered the first evidence for electric discharges on the planet.*

Mars is a very dry planet with very little water in its atmosphere and hardly any clouds, so you might not expect it to have storms. Yet, there is lightning and thunder on Mars – although not with rain, nor with the same gusto as weather on Earth.

More than 10 years ago, my planetary science colleagues and I found the first evidence for lightning strikes on Mars. In the following decade, other researchers have continued to study what lightning might be like on the red planet. In November 2025, a Mars rover first captured the spectacular sounds of lightning sparking on the Martian surface.

### Lightning on Mars

On Earth, lightning is an electric discharge that begins inside big clouds.

But because Mars is so dry, it doesn't have clouds of water – instead, it has clouds of dust. With little water to weigh down dirt on Mars, dust clouds can quickly grow into huge, windy dust storms a few times taller than Earth's tallest thunderstorms.

When smaller dust particles and larger sand particles collide with each other while being whipped around by these storms, they pick up a static charge. Smaller dust particles take on a positive charge, while larger sand particles become negative. The smaller dust particles are lighter and will float higher, while the heavier sand tends to fall closer to the ground.

Because oppositely charged particles don't like to be apart, eventually the energy building between the negative charges higher up in the dust storm and the positive charges closer to the ground becomes too great and is released as electricity – similar to lightning.

The air around the electricity rapidly warms up and expands – on Earth, this creates the shock waves that you hear as thunder.

Nobody has seen a flash of lightning on Mars, but we suspect it's more like the glow from a neon light rather



Artistic impression of a glowing dust devil on Mars. Instead of lightning, electric discharges on Mars dust storms are expected to produce a glow-like discharge like that illustrated in the bottom of this dust devil. Nilton Renno, University of Michigan

than a powerful lightning bolt. The atmosphere near the surface of Mars is about 100 times less dense than on Earth: It's much more similar to the air inside neon lights.

### Releasing radio waves

Besides shock waves and visible light, lightning also produces other types of waves that the human eye can't see: X-ray and radio waves. The ground and the top of the atmosphere both conduct electricity well, so they guide these radio waves and cause them to produce signals with specific radio frequencies. It's kind of like how you might tune into specific radio channels for news or music, but instead of different channels, scientists can identify the radio waves coming from lightning.

While nobody has ever seen visible light from Martian lightning, we have heard something similar to the radio waves created by lightning on Earth. That's the noise that the Perseverance rover reported at the end of 2025. They sound like electric sparks do on Earth. The rover recorded these signals on a microphone as small, sandy torna-

does passed by.

### Searching for Martian lightning

When my colleagues and I went hunting for lightning on Mars a decade ago, we knew the red planet emitted more radio waves during dust storm seasons. So, we searched for modest increases in radio signals from Mars using the large radio dishes that NASA uses to talk to its spacecraft. The dishes function like big ears that listen for faint radio signals from spacecraft far from Earth.

We spent from five to eight hours every day listening to Mars for three weeks. Eventually, we found the signals we were looking for: radio bursts with frequencies that matched up with the radio waves that lightning on Earth can create.

To find the particular source of these lightning-like signals, we searched for dust storms in pictures taken by spacecraft orbiting Mars. We matched a dust storm nearly 25 miles (40 kilometers) tall to the time when we'd heard the radio signals.

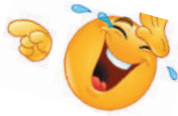
Learning about lightning on Mars helps scientists understand whether the planet could have once hosted extraterrestrial life. Lightning may have helped create life on Earth by converting molecules of nitrogen and carbon dioxide in the atmosphere into amino acids. Amino acids make up proteins, tens of thousands of which are found in a human body.

So, Mars does have storms, but they're far drier and dustier than the thunderstorms on Earth. Scientists are continually studying lightning on Mars to better understand the geology of the red planet and its potential to host living organisms.

**Nilton O. Renno**

Professor of Climate and Space Sciences Engineering,  
University of Michigan

Laughter is the  
Best Medicine



## "What's Wrong with the Soup?"

A man was sitting in a hotel dining room with a bowl of soup in front of him. He called the waiter over. "Please, taste this soup," the man demanded. The waiter asked, "Is something wrong with it, sir?" The man snapped, "Just taste the soup!" The waiter hesitated. "But sir, you haven't even touched it. How do you know something's wrong?" "Just taste the bloody soup, will ya?!" the man shouted. The waiter sighed, "Alright... but where's the spoon?" The man smiled triumphantly: "Aha!"

\* \* \*

### A Confession Too Late

An old man was on his death bed, his wife, Molly, was maintaining a vigil, candlelight by his side. She held his fragile hand, tears running down her face.

Her praying roused him from his slumber; he looked up and his pale lips started to move lightly. "Molly, sweetheart," he whispered.

"Hush, my love, rest, don't talk," she said.

He was insistent. "Molly, I have something that I must confess," he said in his weak voice.

"No need to confess, everything is fine, rest now," replied weeping Molly.

"No, no, I must leave this world in peace, Molly, I -- had affairs with your sister, your best friend, and your mother."

"I know, love, let the poison work," whispered Molly.

\* \* \*

### Spider in the Tent

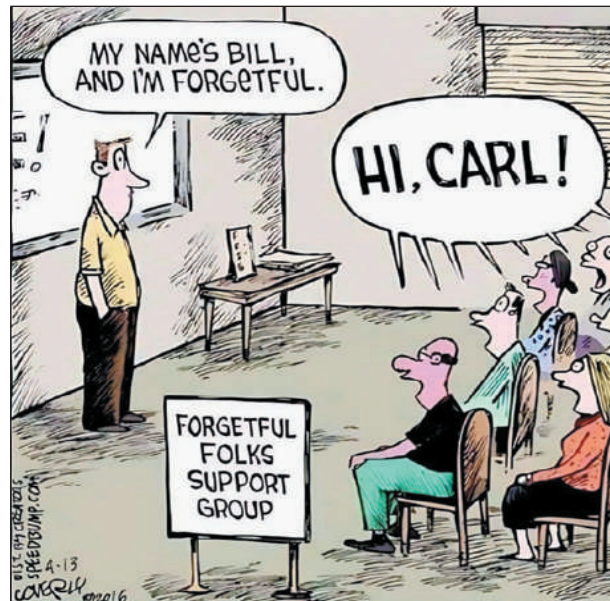
The king is inspecting three armed forces personnel, one from each of his fighting forces. He asks each one what their reaction would be if they woke up and found a venomous spider in their tent operations.

The army officer says, "I'd grab my bayonet and stab it to death."

The navy officer says, "I'd grab my boot and crush it to death."

The air force officer says, "I'd pick up my phone, call reception, and ask them who the hell had put a tent in my hotel room."

\* \* \*



### The Frightened Recruit

A young, freshly recruited soldier lost his head during a fire fight and ran for cover away from the action. He had not only lost his helmet but also his backpack and rifle. He was crouched down behind a wall when he felt a strong hand grip his shoulder and, in a calm voice behind him, say, "What the devil do you think you're up to, soldier? Get back and do what you are paid for."

The young recruit regained his control and said, "Sorry, mate, you're right."

The voice behind him bellowed, "Mate! Mate! I'm your bloody general."

The young soldier replied, "Sorry, sir, I didn't realise I had run that far..."

\* \* \*

### The Bus Driver

A man gets a job driving a bus for a small kindergarten. His boss tells him that if he wants to keep the job, he needs to remember the names of all his passengers.

On his first day, he starts his route. At the first stop, a rather chunky young lady gets on. He asks for her name, and she says, "Patty."

The next stop is another hefty girl. He asks her name, and she also says, "Patty."

The third stop is a boy who seems a bit slow. His name turns out to be Ross.

Next up is another beefy girl. The driver wonders if it will be another Patty, but she says her name is, in fact, Gladys Cheese.

The last stop is a little boy with a service dog. The driver asks for his name. He says, "I'm Nick, and this is Onion."

After dropping off the kids and returning to the office, his boss asks if he learned all the names.

He replies, "Two all-beef Pattys, special Ross, Gladys Cheese, Nick and Onion on a Sesame Street bus."

\* \* \*

### Moses and Jesus

A burglar broke into a house one night.

He shined his flashlight around, looking for valuables, when a voice in the dark said, "Jesus knows you're here."

He nearly jumped out of his skin, clicked off his flashlight, and froze. After a moment of silence, he shook his head and continued.

Just as he pulled the stereo out to disconnect the wires, clear as a bell he heard,

"Jesus is watching you."

Freaked out, he swung his flashlight around, trying to find the source. Finally, the beam landed on a parrot in the corner.

"Did you say that?" he hissed at the bird.

"Yep!" the parrot confessed, then squawked, "I'm just trying to warn you that he is watching you."

The burglar relaxed a little. "Warn me, huh? Who in the world are you?"

"I'm Moses," replied the bird.

"Moses?" the burglar laughed. "What kind of people would name a bird Moses?"

"The same kind of people who would name their pit bull Jesus."

\* \* \*

### Farmer Conor Had an Accident

Farmer Conor was hit by a truck and thrown into a ditch.

In court, the trucking lawyer asked, "Didn't you say at the scene, 'I'm fine'?"

Conor began, "Well, I had just loaded my favourite cow, Bessie, into the trailer..."

"I didn't ask for details!" the lawyer snapped. "Just answer the question!"

The judge, curious, said, "Let him speak about Bessie."

Conor continued: "The truck slammed my tractor. I was hurt badly, and Bessie was thrown into another ditch, moaning in pain. A Highway Patrolman came, saw her condition, and shot her. Then he walked over to me, gun in hand, and asked, 'How are you feeling?'"

"Your Honour... how would you answer?"

\* \* \*

### The Last Dinner

At the Last Dinner, Jesus gathered all his disciples for a simple meal.

It was a sombre occasion, and all the apostles could see that something was bothering him.

Solemnly, Jesus said,

"My dear disciples, one of you will betray me this very evening."

Everyone was shocked; they could hardly believe their ears.

"It's not going to be me, is it, Jesus?" asked Peter.

"No, Peter, it's not going to be you," he replied.

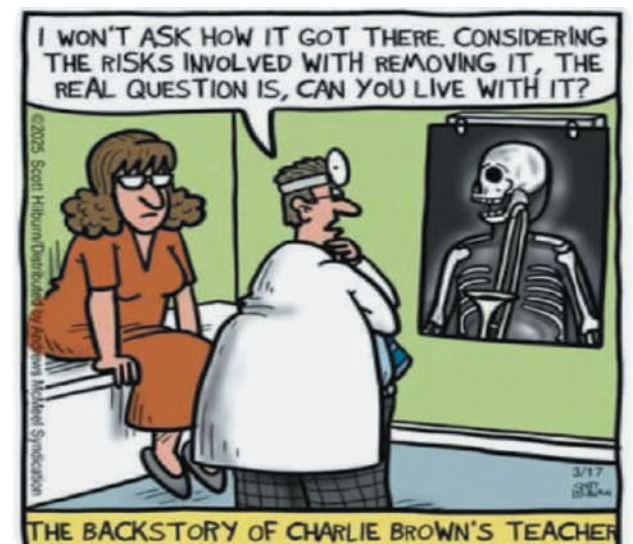
"Is it going to be me, Jesus?" worriedly asked James.

"No, James, it's not going to be you," Jesus reassured him.

"Is it going to be me, Jesus?" asked Judas, nervously.

In a high-pitched, mocking voice, Jesus replied:

"Is it going to be me, Jesus?"

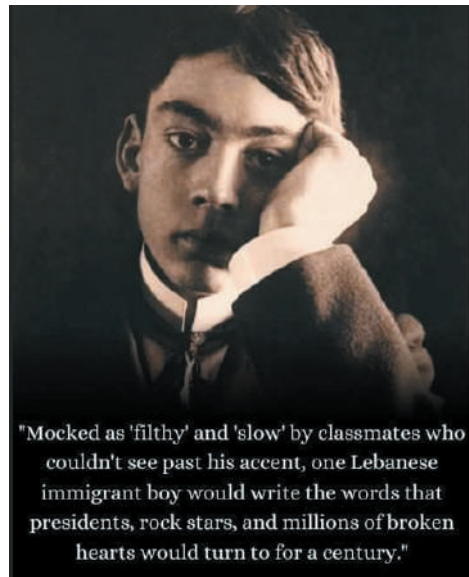


Life's Stories

## The Prophet of Lebanon: The Soul of Khalil Gibran

In 1895, a twelve-year-old boy arrived by ship in Boston from the mountains of Lebanon. Poorly dressed and barely able to speak English, he came with his mother, two sisters, and a half-brother, carrying little more than grief, poverty, and hope. They were strangers in an unfamiliar land, leaving certainty behind in search of survival.

In school, he was mocked for his accent and dismissed as "slow." His olive



"Mocked as 'filthy' and 'slow' by classmates who couldn't see past his accent, one Lebanese immigrant boy would write the words that broken presidents, rock stars, and millions of broken hearts would turn to for a century."

skin attracted cruel remarks. Yet, a few teachers noticed what others missed: a quiet, observant mind. He spoke little but expressed himself deeply through drawings and thoughtful silence. Slowly, he mastered English and began shaping the literary voice the world would one day celebrate.

Loss followed him relentlessly. Within a few years, he lost his half-brother, his beloved sister, and his mother to illness. His remaining sister worked long hours in a dress shop so he could continue his studies, a sacrifice he never forgot. He later wrote, "The most beautiful word on the lips of mankind is the word 'Mother.'" His reflections on love were born not only from romance but from grief, gratitude, and hard-earned wisdom.

In 1923, he published *The Prophet* -- a collection of poetic meditations on love, freedom, joy, and sorrow. The book travelled the world, eventually being translated into over a hundred languages and embraced at weddings, funerals, and moments of searching. From presidents to musicians, and public figures to ordinary readers, millions found comfort in his words. He did not shout; he simply wrote.

He once said, "Out of suffering have emerged the strongest souls; the most massive characters are seared with scars."

From those scars grew a beauty that still speaks a century later -- a legacy carved by a boy once dismissed and unwanted, yet never defeated.

## The Invisible Audience

By Paul Getter

At 20, you live inside an invisible courtroom. Every decision feel like it is on trial. What you wear. What you say. What you want. You assume the room is watching, measuring, judging.

At 40, something shifts. You are tired — not physically, but existentially. Tired of shrinking. Tired of rehearsing answers for conversations that never happen. You begin to loosen your grip on other people's opinions, because life has proven something to you: most of the

fears never materialized, and most of the judgments never mattered. And then, if you are paying attention, another realization arrives.

They were never thinking about you. Not at 20. Not at 40. Not now. Everyone else was too busy managing their own fears, insecurities, regrets, and unfinished dreams. The spotlight you felt was never pointed at you. It was pointed inward — always has been, for everyone. The real tragedy is not that this truth takes decades to surface. It is that many never arrive at it at all.

They live carefully. They speak softly. They choose safety over conviction. They edit their thoughts, their faith, their ambition, and their calling to avoid imaginary disapproval. They spend their lives performing for an audience that does not exist.

Freedom begins when you stop managing perception and start living with intention. When you realize approval is not a requirement for obedience. When you understand that significance never asks for permission. The crowd you fear is invisible. The voice that matters is not.

"But love, I've come to understand, is more than three words mumbled before bedtime. Love is sustained by action, a pattern of devotion in the things we do for each other every day."

— Nicholas Sparks



While we have a physical body and we live in the physical world, the true essence of our being is the *atma*, the inner self. All attempts to touch That, to go to the core of yourself, which is an *amsha* of the Supreme Being, is spirituality.

— Sri M



### Stray Thoughts

## What Is Happiness?

A famous Turkish poet once asked his painter friend to create a picture that captured the true meaning of happiness. The artist painted a family sleeping peacefully on a creaking bed. One leg of the bed was broken and supported by two bricks. The roof of their small, worn-out house was leaking. Even their dog slept quietly beside them.

That simple painting became immortal.

Look closely at this image and reflect on what happiness truly means. It shows that happiness is not the absence of problems, but the ability to live with them and still find peace. It is accepting life as it comes, with gratitude and grace.

Try to see the good in what you already have, no matter how difficult your situation may seem. Let go of sorrow over what you cannot control. And when your heart feels heavy, remember this immortal painting.

Be content. Be grateful. Sleep peacefully.

"Whenever you are happy, the real source of happiness is within you. It bubbles up. It is just that you are looking for an external stimulus to make you happy."  
— Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev



### Wisdom from Africa

**The rain that soaks you is the one you ignored.**

Meaning: Problems you refuse to address will affect you.

**A child who plays with fire will burn his fingers.**

Meaning: Carelessness leads to harm.

**You can't hide behind your shadow.**

Meaning: You cannot run from your true self.

**When the cooking pot is dirty, the food will not taste right.**

Meaning: Impurity or disorder corrupts results.

## Healthy Ageing

# Walking Speed Predicts Longevity in Older People

The speed at which older adults walk can accurately help predict their life expectancy, according to a study led by Stephanie Studenski of the University of Pittsburgh. While common sense suggests that slowing down is linked to declining health, this research quantified that experience for practical clinical use.

### Key findings

Researchers analyzed data from 34,485 adults aged 65 or older, tracking their walking speeds for up to two decades.

- **Gait Speed and Survival:** Quicker walking speeds were directly linked to increased survival time across all ages and both sexes, especially after age 75.

- **Prediction Accuracy:** The predicted 10 -- year survival rate ranged significantly, from 19% to 87% in men and 35% to 91% in women, depending on walking speed.

- **Threshold for Longer Life:** Individuals who walked at speeds of 3.3 feet per second (or higher) consistently demonstrated a longer survival time than expected for their age and sex alone.



### Why walking speed is a powerful indicator

Studenski notes that walking speed is remarkably stable because it represents how the body self -- selects a speed that best accommodates all the systems required for walking.

Walking is a complex task that

requires energy, movement control, and support, placing demands on multiple organ systems, including the:

- Heart and Lungs
- Circulatory System
- Nervous System
- Musculoskeletal System

A slowing gait may reflect both damaged systems and a high energy cost of walking.

### Clinical applications

This simple measurement could become a powerful clinical tool for doctors:

- **Accurate Survival Estimate:** Instead of relying on complex assessments of blood pressure, BMI, and chronic conditions, a lab assistant could simply time a patient walking a few meters to predict their likelihood of living five or ten more years just as accurately.

- **Informing Treatment:** For the ageing population, this easy measurement can help doctors decide on major interventions like cancer screenings or cardiac surgeries that require years of benefit to be worthwhile.

- **Monitoring Health:** A decline in a patient's walking speed over time could indicate a new health problem requiring immediate medical evaluation.

While the research showed that improving gait speed over a year increased survival, Studenski cautions that they are not advising people to walk faster on their own, as it could be unsafe. The speed is more a reflection of overall systemic health.

## Well-being

# The Happiness Toolkit: Small Shifts for an Instant Lift



In a world that often feels heavy, maintaining a positive state of mind can feel like a chore. However, happiness isn't always a destination we reach through massive life changes; more often, it is a collection of small, intentional choices we make throughout the day. Based on research highlighted by experts like Lindsay Holmes, joy is accessible through simple, science-backed "micro habits" that anyone can start today.

### The Science of Connection

Human beings are wired for connection, and many of our fastest mood boosters involve other people - or even animals.

- **The "Mom" Factor:** Research suggests that simply hearing your

mother's voice can significantly reduce stress levels.

- **The Oxytocin Boost:** Interacting with a pet releases the "warm and fuzzy" hormone, oxytocin, which creates an immediate sense of calm.

- **Generosity as a Gift:** Whether it's sending a two-minute appreciative email or giving a stranger a compliment, spending energy (or even a little money) on others is proven to increase your own long-term well-being more than spending it on yourself.

### Sensory Shifts

We are deeply influenced by our physical environment, often in ways we don't realize. If you are feeling stuck, try a sensory "reset."

1. **Sound:** Music is a powerful emotional dial. While upbeat "jam sessions" help, even listening to sad music can provide a cathartic release that eventually leads to a more positive state.

2. **Scent:** Studies show that floral scents can trigger happiness -- related thoughts.

3. **Temperature:** Science suggests there is a "perfect" temperature for happiness, peaking at approximately 57°F (14°C).

### Reframing the Mindset

Happiness also stems from how we manage our internal expectations. One of the most liberating tips is to **lower your expectations**. By setting realistic bars for events like holidays or milestones, you protect yourself from the "expectation gap" that leads to disappointment.

Furthermore, we should embrace the "**Golden Ratio**" of positivity: aiming for three positive experiences for every one negative one. These don't have to be grand gestures; celebrating a "little victory," like catching your favourite song on the radio, counts toward your total.

Ultimately, happiness is a practice of noticing. Whether it's through a one -- sentence journal or a brisk walk in nature, the tools to feel better are usually right in front of us.

## SODNAC ISLAMIC SOCIETY (REG. 2598) (BAIT UL MUKARRAM MASJID) 10, MOUETTES AVENUE, SODNAC, QUATRE BORNES

Members of the Sodnac Islamic Society are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting on Sunday 8th February 2026 at 9.00 am at the seat of the Bait-ul-Mukarram Masjid, Sodnac, Quatre Bornes

### AGENDA:

1. Reading and approval of minutes of the last AGM
2. Matters Arising
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Approval of final accounts for year ended 31st December, 2025.
6. Approval of estimates of Income/Expenditure for year ending 31st December 2026.
7. Motions, if any
8. AOB

\* Motions, if any, should reach the Secretary by Monday 2 February 2026 at the latest.

\* In case there is no quorum, the meeting will be re-scheduled for Sunday 15 March 2026 at the same place, same time and with the same agenda.

Dahal Faizal Secretary,  
SODNAC ISLAMIC SOCIETY

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## BollyBytes

## Vivek Oberoi dismisses rumours that 2004 accident halted his career

Vivek Oberoi has officially addressed long-standing rumours suggesting that a major on-set injury in 2004 led to his eventual exit from mainstream Bollywood. In a statement released Tuesday, Oberoi clarified that while the accident during the filming of *Yuva* was severe, it did not dictate the trajectory of his career.

Reflecting on the incident, Vivek recalled sustaining multiple fractures that required the surgical insertion of an 18-inch titanium rod in his leg. However, he credited the Indian Cricket Team's former physiotherapist, Dr Ali Irani, for a remarkable recovery. "I was able to regain full mobility in about three months," Vivek stated, noting that he went on to perform demanding action and dance sequences in films like *Omkaara*, *Shootout at Lokhandwala*, and *Krrish 3*.

Dismissing the idea that the injury limited his roles, Vivek described the event as a "blip" in a fulfilling career. The actor was most recently seen in the comedy *Mastii 4* alongside Riteish Deshmukh and Aftab Shivdasani.



## Aamir Khan on adapting 'Mahabharata': 'It is the mother of all stories'

Aamir Khan has opened up about his "long-cherished dream" of adapting the *Mahabharata*, describing the project as a monumental responsibility that he refuses to rush. In an exclusive interview with NDTV, the actor emphasized that the epic is deeply woven into the fabric of Indian identity, making the stakes incredibly high.

"You can let *Mahabharata* down, but *Mahabharata* will never let you down," Khan remarked. He compared the project's scale to global franchises like *Lord of the Rings* and *Avatar*,



asserting that the Indian epic possesses unmatched depth. "This is the mother of all stories," he added, stating his desire to make a film that makes all Indians proud on the world stage.

With rumours circulating that the *Mahabharata* could be his final cinematic contribution, Aamir hinted that the project might represent the pinnacle of his career, saying, "Maybe after doing this, I will feel that I have nothing left to do."

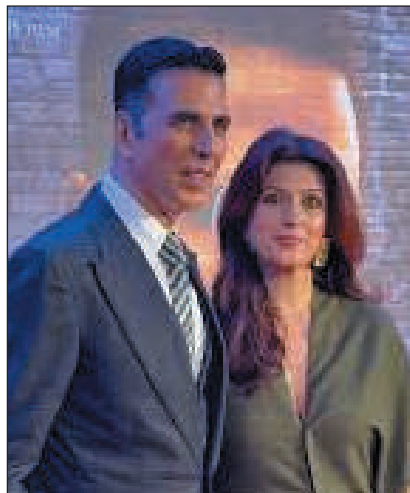
## Akshay Kumar reveals Twinkle Khanna's unique way of handling marital disputes

Celebrating 25 years of marriage, Akshay Kumar shared a humorous and "blunt" look into his life with wife Twinkle Khanna during a promo for his new show, *Wheel of Fortune*. While offering marriage advice to fellow actors Riteish Deshmukh and Genelia D'Souza, Akshay revealed exactly how he knows when he's in the "doghouse",

reports The Indian Express.

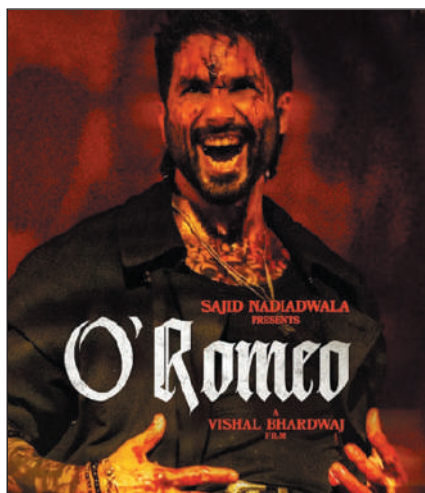
"If my wife is angry with me, I will get to know that when I come to sleep at night," Akshay shared with the laughing crowd. "Because when I go to sleep, I find out that my side of the bed is completely wet -- she throws water on it."

The lighthearted revelation came as Akshay prepares to host the Indian adaptation of the hit American game show *Wheel of Fortune*, which begins streaming on Sony Liv and broadcasting on Sony Television starting January 27.



## Shahid Kapoor goes dark in new 'O'Romeo' trailer

The trailer for Vishal Bhardwaj's *O'Romeo* has officially dropped, showcasing a gritty, violent reimagining of a Western set in the Mumbai underworld. Shahid Kapoor stars as "Ustara," a feared gangster whose life is upended by an intense and dangerous love story with a character played by Triptii Dimri, report Bollywood Hungama



& NDTV.

Marking their fourth collaboration, Bhardwaj's film features an expansive cast including Nana Patekar, Avinash Tiwary, and Tamannaah Bhatia, with a special appearance by Vikrant Massey. The trailer suggests a high-stakes narrative filled with gore, power struggles, and survival.

The film is scheduled for release on February 13, 2026, during Valentine's Week. It serves as a significant theatrical test for Kapoor, who is looking for his first major box-office blockbuster since the 2019 hit *Kabir Singh*.

## Sugar Industry Labourers' Union

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Sugar Industry Labourers' Union to be held on Saturday 21 February 2026 at Emmanuel Anquetil Labour Centre, Grand River North-West, Port Louis at 10.00 am. In case of lack of quorum, the AGM will be held on Saturday 07 March 2026 at same place and time.

#### Agenda:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Complete alteration of Rules
6. A.O.B

P. Sydamah  
Secretary

## The Salt Pans Workers' Union

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Salt Pans Workers Union to be held on Sunday 08 March 2026 at Rivière Noire Village Hall at 11.00 am.

#### Agenda:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2026-2028
6. Appointment of Auditor for years 2026-2028
7. A.O.B

Marie France Dumatin  
Secretary

## The Livestock & Allied Industries Workers' Union

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of The Livestock & Allied Industries Workers Union to be held on Saturday 14 March 2026 at Bambous Village Hall at 4.00 pm.

#### Agenda:

1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM
2. Matters arising out of minutes
3. President's report
4. Treasurer's report
5. Election of Executive members for years 2026-2028
6. Appointment of Auditor for years 2026-2028
7. A.O.B

Christophe Colfir  
Secretary



Vendredi 23 Janvier - 20.20



Samedi 24 Janvier - 20.15



Dimanche 25 Janvier -20.10



# Programme TV



SERIAL



	MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	Cine 12	Bollywood TV
<b>vendredi 23 janvier</b>	05.15 Serial: Living To Love 08.36 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.00 Tele: All The Flowers 09.30 Film: Le Village 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.35 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.20 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 14.10 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: Christina Noble 17.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Serial: 19 Minutes 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: La Planete Des Singes 22.00 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.45 Tele: Happily Ever After 23.11 Mag: Video Killed The Radio	09.35 Local: Le Mag 10.30 Local: Saveurs Plus 11.00 Local: Glwar Dantan 11.30 Local: Couleur Marine 12.00 Rodrig - Klip Seleksion 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.40 Rodrig: Feminin Pluriel 15.00 Emotion En Avant Plan 15.51 Local: Sineas Moris 16.43 Local: Metie 17.13 Local: La Sosiete 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.25 Local: Sur Prise 20.00 Festival Kreol 2025 21.10 Local: La Sosiete 22.54 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol 23.20 Local: En Forme 23.33 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 23.53 Le Mag	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Amrit Vani 10.00 Local: Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 11.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Karm Starring: Rajesh Khanna, Vidya Sinha and Shabana Azmi 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sayings Radha Krishna 15.51 Serial: Mithai 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.32 Local: Mati Ke Mol 18.57 Local: Ghazalon Ki Raat 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama 20.52 Serial: Porus 21.34 Serial: Crime Patrol Cast: Anup Soni, Satyajet Rajput, Shruti Gholap, Rahul Tomar 22.28 Serial: Mere Sai	06.25 Mag: Let's Make It Tasty 07.21 Mag: Tomorrow Today 09.59 Music Under The Swastika 11.29 Mag: Eco India 12.07 Mag: Asia 2050 12.20 Saving The Moors In Poland 12.50 Mag: Tomorrow Today 13.16 Doc: Treasure Islands 14.45 Mag: Shift 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.32 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.43 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 16.05 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 16.25 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 16.40 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 17.02 Serial: The Avatars 17.23 Doc: Pasteca 17.30 Mag: Eco India 18.26 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 19.00 Other: Student Support... 19.28 Mag: Euromaxx	14.25 Serial: Radha Mohan 14.55 Serial: Tenali Rama 15.30 Film: Bezubaan Ishq Cast: Mugdha Godse, Sneha Ullal, Nishant Malkani 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.01 Udaariyaan 19.32 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.01 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.25 Shrimad Ramayan 20.55 Anupamaa 21.25 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 21.57 Serial: Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Serial: Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Bezubaan Ishq Cast: Mugdha Godse, Sneha Ullal, Nishant Malkani
<b>samedi 24 janvier</b>	03.37 Serial: Heartland 04.23 Serial: Belgravia 05.05 Tele: Living To Love 06.30 Serial: Under Pressure 07.10 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani 08.11 Serial: Blue Lights 09.08 Serial: Heartland 09.51 Serial: Belgravia 10.38 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.32 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 12.00 Le Journal 12.30 Tele: All The Flowers 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.25 Film: La Planete Des Singes 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Dance Deewane 19.30 Le Journal 20.15 Film: Just Married 21.53 Doc: Nelle Tue Mani 22.58 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.30 Le Journal	06.00 Local: Mon Jardin Ma Maison 06.25 Local: Tous Egaux 06.45 Rodrig: 13 Minit Natir Rodrig 08.21 Local: Retrovizor 09.37 Local: La Sosiete 10.30 Local: J'ai Faim 11.00 Festival Kreol 2025 12.00 Local: ES Science 13.39 Local: Retrovizor 14.20 The Fashion Maurice Show 18.12 Entre Justice Et Vengeance 19.00 Zournal Kreol 19.36 Local: Coin Zen 20.00 Local: Les Petits Genies 22.00 Local: Music Tour 2025 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.03 Zournal Kreol 23.23 Local: Tous Egaux 23.38 Local: Saver Kiltirel 00.06 Local: Passerelles 00.26 Local: Metie	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 08.34 Local: Abhyas Yog 09.00 Live: Aaj Ki Charcha 10.30 Bade Acche Lagte Hai 2 12.00 Serial: Dikri Vahalno Dariyo 12.22 Local: Mati Ke Mol 14.38 Serial: Mere Dad Ki Dulhan 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Film: Phir Teri Yaad Aayi Cast: Pooja Bhatt, Rahul Roy 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Puranya Pakwan 21.00 Film: Shool Cast: Manoj Bajpai, Raveena Tandon 23.02 Local: Puranya Pakwan 23.28 Local: Duniya Mein Iss Saptah 23.37 Local: Hunarbaaz 00.59 Film: Shool	06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 06.45 D.Anime: Akili And Me 08.04 D.Anime: Semi In The Magic... 09.06 Les Enquetes De Maelys 09.18 D.Anime: Ubongo Kids 09.59 D.Anime: Will, La Série 09.58 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 12.20 The Mediterranean Diet 13.48 Doc: Ocean Predators 15.16 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.34 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 16.04 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 17.03 Serial: The Avatars 18.00 Doc: In Good Shape 18.30 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 18.56 Mag: Initiative Africa 19.30 Mag: Afrimaxx 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.53 Doc: Odd Neighbours 22.40 Film: The Shape Of Water Cast: Sally Hawkins, Michael Shannon	08.00 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 10.02 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 12.08 Udaariyaan 14.02 Anupamaa 16.00 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 17.30 Vidrohi 18.30 Film: Jeans With: Prashanth, Aishwarya Rai, Radhika Sarathkumar...
<b>dimanche 25 janvier</b>	02.19 Film: The Shape Of Water 04.29 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois... 05.17 Tele: Living To Love 06.30 Film: Just Married 08.21 Serial: Belgravia 09.06 Film: Backtrack 10.40 Your Love Is My Fortune 11.30 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 12.34 Film: Hell Bent For Leather 13.53 Doc: Not About Music 14.30 Doc: Top Dive Sites 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Just Married 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Serial: Dance Deewane 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Knowing 22.15 Serial: S.W.A.T. 23.00 Tele: Terra Nostra 23.30 Le Journal	08.55 Local: Les Petits Genies 10.14 Local: Retrovizor 11.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 12.00 Local: Lavi Zoli An XXL 12.45 Entrepreneuriat Au Feminin 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Concert De Fin De Stage Par Les Jeunes Apprentis Musiciens De Mo'Zar 15.30 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 17.25 Local: Les Petits Genies 18.15 Tele: Wildflower 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.00 Local: Les Klips 21.00 Local: Chapter Of Sound Spectacle Musical 22.10 Local: Son Ladan Mem 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Coin Jardin 23.33 Local: Generations J 23.59 Rodrig: Zenn Aktif	08.00 Local: Hamar Fitness 09.23 Local: Hunarbaaz 10.45 Mahabharat 12.00 Film: Sahibaan Cast: Sanjay Dutt, Rishi Kapoor 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.21 Local: Puranya Pakwan 16.02 Local: Hunarbaaz 16.28 Local: Yeh Shaam Mastani 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Local: Humni Ke Sitare 19.58 Local: Ek Mulakaat Vineet Singh Ke Saath 20.31 Serial: Porus 21.01 Keh Doon Tumhein 21.22 Serial: Crime Patrol 22.06 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 23.27 Excerpts From Maasik Shrivratni UTSav... 00.23 Local: Ek Mulakaat Vineet Singh Ke Saath	06.00 D.Anime: Ready Jet Go! 09.03 Les Enquetes De Maelys 09.53 D.Anime: Will, La Série 09.59 Serial: Penny Sur M.A.R.S. 11.35 Doc: Country Dreams 12.01 Doc: Afrimaxx 12.31 Doc: When Night Falls In... 14.38 Mag: Planet A 14.56 D.Anime: The Wonder Gang 15.06 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.44 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 16.28 D.Anime: Zig's Space Ranger 18.00 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 18.30 Doc: Brilliant Corners 19.30 Mag: Arts Unveiled 20.00 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.45 Film: La Favorite Cast: Olivia Colman, Rachel Weisz, Emma Stone 23.44 Doc: Madrid-Morocco 00.27 Doc: A Gold Rush In Space	00.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 02.35 Udaariyaan 04.27 Anupamaa 06.49 Shaurya Aur Anokhi Ki Kahani 08.00 Serial: Dhruv Tara 10.05 Kundali Bhagya 12.10 Dance Deewane 14.00 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 16.00 Wagle Ki Duniya 18.30 Film: Kesari Cast: Akshay Kumar, Havildar, Ishar Singh, Parineeti Chopra 21.03 Mahabharat 22.01 Sa Re Ga Ma Pa L'il Champs 22.45 Dhruv Tara
<b>lundi 26 janvier</b>	04.23 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 04.47 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 05.15 Tele: Living To Love 06.02 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.29 L'Homme Qui Valait Trois... 08.18 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.42 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.27 Film: Knowing 11.33 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.33 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 15.00 Samachar 15.30 Serial: Columbo 17.54 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.07 Live: Grand Titre 20.15 Serial: Quantico 21.22 Serial: Berlin Station 22.13 Tele: Mademoiselle	09.09 Local: En Forme 09.20 Local: Glwar Dantan 10.30 Rodrig Prog: Plat Du Chef 11.00 Local: Les Klips 12.00 Local: Nu Rasinn 13.05 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.37 Local: Glwar Dantan 15.17 Local: Metie 15.53 Local: Les Klips 17.00 Local: Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 18.05 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Séparé par L'Amour 19.00 Zournal Kreol 20.30 Local: Tous Egaux 20.55 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 21.44 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 22.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 23.00 Zournal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Metie 23.40 Rodrig Mo Pei	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Excerpts From Maasik Shiv... 09.00 Live: Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Local: Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile Hamar 12.00 Film: Batwara Cast: Batwara And Vinod Kumar 15.00 Samachar 15.51 Kundali Bhagya 17.30 Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 18.57 Local: Ayush 20.00 Local: Charcha 20.30 Dharm Yoddha Garud 21.00 Film: Yehi Hai Zindagi Cast: Sanjeev Kumar, Utpal Dutt 23.10 Mere Sai 23.57 Wagle Ki Duniya	06.25 Doc: Brilliant Corners 07.22 Mag: Arts Unveiled 08.37 Doc: Madrid-Morocco 09.20 Doc: A Gold Rush In Space 10.06 The Battle Of The Hurtgen 11.31 Doc: Let's Make It Tasty 12.00 Doc: Brilliant Corners 12.53 Mag: Arts Unveiled 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.11 D.Anime: Grands Mots... 15.28 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.39 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 15.51 D.Anime: Yetilii 16.02 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 16.12 D.Anime: Sam Le Pompier 17.25 Doc: Pasteca 18.00 Mag: Eye On SADC 18.31 Mag: Choices 19.30 Mag: In Good Shape 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.30 Live: News 21.40 Film: Jackie Brown	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.58 Dharm Yoddha Garud 15.26 Film: Andaz Apna Apna Starring: Amir Khan, Juhi Chawla 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.05 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan



Mardi 27 Janvier - 20.10



Mercredi 28 January - 21.40



Mercredi 28 January - 15.30



# Programme TV



MBC 1	MBC 2	MBC 3	MBC 5	Bollywood TV
<b>mardi 27 janvier</b> 04.24 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.35 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.26 Film: High Plains Drifter 11.30 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: Backtrack 17.30 Tele: Happily Evr After 18.00 Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu Thi 19.30 Le Journal 20.17 Film: Kingsman 22.16 Tele: Mademoiselle 23.28 Le Journal 00.03 Doc: Quotes By Famous People	09.36 Morisien Konn Ou La Sante 10.36 Local: Mangeons Veg 11.03 Local: Tous Egaux 11.34 Local: Grand Titre 12.02 Local: Fam Model 12.55 La Journee Sous Le Regard 15.50 Local: Sur Prise 15.30 Local: Mangeons Veg 16.49 La Journee Sous Le Regard 17.10 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 19.44 Local: Festival Kreol 2025 20.00 Local: Anou Kombat Ladrög 20.30 Local: Mémoire Et Liberté 21.08 Local: Le Mag 21.57 Mon Jardin Ma Maison 23.00 Local: Zournal Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Point Culture 23.32 Local: Music Tour 2025	08.00 Local: Ved Ki Shikshahein 08.27 Local: Ayush 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Kundali Bhagya 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.01 Film: Meet Mere Man Ke Cast: Feroz Khan, Salma Agha, Prasenjit Chatterjee 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.20 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 15.40 Serial: Dharam Patni 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 16.55 Dharam Patni 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 19.21 Local: Sanskriti Ki Baatein 20.00 Local: Prakriti Tree Plantation At Bos Cheri 21.00 Film: Jurmana Cast: Rakhee Gulzar, Amitabh Bachchan	06.50 Mag: The 77 Percent 07.20 Mag: In Good Shape 09.51 Doc: On Wild Trails 12.03 Mag: Her - Women In Asia 12.50 Mag: In Good Shape 14.08 Mag: Tomorrow Today 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.27 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.39 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 15.52 D.Anime: Yetili 16.02 D.Anime: Berry And Dolly 16.31 D.Anime: Piper's Pony Tales 16.58 Serial: The Avatars 17.24 Doc: Pasteca 18.00 Mag: REV 18.30 Mag: Shift 18.42 Doc: Greatest Love Stories 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.55 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.25 Film: Chintuji Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.03 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.06 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.29 Shrimad Ramayan 21.07 Anupama 21.29 Pyaar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.04 Dhruv Tara 22.34 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.04 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Chintuji Starring: Rishi Kapoor, Priyanshu Chatterjee, Kulraj Randhawa
<b>mercredi 28 January</b> 06.01 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 07.33 Serial: Under Pressure 08.14 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.34 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.30 Film: Jurassic World 11.35 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.27 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.17 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.47 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.15 Tele: Asintado 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.30 Film: Nine Days 17.34 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.55 Live: Grand Titre 19.30 Journal & La Meteo 20.14 Serial: Nelle Tue Mani 21.00 Serial: S.W.A.T. 21.47 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.33 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.35 Local: Le Mag 10.32 Local: Saveurs Plus 12.01 Local: Couleur Marine 12.30 Local: Itinerer Rodrig 12.44 Local: Festival Kreol 2025 12.58 La Journee Sous Le Regard 13.18 Local: En Forme 14.39 Local: Nu Rasin 17.00 Music Tour 2025 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.25 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Rodrig Spor 20.00 Local: Saver Kiltirel 20.35 Local: Toc Toc Doc 20.50 Local: Agir Ensemble 21.16 Local Production 22.08 Local: Les Klips 23.20 Local: Grand Titre 23.40 La Journee Sous Le Regard Du Seigneur 23.44 Local: Clin D'Oeil 00.09 Chapter Of Sound Spectacle	08.00 Local: Pani Nai Ba... 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Dharam Patni 11.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 12.00 Film: Andaaaz Cast: Shammi Kapoor, Rajesh Khanna, Hema Malini 15.00 Live: Samachar 15.42 Radha Mohan 16.26 Local: Aaj Ki Charcha 17.07 Radha Mohan 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.51 Sanskriti Ki Baatein Topic 21.00 Film: Bairi Kangna 2 Cast: Ravi Kishan, Kajal R 23.32 Serial: Mere Sai 00.18 Wagle Ki Duniya 01.01 Sanskriti Ki Baatein Topic 02.01 Local: Virasat	08.10 Doc: Going Beyond 09.31 Doc: Watching You 10.15 Doc: Deep Times 11.02 Mag: REV: The Global Auto... 12.46 Mag: Business Africa 13.12 Doc: Euromaxx 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.15 D.Anime: Grands Mot... 15.21 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.28 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.51 D.Anime: Yetili 16.21 Zig's Space Rangerts 17.03 Serial: The Avatars 17.30 Mag: REV: The Global Auto... 18.00 Mag: Afrimaxx 18.30 Doc: Legacy Of Ancestors 18.45 Mag: Planet A 19.00 Student Support Programme 19.30 Doc: Ageless Gardens 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 21.41 Film: Knowing Cast: Nicolas Cage, Chandler Canterbury	14.25 Radha Mohan 14.50 Jijaji Chhat Par Hain 15.30 Film: Ek Se Badhkar Ek Starring: Dilip Shukla, Pammi Sandhu, Suniel Shetty, Raveena Tandon, Shekhar Suman, Isha Koppikar 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Kundali Bhagya 19.02 Udaariyaan 19.33 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na umra Ki Seema Ho 20.31 Shrimad Ramayan 21.00 Anupamaa 21.28 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.05 Dhruv Tara 22.30 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.00 Mahabharat 23.30 Film: Ek Se Badhkar Ek Starring: Dilip Shukla, Pammi Sandhu, Suniel Shetty, Raveena Tandon, Shekhar Suman, Isha Koppikar
<b>jeudi 29 January</b> 06.08 Tele: Le Roman De La Vie 08.11 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 08.37 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 09.34 Film: The Hired Hand 11.32 Tele: Happily Ever After 12.00 Le Journal 12.25 Tele: Mademoiselle 13.15 Tele: Your Love Is My Fortune 13.45 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 14.12 Tele: Asintado 15.30 Film: Knowing 17.15 Tele: Happily Ever After 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.31 Serial: Shiv Shakti 19.00 Kyunki Saas Bhi Kabhi Bahu 19.30 Le Journal 20.10 Film: Blue Stars: Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Lara Dutta 22.01 Tele: Mademoiselle 22.46 Tele: Happily Ever After	09.10 Chapter Of Sound Spectacle 10.21 Rodrig: Plat Du Chef 10.40 Local: Les Klips 11.34 Local: Grand Titre 12.00 Local: Palette 13.06 La Journee Sous Le Regard 14.00 Local: Mémoire Et Liberté 14.33 Local: Agir Ensemble 15.49 Rodrig: Saver Lokal 17.08 Local: Le Mag 18.00 Tele: L'Amour Invincible 18.30 Tele: Séparé Par L'Amour 19.30 Local: Itinerer Moris 20.00 Local: Les Grandes Lignes 20.30 Local: Paroles Agricoles 21.00 Local: Metie 21.41 Le Mag 23.00 Journal Kreol Rediffusion 23.20 Local: Son Ladan Mem 23.33 Nou Later Nou Lamer Nou Rises	05.00 Mag: Aastha TV 08.00 Local: Sanskriti Ki Baatein... 09.00 Aaj Ki Charcha 10.00 Serial: Radha Mohan 12.00 Film: Sahara Cast: Meena Kumari, M. Rajan, Kanhaiyalal, Kuldeep Kaur 15.00 Samachar 15.22 Sajjanwa Bairi Ho Gaile... 16.30 Aaj Ki Charcha 17.30 Serial: Shiv Shakti 18.00 Samachar 18.30 Local: Amrit Vani 18.43 Local: Bhajan Sandhya 19.07 Local: Yatra 20.00 Local: Hunarbaaz 20.30 Serial: Tenali Rama 21.00 Shiv Shakti 21.21 Yashomati Maiyya Ke Nandlala 21.42 Serial: Mere Sai	06.50 Mag: Arts Unveiled 07.20 Doc: Ageless Gardens 07.43 Mag: Close Up 10.06 Doc: Nato: Old Friends... 10.50 Mag: Afrimaxx 13.04 Mag: Focus On Europe 13.30 Doc: The Last Town 15.00 Serial: The Wonder Gang 15.20 D.Anime: The Psammy Show 15.33 D.Anime: Edmond Et Lucy 15.44 D.Anime: Dino Ranch 15.56 D.Anime: Yetili 16.08 D.Anime: Handico 16.40 D.Anime: Sonic Boom 17.02 Serial: The Avatars 17.25 Doc: Pasteca 18.00 Mag: Eco India 18.45 Mag: Asia 2050 19.00 Student Support Programme 20.01 Tele: Un Amour Sauvage 20.50 Tele: Asintado	14.25 Radha Mohan 15.00 Tenali Rama 15.31 Film: Dil Ne Jise Apna Kaha Stars: Salman Khan, Bhoomika Chawla 18.00 Live: Samachar 18.30 Kundali Bhagya 19.00 Udaariyaan 19.30 Dil Ko Tumse Pyaar Hua 20.00 Na Umra Ki Seema Ho 20.30 Shrimad Ramayan 21.02 Anupamaa 21.34 Pyar Ka Pehla Adhyaya 22.01 Dhruv Tara 22.29 Wagle Ki Duniya 23.05 Serial: Mahabharat 23.31 Film: Dil Ne Jise Apna Kaha Stars: Salman Khan, Bhoomika Chawla



Jeudi 29 January - 15.30 Stars: Salman Khan, Bhoomika Chawla



Jeudi 29 January - 20.10 Stars: Akshay Kumar, Sanjay Dutt, Lara Dutta



# Historical Amnesia and the Work of Remembering

U. Dasin

**H**istorical amnesia is often equated with forgetting the grand dates of history - the wars, treaties, and revolutions that populate official timelines. Yet even within these tokenised dates, names, and events, nations - especially young nations - run a deeper risk of amnesia. They have not yet fully learned that identity, whether regional, national, or cultural, does not arise spontaneously. It is forged through the repetition of narratives and their gradual internalisation as ideas, ethics, moral frameworks, and social attitudes.

With the unfurling of what McLuhan famously called the *global village* - first through television and later through digital media - this process of internalisation has been profoundly disrupted. Appadurai's five "scapes" of globalisation (1) help explain how national borders have become increasingly porous, not only economically but symbolically and imaginatively. Alongside this erosion has come the systematic bankrolling of national traditions by the diffusion of American cultural codes, disseminated through both traditional and non-traditional media.

The French have long been acutely aware of this phenomenon and have debated extensively the erosion of French culture through Americanisation. It is unclear whether the rest of the world has been equally prescient. The impact appears to have been harsher on poorer nations - particularly those that were already struggling to insert themselves

into the narrative of modernity. Mauritius is a case in point: a country that has known persistent economic and social difficulties since before independence.

Unsurprisingly, public discourse today centres almost entirely on the economy -- on how to kick-start growth again after a decade of state looting under the MSM government. We are reminded that Moody's is watching that structural reforms and fiscal restraint are necessary to keep us "on track," lest we fall into the grey zone and scare off investors. I do not claim sufficient economic expertise to contest these arguments on their own terms.

What concerns me, however, is how this hypervisibility of economic imperatives conceals, nullifies, and erases other realities. National rebuilding is not merely an economic exercise; it is also a symbolic and narrative one. It requires the rebuilding of shared memory - not from scratch, but through remembrance.

**I** have been struck by the astonishing amnesia among young people regarding events that occurred only five or ten years ago. This suggests not indifference, but the absence of durable mechanisms of memory. We need to give ourselves the means to archive collective experience through film, song, dance, ritual -- yes, even secular rituals -- and to recycle these forms back into public life.

If Hollywood can produce a new version of *Cinderella* every two years, what prevents us from retelling and reworking the stories of our collective past? Such repetition does not imprison us in nostal-



**“With the unfurling of what McLuhan famously called the *global village* — first through television and later through digital media - this process of internalisation has been profoundly disrupted. Appadurai’s five “scapes” of globalisation (1) help explain how national borders have become increasingly porous, not only economically but symbolically and imaginatively...”** Pic - devx.com

gia; it builds awareness of where we come from. And crucially, this remembrance must extend beyond grand historical events to include small, local, and personal truths - those fragments of lived experience through which a nation slowly learns to recognise itself.

(1) Arjun Appadurai's five "scapes" of globalisation describe the different, overlapping flows through which globalization operates. They emphasise that globalization is uneven, fluid, and shaped by power and imagination rather than moving in a single, uniform direction.

## Beverages Industry Workers' Union

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Beverages Industry Workers' Union to be held on Sunday 15 March 2026 at its registered seat - 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 10.00 am.

- AGENDA:** 1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM  
2. Matters arising out of minutes 3. President's report  
4. Treasurer's report 5. Election of Executive members for years 2026-2028  
6. Appointment of Auditor for years 2026-2028 7. A.O.B

K. Teeluck  
Secretary

## Building & General Construction Workers' Union

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

### Annual General Meeting

Members are kindly requested to attend the Annual General Assembly of the Building & General Construction Workers' Union to be held on Sunday 01 March 2026 at its registered seat - 1st Floor, Pearl House, Sir Virgil Naz Street, Port Louis at 3.00 pm.

- AGENDA:** 1. Reading & approval of minutes of proceedings of last AGM  
2. Matters arising out of minutes 3. President's report  
4. Treasurer's report 5. A.O.B

Devanand Kodai  
Secretary



Central Electricity Board (CEB)

## COMMUNIQUÉ

### EXTENSION OF THE DEADLINE FOR UNAUTHORISED SOLAR PHOTOVOLTAIC SYSTEMS

Further to the Communiqué dated **15 November 2025** regarding unauthorised solar photovoltaic systems installed in households and connected to the distribution network, the **Central Electricity Board (CEB)** informs the public and its customers that the deadline for submitting applications initially set for **15 January 2026** has been exceptionally extended to **16 March 2026**.

To date, 325 customers with unauthorised solar photovoltaic installations have already submitted their applications.

For further information, please contact the **Corporate Planning & Research Department** on **404 2000** or the **SSDG Unit of the Production Department** on **601 1100**.

Officer-in-Charge  
16 January 2026