

L'Union
fait
La Force



Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Truth
&
Trust

Highland House, 165 The Broadway, Wimbledon, London SW19 1NE
Tel: 0773 907 2105 (WhatsApp) Email: mauritianoverseasgazette@yahoo.com
Website: <http://mauritianoverseasgazette.com>



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At the service of the Mauritian Diaspora

Editor: Peter Chellen (Former Editor of Mauritius News 1983 - 2015)

A totally independent platform

Views expressed by contributors are their own

« On a beau vouloir dissimuler ses vues et ses intentions secrètes,
le masque tombe tôt ou tard.

La cause se manifeste par les effets ; un caractère emprunté se dément enfin,
parce qu'il n'a pas ces symptômes de vérité qui sont un don précieux de la nature. »

Jean-Jacques Rousseau

Air Mauritius rising out of its ashes

We have saved Air Mauritius, says Prime Minister Pravind K. Jugnauth

(PK has saved MK)

Ready for the Take Off



Off to Distant Places



To Page 2 for more

From Page One



The Pride of Mauritius

The Paille en Queue is in the sky once more



The whole country wishes the national airline good luck. In the present economic situation and the mess in the travel industry owing to the pandemic, Air Mauritius will need a lot of luck to survive another 53 years.

Yes, we say another 53 years because that's the time the airline has lasted since its creation in 1967 (in very precarious conditions then) until it was grounded in 2020 for various reasons.

Air Mauritius has today been given a new lease of life in conditions not unlike those prevailing when the airline itself was created in 1967 thanks to the vision of Sir Seewoosagur

use by leaving and arriving passengers of other established airlines.

By the time of its grounding in 2020 Air Mauritius had a fleet of carriers considered too ambitious and too big to handle, and which is regarded as one of the reasons for its downfall. With all problems piling up in the midst of the pandemic, Air Mauritius was forced to go into administration in 2020. The future of Air Mauritius was doubtful until, following the administrators' report, it was found that there was room for salvation.

The national airline had to be salvaged for the image of Mauritius and its tourism vocation. Air Mauritius had proved itself of great service to the country and the nation. It cannot be left to die.

Prime Minister Pravind K. Jugnauth stepped forward with a capital injection of 12.5 billion rupees to enable the company to get back on its feet. Yet, the political condition of the country can be said to be still under terrible pressure from the Opposition, a horde of activists, some elements of the press, the facebook experts and the misfits.

PM Sir S. Ramgoolam is remembered by history for his vision to create a national airline for Mauritius in 1967, propelled by Amédée Maingard, PM Pravind K. Jugnauth will be remembered by history for helping the airline, with the support of his government, to rise from its ashes in 2021.



A bust of Amédée Maingard outside Rogers House in Port Louis. A similar bust should be provided at the entrance of Air Mauritius Centre, HQ of the national airline



Prime Minister Pravind K. Jugnauth



Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Governor-General by then, was at Plaisance Airport to welcome the first Boeing 707 flying the colours of Air Mauritius in 1977. It must have been a proud moment for SSR to witness the realisation of his dream. Also present were Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth (centre) and Air Mauritius Chairman Sir Harry Tirvengadam

Ramgoolam (SSR). Some people laughed at the idea. An airline for Mauritius, what a joke! and the detractors laughed at the joke. Of course, at some time they did stop laughing!

When the man of vision wanted an airline he knew to whom to go. He went to see a giant of a man, Mr Amédée Maingard, one of the major shareholders of the important commercial firm of Rogers & Co, a highly capable man with money and all. Mr Maingard, a hero of the Second World War (See *Behind Enemy Lines with SAS* by Paul McCue), did not laugh. He took up the challenge. This is in a nutshell how it all began for the national airline of Mauritius.

A challenge it was because in 1967, Mauritius was extremely poor depending purely and simply on its revenue from sugar for its survival. Politically, Mauritius was very unstable with certain politicians, to promote their own agenda, were instilling the fear of death into the population with the threat of the Hindu domination after independence. The hate campaign resulted the following year, in 1968, in a race riot among the population, a few weeks before independence. Britain had to send the army to restore and maintain order in the country. In 1967, Unemployment was rife and the birth rate was out control. Mauritians were leaving the country in droves for Britain, France, Canada and Australia.

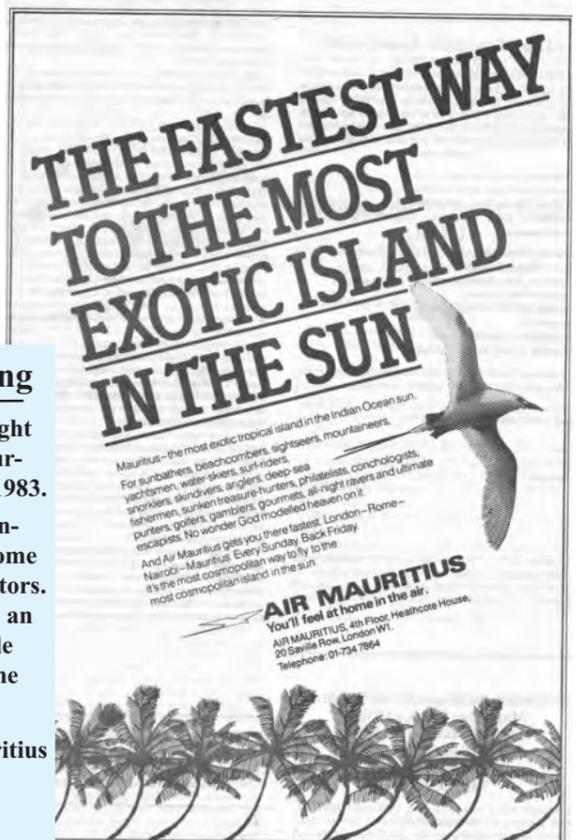
Fortunately, SSR and Mr Amédée Maingard were people made of better steel.

As regards a personal airline, Mauritius had nothing except perhaps the staircases for

The Power of Advertising

The Air Mauritius advert on the right was placed in the first issue of Mauritius News, London, in November 1983. The purpose of the advert was to encourage UK Mauritians to come home on holiday and to attract other visitors. Since then Mauritius News carried an Air Mauritius advert in every single monthly edition up to 2015 when the paper was sold.

By continuous advertising in Mauritius News, Air mauritius became a household name among UK Mauritians.



Reminiscing by Prega Vencatasawmy

- **THE EYE OF THE SERPENT** by S.BASKARAN (291pp)
- **CELLULOID CLASSICIST EARLY TAMIL CINEMA AND THE MAKING OF MODERN BHARAT NATYAM** by HARI KRISHNA (323pp)



These two books have landed on my desk recently and I have been dipping into them now and again. Growing up in Mauritius, I was used to watch Indian and Western films which were part and parcel of my life. However, my parents were keen and enthusiastic about Tamil films which started to be shown in Mauritius, imported by Tamby Escape (a relative of mine), Veeramundar and Sandrasegaran to name only but a few. As far I can remember, one of the first films that became an instant hit was *Madurai Veeran*, *The soldier of Madurai*, made in 1956 by the one and only Mgr who became a popular folk deity of Southern Tamil Nadu and, later its chief minister.

The second one that was a craze among the Tamil community was *Palum Pazhamum*, *Milk and Fruit*, made in 1961 with many memorable songs, even liked by others in Mauritius. This film starred the inimitable and undisputed actor of the South, Sivaji Ganeshan. *Avaiyar* by K. Sunderambal, 1953, a story of the legendary poetess, whose works considered to be a gem in classical Tamil literature. Also *Pavamannipu*, *Forgiveness of sins*, (1961) about communal harmony. Off the top of my head I remember *Velaikari*, *Thunaivan*, *Then Nilavu*, *Konjum Salangai*.

But the film that literally brought Tamil cinema to a new level was, *Chandralekha*, 1948, made by the legendary SS Vasan, known as the Cecil B. de Mille of the Indian cinema. His associated studio, Gemini, with the logo of two boys blowing the trumpet made blockbusters at that time. The *pièce de résistance* in *Chandralekha* (the most expensive film at that time) was the big dancing sequence extravaganza with magnificent set pieces reminiscent of Busby Berkeley's musicals. It was remade in Hindi with more or less the same cast. Tamil cinema with their studios were in the south, like AVM productions, Prasad, Gemini and Vijayavahini studios made some very good pictures and where later remade in Hindi.

South Indian actresses that became big stars in Bombay were Vijayantimala, Padmini, Rekha and the most glamorous, the late Sridevi! Among the best male actor, the gifted and talented, Kamal Hassan bagging 4 National awards, 19 Filmfare awards and many more, unprecedented in Indian cinema. His *Nayakan* (1987), inspired by *The Godfather*, featured in TIME all-time best films in the world and also 100 greatest Indian films of all time!

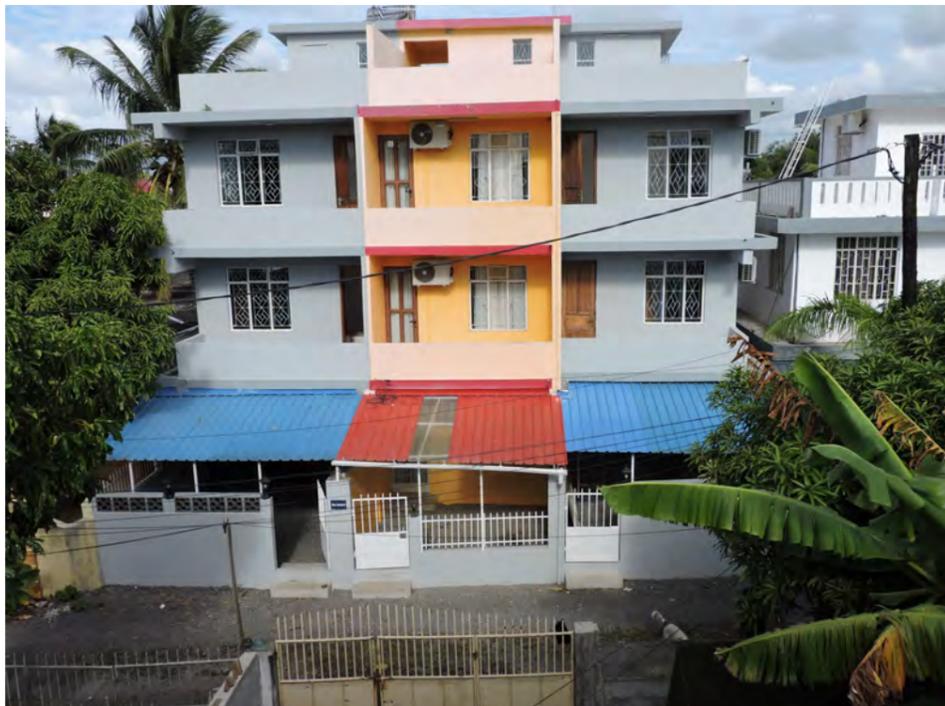
Some of the old Tamil directors were SS Vasan, A Bhimsingh, CVSridhar. Among the new breed of directors are Mani Ratnam (Bombay) S Shankar, Ve-trimaran (the best especially his *Asuran*, Part of a trilogy), Gautam Menon etc etc .

By the way the first Tamil talkie was *Kalidas* released on October 1931 in Madras.

For Sale at Péreybère off Flamant Avenue

Complex of three houses built on a plot of 124 toises. Each house of 1400 sq feet is of three floors (GF + 2), of three bedrooms each, reception room, kitchenette, separate WC + shower, and roof terrace, and own back garden.

One-minute drive or 5 to 8 minutes walk to public beach, cafeteria, restaurants, chemist, night club, Winner's supermarket



Front sheltered entrances on Bougainvillea Lane
(also known as Chemin Mission)

The three units may be used separately as **guests houses**. The centre property is fully furnished and is already licenced by the local District Council and the Tourist Office to operate as a Guest House.

CONVERSION

The three units can also be converted into three self-contained **modern flats** of three bedrooms each, each flat to be on the same floor. A three-bedroom modern flat in Péreybère can fetch Rs8m plus.

ALTERNATIVELY

The three units can be combined into one whole building with nine rooms, one large lounge/reception, one large kitchen, one large garden (suitable for a swimming pool, plus a garden and car parking space.)

Subject to the Authorities' approval, a building of nine rooms can be used individually as **elderly accommodation, classrooms for tu-titions or HQ for any business.**

For further information, ring P. CHELLEN on 5864 8732,
or 0773 907 2105 (WhatsApp only)



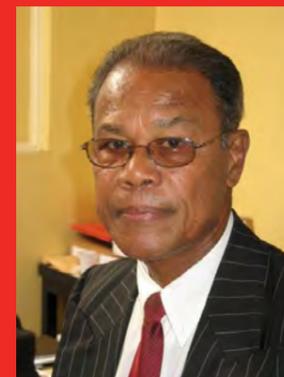
Back entrance on
Rose Lane

Backyard of centre property. The Backyards of the other two prop-erties are on right and left. If the partition walls are removed, the three properties together will have an immense backyard suitable for a swimming pool, a garden together with parking space. **Three new flats can also be built on the land on pillars/stilts above ground.**

Let's get rid of Coronavirus
Be vaccinated and observe all sanitary precautions
to avoid being contaminated and to spread the virus

OPINION

Les Bourses D'État



Se basant sur un article paru dans un quotidien du pays, Eliézer François, ex-Prof et Directeur de collège nous a envoyé l'article ci-dessous qu'il a aussi fait parvenir au journal en question.

Eliézer François est aussi le fondateur et leader du Mouvement Authentique Mauricien (MAM). Parmi les suggestions soumises au ministre de l'Education pour la réforme du système de l'éducation à Maurice, le MAM veut voir la régionalisation des bourses d'État pour des études universitaires.

Au temps colonial quand ces bourses pour des études universitaires étaient connues comme Bourses d'Angleterre on avait, pendant une certaine période, des bourses réservées aux élèves des collèges d'État et des bourses réservées aux collèges privés. Il y avait campagne pour la suppression de ce système parcequ'il y avait des situations où, qu'aux mêmes examens du Cambridge Higher School (HSC), des

élèves des collèges d'État ayant obtenu plus de points ne recevaient pas de bourses tandis que des élèves du privé ayant obtenu moins de points étaient des boursiers. Le système considéré comme discriminatoire fut finalement supprimé.

Avec l'allocation des bourses sur une base régionale peut-on se trouver, à nouveau, dans des situations de mécontentement comme dans le temps?

Pour éviter toute controverse, peut-être, en sus de ce que l'État offre, chaque Conseil de District peut accorder ses propres bourses à ses contribuables et résidents. Le rêve à la Luther King peut alors se réaliser sans problème.

P.C.

Les Bourses D'État

Une autre preuve d'un manque de courage et de volonté de la part de la ministre de l'éducation, Leela Devi Dookun-Luchoomun, dans son projet de réforme, c'est l'absence d'un plan de refonte en profondeur dans l'attribution des bourses de l'État. Les critères en place actuellement, favorisent non seulement l'élitisme, ils constituent la racine de tous les maux qui existent dans notre système d'éducation. Il faut nous en débarrasser au plus vite possible et les remplacer par d'autres critères qui seraient justes, équitables.

La République de Maurice est devenue un état indépendant depuis 47 ans (1968), mais elle conserve toujours un des vestiges du colonialisme britannique, 'La Bourse d'Angleterre,' alors même que l'Université de Maurice existe depuis des années. Cette pratique permettait seulement à certains enfants des familles privilégiées d'obtenir la bourse pour aller poursuivre des études tertiaires en Angleterre. Aujourd'hui, hélas! le même système perdure; le nombre de ces bourses annuellement a été augmenté, sauf qu'elles sont connues maintenant sous l'appellation de Bourses d'État.

Puisque l'île Maurice possède son Université depuis plusieurs années, pourquoi les contribuables doivent continuer à financer des études tertiaires à l'étranger pour les lauréats? D'ailleurs, la plupart de ces lauréats ne reviennent pas au pays pour mettre leurs connaissances et savoir-faire aux services de leurs concitoyens mauriciens. Tout le système concernant l'attribution des Bourses d'État doit être revu afin d'accorder des chances égales à

tous les étudiants, qu'ils habitent des régions urbaines ou rurales. Et, tout bénéficiaire d'une Bourse d'État (Lauréat/e) doit obligatoirement poursuivre les études tertiaires à l'Université de Maurice.

Les Critères

Primo - Chaque Région ou Zone, chaque District devrait avoir droit à un quota des bourses de l'État, tout comme Rodrigues qui depuis ces dernières années bénéficie d'au moins deux bourses annuellement.

Secundo - Aucun établissement secondaire ne devrait avoir droit à plus d'une bourse de l'État annuellement, qu'importe l'appellation de l'établissement - collège régional, Zone Prioritaire ou académie spécialisée. Ceci permettrait à tous les collèges, indistinctement, (What's in a name?) d'avoir une chance égale. Ainsi, je pourrais dire comme Martin Luther King Jr. « I have a dream » Le rêve qu'un jour, un/e enfant de Rivière Noire pourrait être lauréat/e.

Tertio - Afin de pouvoir bénéficier d'une bourse de l'État, l'étudiant/e doit suivre tous ses cours dans un même collège secondaire, à la proximité de sa résidence, depuis Form I jusqu'à la HSC (Higher School Certificate.) Ce qui empêcherait une migration massive vers les académies spécialisées, à la fin du cycle Nine Year Schooling. Autrement, le National Certificate of Education (NCE) ne sera qu'un 'carbon copy' du Certificate of Primary Education (CPE). La compétition à outrance s'intensifiera jusqu'au Grade 10 et la ruée vers les leçons particulières continuera de plus belle.

Le MAM face à La Réforme

Le Mouvement Authentique Mauricien (MAM) a été à l'avant-garde pour réclamer une réforme radicale de notre système d'éducation. Depuis 1995, le MAM mène campagne pour la construction de bonnes écoles primaires et secondaires partout à travers l'île ainsi que pour un système de régionalisation qui est indispensable tant au niveau primaire qu'au niveau secondaire. Le MAM a même fait campagne pour la construction d'un bon collège d'état mixte à Abercrombie pour accueillir tous les collégiens qui habitent Roche Bois, Ste. Croix, Batterie Cassée, Briqueterie, Riche Terre et Le Hochet. Pour rappel, voilà en bref, les propositions que le Mouvement Authentique Mauricien (MAM) avait faites lors d'une conférence de presse en l'an 2000 -

MAM est pour:

- (a) L'abolition du Ranking et du CPE dans sa forme actuelle.
- (b) L'interdiction des leçons particulières aux niveaux primaire, secondaire.
- (c) L'abolition des Bourses d'Angleterre (lauréats).
- (d) L'allocation de 40 à 50 bourses annuellement pour des études tertiaires à l'Université de Maurice, allouées sur une base régionale.
- (e) L'allocation d'une dizaine de bourses additionnelles annuellement, à l'Université de Maurice, réservées aux enfants des familles défavorisées.
- (f) Un système plus juste, plus équitable.
- (g) Une Égalité des Chances dans notre Système de l'Éducation.

Eliézer François JP

Mauritian Overseas Gazette (MOG)

(The one and only publication for the Mauritian Diaspora)

MOG follows Mauritius News, the first Mauritian overseas publication from 1983 to 2015

Pass the link <www.mauritianoverseasgazette.com> to your relatives and friends wherever they are in the world.

We are The World!

Anjalay Coopen Remembered

Anjalay Coopen, pregnant, fell under police bullets on September 27, 1943, while accompanying her husband, a sugarcane field worker, on a demonstration during a strike at Belle Harel Sugar Estate. The workers were demanding better wages and better working conditions.

Every year, on September 27, many Mauritians, especially women's groups, gather around the statue of Anjalay Coopen in Port Louis, in remembrance of the young woman who lost her life while campaigning for the workers' cause.

Hereunder, we reproduce a leaflet issued by the Mauritius Tamil Temples Federation on September 27 to commemorate the 78th anniversary of the death of the heroine.



மௌரிஷியத் தமிழ் கோயில்களின் கூட்டுறவு

Mauritius Tamil Temples Federation

Founded. 1960 • Reg No 354

ANJALAY COOPEN

Anjalay Coopen was born in 1911 in Rivière du Rempart. She was 32, and was pregnant at the time of her death.

Four workers gave their lives for the Mauritian working class in a shooting that took place on September 27, 1943, on the Belle Vue Harel sugar estate.

The workers went on strike on 13 September 1943, and refused to call it off until their demands for a better wage and working conditions were met.

However, their two representatives signed an agreement to end the dispute without consulting the workers. They rejected the agreement and refused to end the strike, leading to even more tension.

On Friday 24th September, the sugar estate owners threatened the workers who don't end the strike would have to leave the sugar estate by Wednesday 29th September, but the workers continued to strike despite the deadline.

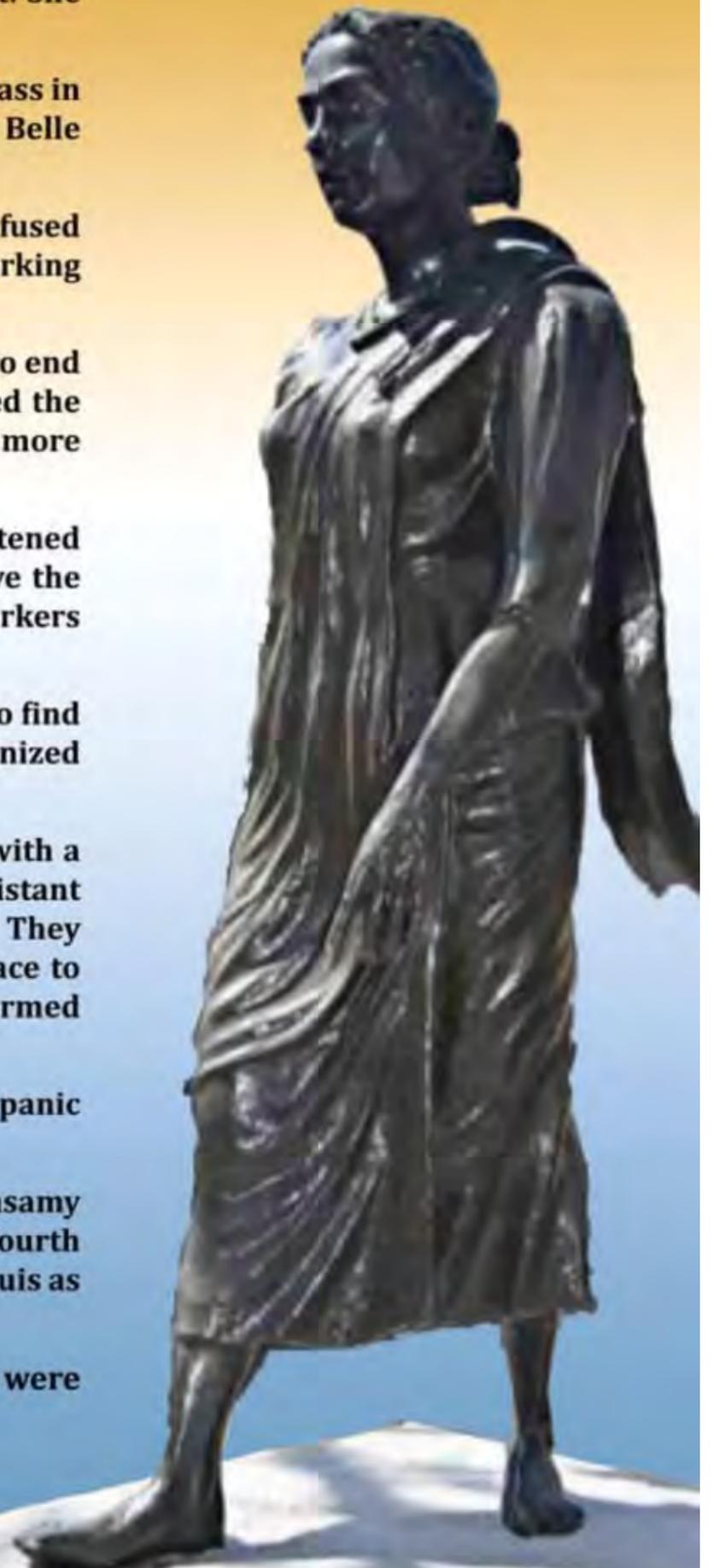
In the early hours of September 27, a constable was sent to find out what the striking labourers were doing. He was recognized as a police informant and beaten by a worker.

Later on the Deputy Commissioner of Police showed up with a police detachment and was joined by an Assistant Superintendent of Police with his own detachment. They proceeded with more than three dozen men and came face to face with a crowd of some 300 men, women, and children armed with sticks and stones.

The police officers were surrounded by the crowd, and in panic they fired 16 shots at the striking workers.

Three people died including Anjalay Coopen, Kistnasamy Mooneesamy, and Moonsamy Moonien. Nine days later, a fourth labourer, Marday Panapen died in Civil Hospital in Port Louis as a result of his bullet wounds.

Five other strikers were shot injured, and 12 others were wounded in the scuffle that followed.



The Rodrigues Newsletter

From Paul Draper,
Port Mathurin



Once again... Greetings from Rodrigues!

I am happy to report that all of us at the GPL Centre (school for children with disabilities & learning difficulties) and at our Care-Co Rehabilitation and production workshop, are well and that we are still able to continue to offer our services to the some of the people with disabilities here on Rodrigues after all these months of being isolated from the outside world.

We are now in the last months of 2021 and our weather is beginning to change from the cool and showery and windy months of our 'winter' into the start of the hot summer. The changeover of seasons is coming slowly this year.

Covid News

In September, it was decided by the Government in Mauritius that although the international borders in Mauritius itself would be open as from 1st October, and flights from around the world would once again be able to bring in passengers to Mauritius, that the border between Mauritius and Rodrigues would remain closed for a further month until November.

The authorities wanted to be sure, so they said, that 'Covid free' Rodrigues was ready and prepared for an inflow of people from outside where the Covid 19 virus was still spreading.

It is calculated that by November a good percentage of the population in Rodrigues will have been double vaccinated (maybe also with a 'booster') and that all the facilities here to deal with any cases of Covid occurring after the borders opened can be dealt with by the medical authorities.

This news was greeted with relief by some, and irritation by others, who are longing to see the islands tourist trade start up again.

However we view it, the decision has been made and we have another month to get ready for the flights between Mauritius and Rodrigues to start up again, and see visitors being able to come and visit the island.

There are a few Rodriguans still stranded in Mauritius since the lock down in February and

the Airport was closed, but it is hoped to allow them all back in October on special flights, and with a quarantine period of isolation once back in Rodrigues.

At the GPL Centre and Care-Co we are very grateful for all the help and support that we have received to keep us open and able to offer our services and to continue to pay all the bills and especially the wages to all our disabled employees and the staff of the GPL Centre.

Access to our premises is controlled by the regulations that have been put in place, and we do our best to see they are respected.

All the Health Protocols drawn up by the Government in Mauritius are supposed to be in force equally in Rodrigues, but it seems that only the wearing of masks is the one that is emphasized.

The children of the GPL Centre are made aware of the rules, and try to keep to them.

The Rodrigues Regional Assembly Commission for Education has organized some extra helps for which we are all most grateful. As well as supplying bread and cheese and milk and fruits, on Fridays, locally made cakes made from all local ingredients are given to the children.

The Care-Co workshop is still quiet, while we source the raw materials we need for our work. Prices still rise and some are not available.

Birgit has been busy again on the Care-Co stand at the Solidarity Market- held in the Town Centre of Port Mathurin, at the end of each month. The coconut crafts and handmade soap finds a few customers.

Happily, we are seeing activity in the beehives, and are preparing the remainder of the bee colonies that we have worked so hard to keep healthy, so that they start to produce some honey.

We shall have more news next month, when flights to and from Mauritius and Rodrigues start up again, and visitors start to come back to Rodrigues.

Paul

Latest

Rodrigues is no longer COVID safe

The island of Rodrigues was regarded, until recently, as the only country in the world which was absolutely Covid-safe. Rodrigues, an outer island and part of the Mauritian territory, has unfortunately lost this status of late.

The following information has been picked up from Brigit's Blog "Rodrigues Via Mauritius":

Rodrigues Island is in turmoil after the discovery of a first case of Covid-19. Details were given

by the Rodriguan authorities during a press conference this Saturday, October 9.

The patient is a 63-year old male with a complete immunization cycle. "He did his PCR test in Mauritius on Wednesday and was negative. So he was allowed to take the plane. At the airport, he was not showing any symptoms. On his arrival, he was placed in quarantine with the other passengers. It was during the test carried out by the Rapid Response Team that he tested positive," explained the director of the Mont-Lubin health center.

The patient, who is diabetic, is doing well.

At the level of the Rodrigues Commission, the message is clear. "You have to get vaccinated as soon as possible and it is essential to respect the barrier gestures" declared Simon-Pierre Roussety, the Commissioner for Health. The latter made it clear that the country will not be able to remain closed forever. He claims that 24,000 adults, or 55% of the population, have been vaccinated. A next shipment of vaccine is expected in Rodrigues in the coming days. -

From Prega Vencatasawmy's F/B Posts

Le Malaise Créole

A critical study of ethnic identity in Mauritius,
(365 pages) by Rosabelle Boswell (Born in
Mauritius)

The Thesis was presented at Rhodes University 2003.

This study about "Le Malaise Créole" has been hijacked by various groups to give various political overtones, maybe rightly or wrongly to fit their narratives! But in the hands of Rosabelle Boswell, a very able and competent researcher, she takes a composed and serious approach, even though she comes from a Créole background herself. Kudos to her!

What distinguishes this study from others is that she has underpinned it with field studies (the backbone) and has been "sur le terrain" to ensure veracity and first hand observation. Other studies tend to be a mishmash and rehashing of other materials!

Rosabelle Boswell has made use of anthropology, sociology and linguistics in order to extricate a better understanding and knowledge on the problems besetting this section of the Mauritius ethnic representation. She has also tapped into areas where people are left to fend off for themselves! In a way there are some faint parallels with the book, the Afro Mauritians by Gaëtan Benoit (I think?). This study has piecharts, statistics, census datas, uses of informants, graphs, field works and photos and maps.

At the very beginning she nips it in the bud, and did not mince her words by linking slavery as being a very important factor in 'le malaise Créole syndrome. Of course this is true!

This study has parts:

1. Discussion of literature
2. Homogenisation of identify in post colonial context
- 3 Review of historical and social literature on Mauritius by Mauritians

i will finish this layman's review by using her own words "In this thesis I have argued that Le Malaise Créole has many roots and that the interpretation of the phenomenon depends on the social position of the interpreter."

Reading this study has made me aware of how much we need to help others, irrespective of our political and religious affiliations, to build a strong and caring Mauritian community. *Thanks Rosabelle Boswell.*

Prega

Editor's Note:

I have not read Rosabelle Boswell's book of the Malaise Créole. I am trying to lay hands on a copy, perhaps at some National Library. I wish to know what this *malaise* is about and why does it exist.

The word Creole was first used by the French people in early colonial time to differentiate between Metropolitan French and the French born and brought in the colonies. So, the first Creoles were white people. By extension, the word Creole has come to apply to the descendants of people of African origin brought to the colonies to work on the plantations.

In present day Mauritius there are the Créoles de couleur (originally of white father and black mother), Créoles de Trianon, Quatre Bornes, Beau-Bassin/Rose-Hill, Créoles des faubourgs like Cassis, Roche Bois, Ste Croix etc, Créoles Malbar, Créoles Madras, Créoles Lascar, Créoles Chinois. It should not surprise anybody if there is any *malaise* in such a mixed society, especially if these terms are used pejoratively to insult and to hurt.

P.C.

The recommendations of the Pay Research Bureau (PRB) will take effect from January 2021, stated PM Pravind Kumar Jugnauth at press conference on October 14

The Pay Research Bureau (PRB) recommendations estimated at Rs 6.5 billion will take effect as from January 2021. The arrears for the month of January 2021 to October 2021 will be paid in November 2021 and the new salary grade as recommended will be implemented as from December 2021, impacting on the end of year bonus.

The Prime Minister, Mr Pravind Kumar Jugnauth, made this announcement, today, at a press conference at the presentation of the ninth PRB Report at the Shri Harilal Vajhee Hall in Port-Louis. Prior to the conference, a special cabinet was held regarding the PRB Report 2021.

Prime Minister Jugnauth highlighted that officers who went on retirement between January 2021 and November 2021 will not be penalised and their pension will be adjusted accordingly.

An average increase of 10% for lower grade officers is being catered to bridge the gap between the higher paid officers of the Civil Service to a ratio of 1:6.2 for PRB Report 2021 compared to PRB 2016 Report, at a ratio of 1:7, he highlighted.

He recalled that Government has already granted an interim monthly allowance of Rs 1,000 to all public officers as from 1st January 2020 at an estimated cost of Rs 1.6 billion.

Amid the COVID-19 pandemic, the Prime Minister emphasised that Government has shown strong commitment to bring support to workers and enterprises through the Wage Assistance Scheme and Self Employed Assistance Scheme, which amounted to Rs 25 billion. He also mentioned that Government has taken bold measures such as lockdowns and closed borders which impacted on the economy and social life.

Prime Minister Jugnauth seized the occasion to commend all civil servants, in particular, frontliners for their hard work during the pandemic.

Key recommendations of PRB Report 2021 are as follows:

- Increase of 10% of salary scale for lower grade officers
- Officers retired between January 2021 and November 2021 will not be penalised and pension will be adjusted accordingly
- Adapt to new normal with focus on training
- Amend scheme of service to ensure business continuity
- Reduction in interest rate for purchase of electric cars with provision of green loan
- Criteria for eligibility of duty free cars reviewed and extended to more civil servants
- Passage benefits can be used for renovation and construction of houses
- Provision made to refund sick leave for year 2020
- Specific recommendations for Rodrigues and Outer Islands with revised allocation for officers working in Agalega and St Brandon
- Addendum report to be published in a lapse of not exceeding 9 months.

Source: GIS



Editor's note:

Answering questions from reporters, Prime Minister Jugnauth said that his government was not going to borrow money to pay for wages. Provision has been made to meet the Rs6.5 billion that will be required to support the cost of implementing the PRB recommendations. The goodies to be given to the government employees backdated from January 2021 is no electoral sweetener as there is no election in view, said the PM.

It is reported that the unions want the report to be effective from 2020 instead of 2021

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The Centenarians & Amazon's Returns

by Mylene From Japan



One Hundred Years of existence

86,510: That's eighty-six thousand, five hundred and ten Japanese people aged 100 years or above. This translates to nearly one in 1,450 people in Japan are now aged 100 or over. 76,510 are women and 10,060 are men. Amidst a pandemic, those are impressive figures.

Centenarians used to be a rarity, so much so, they were given a pure silver saki dish from the government to mark the milestone. Because of the rapid growing elderly population the silver had to be downgraded to be cost effective. An even cheaper option is being considered for the future, possibly just a letter of congratulations.

Back in 1966, September 15 was designated, Respect for the Aged Day, a public holiday created to honour elderly citizens. On that day, many are spoiled. They may receive free lunch boxes, could be taken out on a day trip or just get an annual visit from the family, but, apart from these cosmetic gestures, a large number of seniors live all alone and numerous families are burdened with taking care of their ill and disabled parents with little support from outside.

At 118 years old, Kane Tanaka has been awarded the Guinness World Records title for being the oldest living person. She was born in 1903, the same year the Wright brothers flew the world's first powered airplane.

What's her secret? "Eating good food and practising maths."

Amazon Returns

Have you ever wondered what happens to your Amazon returns? The too tight jeans, the chair that's been assembled and dissembled, the electric fan that you no longer need? Wonder no more.

They go to the great big Amazon Warehouse (AW), where they



are checked, re-packaged and resold at a discount price. But, is buying pre-owned, used or discontinued items from the AW a good deal. I decided to do my own research. I chose three products at random and compared prices.

AW: Scholl Gel Active Work insoles for men £9.70.
ASDA £15.99

AW: Hoover Whirlwind Eto Pets WRE07P Upright vacuum
£72.38
Amazon £79.99

AW: Disney Princess Long Locks Rapunzel doll £12.72
Smyths £17.99

Amazon still gives 30-day money back guarantee on all products.

Holidaying in Britain

WHAT IS THE FUTURE OF THE NATIONAL PARKS?

Officially formed back in 1951, the UK's first four National Parks are blowing out the birthday candles on seven decades of bringing joy to the masses. The Club talks to the men and women behind these green and pleasant reserves to find out what's in store for the next 70 years...



Snowdonia

Angela Jones, partnerships manager, Snowdonia National Park Authority

How did Covid-19 affect the park? Once the lockdown restrictions eased, we experienced a significantly higher number of day visitors. To compensate, we ensured overflow car parking and increased bus services, particularly around Yr Wyddfa (Snowdon), and have upped the number of exceptional volunteers collecting litter and advising visitors.

If you could let visitors know one thing, what would it be? I'd urge them to use our many glorious campsites and glamping sites (as opposed to fly-camping), to plan ahead (e.g. pre-book your car parking at Pen y Pass car park) and to try to visit us outside of the summer months.

What's your favourite spot in the park? The Celtic rainforests never fail to be awe-inspiring.



The Lake District

Richard Leafe, chief executive of the Lake District National Park Authority

What have been some the park's biggest achievements? For me it's the 48 miles of stiles-free routes we have across the park for those with limited mobility, becoming a World Heritage Site in 2017 and delivering a £3m programme to restore the public footpaths after Storm Desmond.

How did Covid-19 affect the park? We've definitely seen an increase in people camping and parking overnight since lockdown eased, but we'd urge people to remember that you must have landowner permission to do this - and to avoid camping in car parks, laybys, near farm buildings or livestock.

What do the next 70 years look like for the Lake District? We'll be continuing to make sure this iconic landscape is accessible to all, with an emphasis on tackling major climate change challenges (89 per cent of our 19 million annual visitors come by car - creating around a third of the park's carbon emissions) and have recently announced our aspiration to become a net-zero organisation by 2025.

WHY MAURITIUS FINDS ITSELF ON THE EEC BLACK LIST?



By
Ahmad Macky

Certain administrative malpractices from both Public and Private sectors form part of the major causes as mention below of why the EEC put Mauritius on the black list.

Mauritius is today on the black list of EEC because the island is allegedly considered as a fiscal paradise for money laundering and also there are too many press and other media reports of corruptions amongst officials and allegations of communalism, nepotism, exploitation of employees by employers, redundancies, human trafficking, unexplained wealth of many people and bad governance.

On the other hand, Mauritius is quoted several times in what is known as the greatest World Financial Scandal ever known. Revealed in 2013 as offshore leaks by the International Consortium of Investigative Journalist (ICIJ) which conducted its enquiry by basing itself on more than 2.5 millions secret documents. The scandal showed that Mauritius is involved like many other countries used by some enterprises, businessmen, politicians, mafias, and others to hide their fortunes. Is Mauritius a paradise for money laundering ?

With the ICIJ leaks, we have to add the account of 120,000 offshore societies. In all, it is 160 times the volume of diplomatic cables revealed by Wiki Leaks sometimes ago. A certain number of these societies are allegedly based in Mauritius. A systematic analysis of the information shows that the leaks include documents of more than 120,000 societies and trusts based in the Virgin island of Brittany, Cook island, Caiman island, Labuan, Seychelles, as well as Samoa, Hong Kong, Singapore and Mauritius, writes the consortium in one of the articles and published documents.

Among the 120,000 intermediary and the 130,000 persons whose operations are exposed there are a certain number of Mauritians too. The public consortium however, obtains its information ever and anon. Such information is treated carefully and analysed thoroughly. We are in fact at the start of a great revelation based on information, emails, other confidential communications from financial institution in areas such as Virgin island of Brittany, Cook Island, Bermuda and Mauritius.

Doubtful Transactions

But already it is alleged that Mauritius has been used as a platform for doubtful transactions. It seems that an entity registered locally had been used in Israel, Libya and Syria for certain irons and ore transactions in the province of African countries in conflict.

The dossier contains allegations concerning a Pakistani Senator who created an offshore company few years ago in Mauritius. Interrogated by the Consortium, the Pakistani Senator is said to have explained that he used Mauritius because it was a place where company incorporation is done without red tapes.

Moreover, there are six *prête-noms* at the head of 3,000 offshore enterprises. These *prête-noms* are at the service of people from Britain and South Africa who use Mauritius as an operation base, and control at least on paper many societies in Virgin island of Brittany, Great Britain, Ireland and New Zealand.

Contacted by the press for a comment, the Financial Service Commission (FSC), the regulator of Mauritian Offshore, indicates that the Commission is cooperating with other regulators across the world on the demand of legitimate information not to be conned by others that operate unlawfully.

The FSC emphasizes that; "With the international movement for more transparence and exchange of information, Mauritius has taken some significant measure to consolidate its legal system on its frame of work. Mauritius is now ready to exchange information on individuals and non-resident companies"

The country has got certain mechanisms of straightaway exchange with 39 jurisdictions, essentially with the principal commercial partnership. New agreements are in the process of negotiation with new countries to elongate the list.

"It is recognized that Mauritius has put in place a national strategy for an efficient system of exchange of information and the majority demands are answered within 90 days"

In the meantime, new revelations in province of ICIJ based in Washington, USA, risk damaging the reputation of Mauritius. Today the government is bending over backward to do its utmost to remove Mauritius from the black list of the EEC. Unfortunately, there are certain non-patriotic political parties which never cooperate with the present government. Only time will tell what will be the fate of Mauritius?

International Headlines

An innovation to allow you to read articles which you want to read.

Just google any headline below and you will see the whole article for you to access

- Revealed: Pandora papers unmask owners of offshore-held UK property worth £4bn
- Retired British expats 'abandon Spain in droves'
- Pictured: Battered face of Britain's worst ever rapist after one of his victims 'bravely fought back'
- Dehenna Davison 'overwhelmed' by support after saying she is bisexual
- Kent: Four dead and teenager left with life-threatening injuries in car crash
- Rishi Sunak to save billions by counting IMF cash as aid for poor
- Life expectancy gap in England 'a growing chasm' exacerbated by Covid
- Paul McCartney says he 'wanted to continue' with the Beatles before John Lennon 'instigated' split
- Man dies as pedestrians attack him after truck nearly runs people over on sidewalk
- 'Agitated' gunman kills woman on predawn Metro train in H
- Red list update: Travel opens up between UK and dozens of long-haul destinations
- 'River of Lava' Spills After Canary Island Volcano's Cone Collapses
- Scotland Yard tlyaking 'no further action' over Prince Andrew allegations after review
- The Tories have persuaded voters there's a threat worse than fuel shortages
- A resentful UK plc hits back at Boris Johnson's conference business-bashing
- Johnson Says U.K. Moving Toward High Wage, High Skill Economy
- Trump had to be stopped from appointing Ivanka to run the World Bank
- Get 60 toilet rolls for under £16 - for today only!
- Horrifying body camera footage shows Ohio police dragging paraplegic man by his hair
- Portugal drops tests for fully vaccinated British travellers
- 'Spying more sophisticated than ever' after claim Russia stole Oxford vaccine
- Average GP working three-day week after 'worrying' drop in hours
- Prince Charles' beloved Aston Martin now runs on wine and cheese
- Conor McGregor highlights key reason for Tyson Fury's victory over Deontay Wilder
- A Trump-endorsed candidate for Arizona governor is claiming that the January 6 Capitol rioters were 'invited in by Capitol Police'
- We Finally Know How 43 Students on a Bus Vanished Into Thin Air
- Triads arrested in Hong Kong speedboat smuggling raids
- France calls for an EU-UK treaty on migrants
- Trump supporter predicts 'civil war coming' and Twitter runs with it
- Sinkhole causes traffic chaos on M5 and damages several vehicles
- Probation for man whose face touched woman's buttocks, filmed schoolmates in toilet
- PC 'targeted' and sexually abused primary school student over two years
- Monkey sounds, slurs and strobe lights target a Black family — but police say they're powerless to stop it
- A Massachusetts man removed his ankle monitor, faked his own death, and went on the run after trying to defraud the government out of \$543,000 in PPP funds

UK News

Black History Month 2021

London is proud of its diversity and the vibrancy this brings, both across the capital and in our local communities. That's why, during October, a huge range of events are being held across London to celebrate Black History Month - from creative writing workshops, celebration of local businesses and events specifically for children. Many are free and run throughout the day to enable everyone to attend.

A list of borough events can be found on our website, highlighting the breadth of activity occurring this month.

London pivotal in levelling up agenda
Speaking at the Conservative Party conference on Tuesday, Paul Scully, Minister for London, joined London Councils' event to discuss the importance of levelling up London.

HGVs meeting low emission standards
Ninety five percent of heavy goods vehicles, buses and coaches in London now meet the strict Low Emission Zone standards.

A new report published this week shows that since stricter standards for the London-wide Low Emission Zone (LEZ) were introduced in March this year, the number of heavy vehicles complying has increased from 87 per cent to 95 per cent – and has almost doubled since the scheme was first announced in February 2017.

Croydon: Borough's voters choose directly-elected Mayor system in referendum

Croydon Council will be led by a directly-elected Mayor (DEM) in future after voters expressed a strong preference for switching to the mayoral system at a local referendum held yesterday.

Of the 58,897 people who cast votes, an overwhelming 47,165 chose to adopt a mayoral model, while only 11,519 opted to retain the current leader-and-cabinet set-up, under which the council leader is elected by fellow councillors rather than by voters. Turnout was 21 per cent.

The referendum was held after a petition raised by pro-DEM campaigners last year secured enough signatures of borough electors, five per cent of them, to require the plebiscite to take place.

The leader of the Labour-run council at the time, Tony Newman, was opposed to switching to the mayoral system. However, following Newman's departure a year ago amid severe financial problems at the borough, his successor, Hamida Ali, took a more conciliatory approach.

Hackney, Lewisham, Newham and Tower Hamlets have had directly-elected Mayors since early this century, and governance referendums held in the latter two boroughs in May saw local electors vote strongly in favour of retaining them.

The workings of the mayoral system can vary, however, with power concentrated in the hands of a Mayor or devolved to councillors in different ways and to differing degrees. Croydon Council says its Mayor will appoint a cabinet and delegate powers to it "so that decisions are made collectively, as at present under the leader/cabinet model."

Both the mayoral and the leader-and-cabinet arrangements are termed executive models of governance, with most decision-making powers held at cabinet level.

Labour in Croydon has been divided over the governance question, with local MPs Steve Reed and Sarah Jones opposed to adopting the mayoral system while key activists in the south of the borough have favoured it, along with Croydon South Conservative MP Chris Philp.

The referendum petition was supported by a political coalition embracing Labour, a former UKIP candidate and residents' groups unhappy with the "growth borough" policies of the council under Newman, particularly its enthusiasm for more house-building in a borough that has experienced a rapid population increase.

Advocates argued that candidates seeking to become Mayor will have an interest in seeking support across the whole of the borough and tailoring policies accordingly, rather than concentrating their efforts on electoral wards they know they can win.

BORDER CROSSINGS



If you follow us on social media you have probably noticed rather a lot of commotion about a 4.5m high totem that has just arrived in the UK following a 9000km journey from Mexico.

Commissioned by Border Crossings' ORIGINS Festival and carved by Indigenous Totonac artist Jun Tiburcio, TOTEM LATAMAT is a messenger sent by the Totonac people. "Latamat" means "life" in Tutunakú, and the totem is expressive of Totonac spiritual ideas as they relate to the environment.

TOTEM LATAMAT is travelling to important cultural hubs across the UK, drawing powerful links between Indigenous experience and local heritage. The totem's destination is Glasgow for the 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) in November. Following COP26 it will be ceremonially returned to the Earth in Dumfries, emphasizing the cyclical and transient nature of life and art.

The totem's first stop was Chiswick House and Gardens in London where Kurikindi, a Shaman from the Amazon rainforest in Ecuador, blessed the hand-carved sculpture.

TOTEM LATAMAT is now at Milton Keynes Station Square until 11 October, after which it will head to Enfield Town.

Follow the totem's journey and plan your visit.



Pacific Arts Festival | 9 - 30 October
St Martin-in-the-Fields, London

If TOTEM LATAMAT has got you thinking about climate change and its impact on the world's Indigenous communities then ORIGINS' partner the PACIFIC ARTS FESTIVAL (9 - 30 October) may be your next stop in the lead up to COP26.

Showcasing both heritage and contemporary arts, including a wide variety of visual art that has never been on show before now, the exhibition will take visitors on a journey across the Pacific region, highlighting the impact climate change is having on these small island nations and how Pacific communities are fighting back.

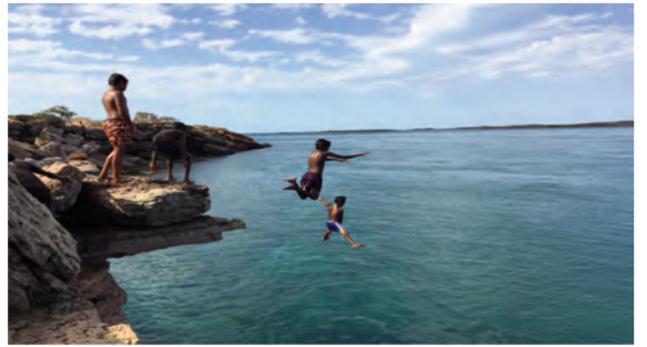
The Festival brings together communities from Fiji, Vanuatu, Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, as well as in the UK's large Pacific diaspora.

Produced and curated by Sulu Daunivalu, Katrina Talei Igglesden and Vanessa Eden.

Experience an Indigenous Mexican response to Climate

Border Crossing Programme (Cont.)

Undermined:
TALES FROM THE KIMBERLEY
The continued grabbing of natives' land by Australia



ORIGINS' collaboration with the Menzies Screening Series continues with UNDERMINED: TALES FROM THE KIMBERLEY, a vital documentary about the ongoing fight to save the vast Kimberley region of north-west Australia from an unprecedented land grab. After the film, we will be joined by the film's director, Nicholas Wrathall for a live Q&A.

UNDERMINED investigates the politics of an area now branded "the future economic powerhouse of Australia," and what this means for First People and their unique cultural landscapes. As pressure from industry exposes the limits of Indigenous land rights, what will remain of over 200 remote Aboriginal communities?

This online screening is free and open to all (including audiences outside the UK), and will take place live and online via Eventive.

Amazon Visions
6 November



Amazon Visions
6 November
Warwick Arts Centre,
Coventry

We're proud to be CHANGE FESTIVAL'S partner for Indigenous programming this year, presenting AMAZON VISIONS - a playful and provocative puppet performance from Peru.

Quechua theatre-maker José Navarro works with an exquisite cast of hand-made puppets to tell the story of the Peruvian Amazon, its extraordinary importance and its devastating destruction. This is a tale of the region's intricate links to the global ecosystem and to the Indigenous people who care for it.

Conservative MP Sir David Amess died after stabbing

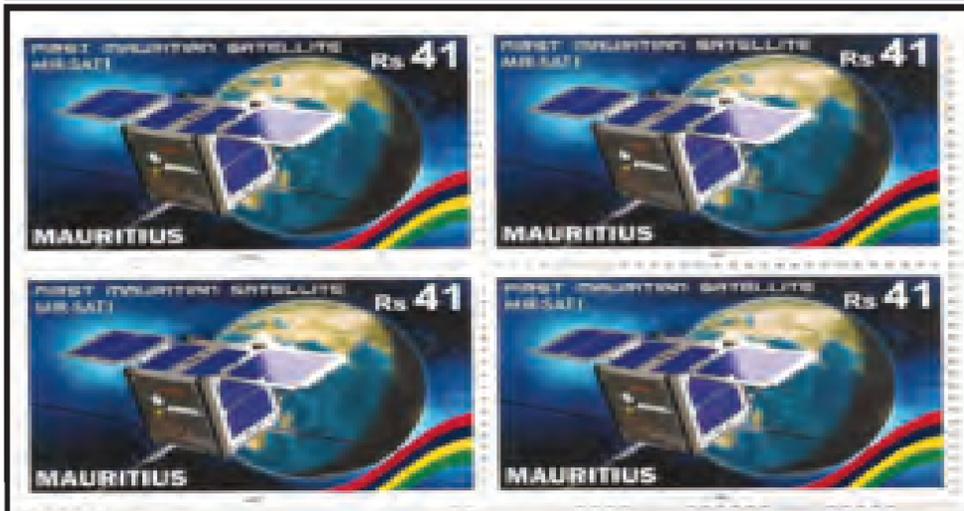


69 years old Sir David Amess, MP for Southend West, died while receiving treatment in hospital after being stabbed during a surgery session in his constituency on October 15.

A 25-year old energumen has been arrested on suspicion of murder.

Stamps of Mauritius

The Mauritius Posts Ltd issued a commemorative Rs 41 stamp on 7 October 2021 to mark the First Mauritian Satellite MIR-SAT 1 launched in Space on 21 June.



The Mauritius Posts Ltd issued a First Day Cover on 7 October which shows the front view of the completed MIR-SAT1, with both left and right solar panels stowed, and has an engraved map of Mauritius with a Dodo, just before the camera lens.

For the first time in its history the Republic of Mauritius has a spacecraft in space. It is indeed a historic event as our Republic is now known as a Space-Faring Nation. The launch of our satellite from the Kennedy Space Centre and its deployment from the International Space Station (ISS) through the Japan Experimental Module (JEM) Kibo Arm, was provided by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (JAXA) under the KiboCube Programme.

It all started in 2018, when a team of Mauritian engineers from the Mauritius Research and Innovative Council (MRIC) was awarded the first prize of the 3rd Round of the United Nations Office of Outer Space Affairs and Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency (UNOOSA/JAXA) KiboCube Programme for the best 1U-CubeSat design. The team established a close collaboration with AAC-ClydeSpace in Glasgow (UK), which provided significant help to the young team of Mauritian engineers to design, build and test the satellite.

Currently in orbit around Earth, the satellite is being operated and controlled by Mauritian engineers via state-of-the-art ground around control station at the RMIC. This ground station is equipped with a 'FlatSat' module, which is a replica of the 1U-CubeSat. This enables the engineers to simulate all the required manoeuvres before commanding the spacecraft.

The mission tasks of the satellite are described as follows:

- Verify the performance of the on-board subsystems by receiving telemetry from the satellite.
- Establish communication to and from the satellite (command and control).
- Ensure the on-board camera is operational.
- Experimental communication with other islands via the satellite (via the island-to-island communication module)
- Collect images of Mauritius and surrounding regions in the Mauritian Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) for capacity building, experiment and research.

Data Collection

Data collected from the satellite will be opened to the public and made available on the website: www.spacemauritius.com

The main objectives of this endeavour are to acquire satellite technology, knowledge and skill through the design, assembly, integration, testing and operation of the satellite. This in turn is used to build capacity in space/satellite technology with a view to initiating and inspiring the younger generations of the country in space technology. It is envisaged that such initiatives would spark younger generations to consider careers in new and emerging technologies, thus upheaving innovation in Mauritius.

Furthermore, with a view to ensuring sustainability of this first Space initiative, the MRIC is working towards developing a space Program which aims at creating opportunities for Mauritius as a Small Island Developing State to use Space as a socio-economic pillar in the coming decades.

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BOOK REVIEW

GOODREAD

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The Lincoln Highway

A Gentleman in Moscow, in 2016, everything changed.

Towles' first novel, Rules of Civility, was well-received and successful enough that it allowed Towles to retire from his career in finance and write full-time. But Gentleman basically went supernova, selling 1.5 million copies in hardback and earning rave reviews across the board.

It was a pleasant turn of events, to be sure, but it has also set up great expectations for Towles' new book, The Lincoln Highway, which hits shelves this month. We're happy to report that those great expectations have been entirely fulfilled.

The Lincoln Highway is, at once, a lovely set of character studies, a classic road trip odyssey, and a meditation on a very specific time in the American experiment. In June 1954, in nowhere-at-all Nebraska, we meet brothers Emmett and Billy, teenage fugitives Duchess and Woolly, professional hobo Ulysses, stalwart friend Sally, and the mysterious Professor Abernathy. Between Nebraska and New York City, we're treated to some harrowing boxcar adventures, a remarkably compelling circus performance, and the curious tale of the world's slipperiest 1948 Studebaker Land Cruiser. Oh, and the tornado story.

In fact, The Lincoln Highway is packed with stories—tales nested within yarns packed with legends. Central to the entire endeavor is a fictional tome you'll want to read yourself: Professor Abernathy's Compendium of Heroes, Adventurers, and Other Intrepid Travelers.

Titres de L'Actualité des journaux de Maurice

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After Breakshit it's Breakwind

No Drivers to move HGV bringing food from Europe



“ Em . . . Hello Ma'am, Boris here. I heard you drove trucks during the war ...?”
Sorry, Boris, no driving licence, anymore!

I'm fixing the obesity crisis via food shortages, the climate crisis via fuel shortages and sorting the pension deficit by killing all the old people. I just don't know what more I can do, Laura?

The public are just ungrateful bastards, Prime Minister

#BBCBreakfast
#R4today



Birthday Greetings

Max Louis de Canonville



Max celebrated his 87th birthday on October 2. Members of the Association Chrétienne de Londres (ACML) gave a reception in his honour at the social hall of the Notre Dame de France Catholic Church in Leicester Square.

As a founder member of the ACML since the 1960s Max is the most senior among the veterans of the Association.



We can say that the present President of the ACML, Jean Paul Anne (pictured right), is physically and literally 'head and shoulders' above veteran member Max Louis de Canonville.

Above pictures shared on the net multiple times

Du Jamais Vu

An Ambassador/ High Commissioner riding a bike in a host country



H.E. Mrs Nandini Singla riding in front of a group of cyclists

Mrs Singla was one of the 70 participants of the programme "Pédaler en Sécurité" ("Cycling in Safety) organised by the Ministry of Youth, the Mauritius Sports Council among others, including the Indian High Commission in Mauritius.

The purpose of the Cycling in Safety programme is to promote cycling in a safe environment, to do it as a leisure activity for physical fitness etc. The cyclists rode over a parcours of some 8 miles for the programme.

What a wonderful world! International Day of the Girl Child 2021



What a wonderful world, indeed, where young girls have to walk long distances barefoot to fetch water vital for survival.



The visible Prime Minister He is seen everywhere

