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COVER STORY

ANURAG SRIVASTAVA,
HIGH COMMISSIONER OF INDIA TO MAURITIUS

“India sees itself as a force for stability & balance in this turbulent environment”



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Anurag Srivastava, the Indian High Commissioner to Mauritius, sits down for his first press interview since arriving on the island eight months ago. Answering our questions, he shares his first impressions of Mauritius, outlines his diplomatic priorities, and explains how India intends to strengthen its partnership with Mauritius. From major infrastructure projects like the Metro Express and the new Civil Service College to climate initiatives such as electric buses and solar farms, the High Commissioner highlights the tangible results of cooperation. He also points to Mauritius’s strategic role at the intersection of India’s foreign policy priorities — Neighbourhood First, Africa Forward, the Global South, and Vision MAHASAGAR. Beyond trade and investment, he underlines the importance of people-to-people ties through scholarships, cultural exchanges, and the Overseas Citizen of India scheme, while reaffirming India’s commitment to maritime security and regional economic outreach via Mauritius. Bizweek offers its readers this exclusive interview with High Commissioner Anurag Srivastava.

Your Excellency, you’ve been posted in Mauritius for eight months now. How would you describe your experience so far, both as a diplomat and a resident of the island?

The eight months since my arrival in Mauritius have been both eventful and productive. Mauritius has lived up to my expectations, both professionally and at a personal level. It has been a busy time in the relationship. We have had several high-level and important visits, as well as extensive engagement with various stakeholders here. As a diplomat, I have seen our partnership strengthen further. As a resident, I have cherished the island’s warmth, beauty, and rich cultural tapestry, making this posting both an honour and a joy.

With your extensive diplomatic career across Asia, Africa, and multilateral platforms, how has your previous experience shaped your approach to deepening India-Mauritius ties?

The partnership between India and Mauritius is one-of-a-kind. We like to say that Mauritius falls at the confluence of four of our foreign policy priorities - Neighbourhood First (being a close maritime neighbour), Africa Forward, our commitment to the Global South and, of course, Vision SAGAR, now MAHASAGAR.

Each diplomatic posting is unique and requires its own skill sets and learning. Some of this learning comes from institutional memory, and some from one’s own lived experience.

My previous stint as Ambassador to Ethiopia & Djibouti and Permanent Representative to the African Union, and the experience of working with three countries in India’s neighbourhood, in a role with oversight over our development projects in countries of the Global South, ticked relevant boxes for this assignment.

In your welcome address earlier this year, you described Mauritius as one of the most successful examples of India’s development partnership. What makes the Mauritius model stand out, and what lessons can be drawn for India’s engagement with other partner countries?

Our development partnership has really flourished in Mauritius, and the outcome is there for everyone to see. There are big iconic projects like the Metro Express, Supreme Court building, ENT Hospital, Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation that dot the landscape. At the same time, there are smaller projects, what we call the High Impact Community Development Projects. These include playgrounds for children, upgrading green spaces, and clean energy projects for the community. Why does this model stand out? Because as our External Affairs Minister Dr. Jaishankar said in one of his visits here, “our collaboration changes the lives of ordinary citizens in this country”. It showcases how impactful well-conceived joint initiatives can be when implemented with a full sense of ownership. The difference, therefore, is largely in terms of both conceptualization of projects as well as their efficient implementation.

You mentioned the 100 electric buses initiative as a key example of sustainability cooperation in your very first speech. Could you share your sentiments on this?

This is a project close to our hearts. It showcases the joint commitment of India and Mauritius towards addressing the biggest challenge faced by our planet. We will be providing a total of 100 buses in this project under Indian grant assistance. These buses will be replacing diesel buses, thereby contributing meaningfully towards reducing carbon emission, reducing reliance on fossil fuels and enhancing overall commuter experience. Ten of these buses were handed over earlier this month. The rest will follow soon, and they will serve as moving symbols of our friendship and our joint commitment to a cleaner and greener planet.

Climate change is an existential concern for island

states. How can India’s climate financing, technology transfer and expertise help Mauritius build long-term resilience and energy security?

We have a strong and robust climate and green energy partnership which is supporting Mauritius in its energy transition and in building climate resilience. This partnership has produced projects like the 8 MW solar PV farm at Henrietta and other ongoing projects, including solar street lighting and a community solar farm in Rodrigues. We are, therefore, supporting Mauritius in achieving its climate commitments. You would know that India recently achieved a milestone in the form of a 50 per cent share of non-fossil sources in installed electricity capacity. This fulfils one of our major international climate commitments five years ahead of schedule. Our support for a greener Mauritius is also evident through our collaboration in initiatives like the International Solar Alliance, the Global Biofuels Alliance, and the Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure.

Having served as the Official Spokesperson of the Ministry of External Affairs, how do you view the evolving role of public diplomacy and strategic communication in shaping foreign relations today?

Public diplomacy and strategic communication have become central to foreign policy and diplomacy in present times. I say this because we all know how narratives shape global agendas, particularly on subjects like climate, technology and conflicts, and how misinformation – the bane of our times – and the misuse of AI can create havoc in our societies. Today, influencers, non-state actors, and even citizen journalists can shape perceptions faster than governments can respond. Therefore, in this interconnected world, foreign policy success depends as much on effective communication as on smart negotiations.

As Official Spokesperson, I had the opportunity to not only witness all of these from close quarters, but also work in bringing about a paradigm shift in our approach to media and public outreach.

What are your top three priorities as India’s High Commissioner to Mauritius for the remainder of your tenure?

As High Commissioner, my foremost priority would be to ensure that the relationship attains greater heights in keeping with the vision of our leaders. This would involve further strengthening our traditional areas of partnership like maritime security and cultural exchanges, as well as specific focus on others.

Firstly, revitalizing our capacity building cooperation by fostering linkages between educational institutions and offering more training and scholarship opportunities to students and professionals. Second, I would say unleashing the potential of our economic partnership by unlocking CECPA, making financial interoperability a reality between our two economies through seamless digital payments and an operational local currency settlement system. And last, but not least, reinforcing our people to people ties.

The priority there is to create lasting frameworks through better connectivity between our countries and our peoples. This is not merely through physical connectivity, but through arrangements which reinforce our ‘Dil ka Rishta,’ like the Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) card scheme. I would like to see more and more Mauritians benefit from the power of the OCI card, which is like a lifelong visa to India, and much more. In fact, through this medium, I would like to encourage all those readers who fulfil the criteria for these cards to reach out to us so that we can help them get this permanent connection to India.

The Indian Ocean remains a strategically vital space for both India and Mauritius. How would you describe the current state of India-Mauritius cooperation in maritime security?

Our cooperation in maritime security has been

exceptional. For India and Mauritius, the Indian Ocean is our home. It is where our opportunities and future lie. Especially for Mauritius, as a Big Ocean State, it makes sense to look toward the ocean. While the potential is huge, Mauritius, like other countries, also faces many challenges, especially illegal fishing and drug trafficking. So, we are constantly working with Mauritius for a safer, secure and more prosperous Indian Ocean.

With growing regional concerns around illegal fishing, piracy, and maritime trafficking, how are India and Mauritius collaborating to ensure a safe and rules-based maritime environment?

We collaborate in this domain by provisioning defence assets and supporting capacity building of personnel and institutions in Mauritius. India has supplied platforms like CGS Barracuda, CGS Valiant, helicopters, and a Dornier aircraft. These are, of course, important, but we feel training and capacity building also play a central role in putting this equipment to good use. Apart from these, the Indian Navy and the Mauritius Coast Guard also undertake joint surveillance and patrolling of Mauritius’ Exclusive Economic Zone. We are also helping Mauritius set up a National Maritime Information Centre, as well as collaborating in other initiatives for better maritime domain awareness. Together, these create a reliable ecosystem to ensure the protection and safety of our maritime environment.

You noted Mauritius’s role as a stable and respected offshore market economy. How is India looking to leverage Mauritius as a hub for trade, finance, and investment – not just bilaterally, but for regional outreach to Africa?

Our trade cooperation is age-old. It started when many traders from India arrived on the Mauritian shores. Over the years, India has remained one of the largest trading partners of Mauritius. In fact, CECPA is India’s first preferential trade agreement with any African country. Our technological capabilities in FinTech and in digital payments are also advancing, and we have regularly shared them with Mauritius. Mauritius is the first African country to adopt our leading FinTech solutions – UPI and RuPay cards.

The location of Mauritius, its membership of regional economic blocs and the opportunities that it offers as a party to the African Continental Free Trade Agreement, among others, open up several


Mauritius is the first African country to adopt our leading FinTech solutions – UPI and RuPay cards.


possibilities. For example, there is significant potential to explore how Indian investments into Africa could be strategically restructured to route through Mauritius. Or how Mauritius could be a key facilitator for Indian enterprises targeting the African market. As I said, the possibilities are immense, and it could lead to transformative economic outcomes for all stakeholders.

With the CECPA now in force, are there discussions to expand or deepen its provisions to unlock further trade and services potential?

Signing CECPA was a key moment in our partnership. The CECPA opens exciting avenues for collaboration

in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence, sustainable infrastructure, agribusiness, fintech, renewable energy, pharmaceuticals, and education. These areas align with Mauritius' priorities and offer immense potential for mutually beneficial partnerships.

We have been working with the Mauritian Government to improve the ease of trade through CEEPA. More recently, the Mauritian Cabinet approved a further duty reduction under the Agreement. This is an important step. We are also planning a Joint Committee meeting between our two sides to strengthen cooperation. We look forward to further liberalization and discussion between both sides to successfully realize CEEPA's full potential.

India and Mauritius share a rich cultural heritage and strong diaspora ties. Are there any upcoming educational or cultural initiatives under the Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR) or other platforms?

Our cultural connections are made stronger by our educational exchanges. The India-Mauritius educational partnership enjoys a special place in our bilateral relationship. Over the last few decades, we have tried to keep this great legacy of this partnership alive. We have offered scholarships from the Indian Council of Cultural Relations in fields as diverse as law, accountancy, philosophy, traditional Indian medicine, dance and music to Mauritian students. We have been doing so not only to honour this legacy, but also to build bridges that connect knowledge with opportunity, culture with curiosity, and hearts with horizons.

Information on scholarships offered to Mauritian students through ICCR is put out in March/April every year. It can be accessed on our social media platforms and website. I would like to encourage students to avail of these opportunities for affordable, quality education in top-notch Indian institutions.

How is the High Commission supporting Mauritian youth in accessing higher education opportunities in India, especially through scholarships, exchange programs, or digital learning platforms?

It's not just the well-known ICCR scholarships; we also have other special scholarships and exchange programmes available. A great example is the AYUSH Scholarship Scheme, which supports courses in traditional Indian medicine and wellness, like Yoga and Ayurveda. Our Know India Programme, which provides Mauritian youth an exposure to India and to our shared heritage, always receives an enthusiastic response from the Mauritian youth. In fact, in the last 12 months alone, 372 Mauritians travelled to India to avail of fully paid training opportunities; 89 Mauritians received Indian educational scholarships; and 58 young people visited India to participate in various youth programmes.

My very first event here was the send-off for six Mauritian youth who participated in our Republic Day camp as part of our NCC Youth Exchange Programme, in which Mauritius has been participating since 2022. This programme provides a unique opportunity to meet our Prime Minister.

We are witnessing a turbulent geopolitical environment from ongoing conflicts in Europe and the Middle East. How is India navigating this evolving global order while maintaining its strategic autonomy?

Indeed, we are living in a time of significant geopolitical flux. By preserving strategic autonomy and deepening our global partnerships through multi-alignment, India seeks not just to adapt to the changing world order, but to help shape it towards peace, dialogue and shared prosperity. We see ourselves as a force for stability and balance in this turbulent environment. At the same time, we have been de-risking our external exposure as well as building internal capabilities in technology, health, and manufacturing under our Prime Minister's vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat (self-reliant India). We see this

as a strategic necessity. It is essential for navigating global volatility with confidence.

India has positioned itself as a voice of the Global South, especially during its G20 presidency. How is that positioning influencing India's current diplomatic priorities and its relationships with small island nations like Mauritius?

Vision MAHASAGAR lays out our vision for the Global South. This vision is built on core pillars like Trade for Development, Capacity Building for Sustainable Growth, and Mutual Security. It's a clear sign of our commitment to the Global South, and that definitely includes Mauritius. In fact, we've held the Voice of Global South Summit three times, and Mauritius has participated every single time. We have also held two Global South Young Diplomat Forums with diplomats from all across the Global South. India has created "Dakshin," the Global South Excellence Centre, a think tank working on capacity building, skilling, and knowledge sharing among the Global South. When India held the presidency of the G20, we created the G20 agenda based on the hopes, aspirations, and priorities of the Global South. A key example of this was the African Union being made a permanent member of the G20. These are a few examples of our commitment to the Global South.

Over the years, India has remained one of the largest trading partners of Mauritius.

As you continue your mission in Mauritius, what message would you like to share with the Mauritian public, the business community, and our readers about the next chapter in India-Mauritius relations?

As our Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said during his March visit, Mauritius is not just a trusted partner, it is family to us, because our nations are connected by our shared kinship, history, heritage, and values. These links give us a strong foundation to work together. My message, therefore, to the Mauritian public, the business community, and your esteemed readers is one of partnership, progress, and shared prosperity. I am confident that we are on a collective journey towards a brighter future anchored in trust, opportunity, and mutual prosperity.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Mauritius in March, on the occasion of the country's National Day, was widely seen as a reaffirmation of the special relationship between our two nations. From your perspective, what were the key outcomes of that visit?

PM Modi's state visit to Mauritius was very significant and historic. The visit took place at the invitation of PM Navin Ramgoolam, and PM Modi participated as the chief guest at the National Day celebrations. The date, March 12, holds significance for both India and Mauritius. For India, it is the day Mahatma Gandhi started his Dandi March, and Mauritius specially chose this day in deference to Mahatma Gandhi. Since 2000, it was the eighth time an Indian dignitary participated as the chief guest. It was PM Modi's second visit to Mauritius in 10 years, and Mauritians welcomed him with great excitement and warmth. In fact, we held a community reception with enthusiastic participation from the Indian diaspora and friends of India from all walks of life. As part of the celebration, we also had an Indian marching contingent at the National Day parade, and INS Imphal made a port call at Port Louis.

The visit was also important because a new government had recently taken over in Mauritius. It provided an opportunity for early engagement between the leaders and helped set the direction of our partnership for the next few years.

The visit also kicked off a new era for our partnership. It led to the elevation of our ties to an Enhanced Strategic Partnership. The first such strategic partnership with a neighbouring country. The 2025 visit also turned out to be a historic moment for Indian foreign policy. Vision SAGAR was expanded to a broader Vision MAHASAGAR, which stands for 'Mutual and Holistic Advancement for Security and Growth Across Regions.' These developments reflect the importance of our partnership with Mauritius, not just bilaterally, but also in our overall foreign policy.

How did the visit contribute to reinforcing India's strategic and people-to-people ties with Mauritius, especially in terms of new agreements, funding support, or symbolic gestures?

Our bonds of shared history and heritage have been carried forward into modern times, resulting in a robust, multifaceted bilateral relationship. Further strengthening this comprehensive partnership was a subject of discussion between the Prime Ministers during the visit.

The Prime Ministers jointly inaugurated 22 projects during the visit. The highlight was the Civil Service College, which has been renamed the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation. They also inaugurated an Area Health Centre in Cap Malheureux. This inauguration followed other health projects we have inaugurated over the last year, such as the Mediclinic at Grand Bois, the Area Health Centre at New Grove, and the world's first overseas Janaushadhi Kendra for affordable medicines. The Prime Ministers also inaugurated 20 Community Development Projects, which will bring grassroots-level infrastructure and tangible benefits to Mauritians.

The visit laid the groundwork for collaboration in more diverse sectors. We exchanged eight Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) in areas including financial crime prevention, promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises (SMEs), public service capacity building, maritime security, and local currency trade.

What follow-up initiatives have been undertaken by the High Commission since the visit to ensure that the commitments made during the State visit translate into concrete outcomes on the ground?

I mentioned the India-Mauritius Joint Vision for an Enhanced Strategic Partnership which was agreed upon during the visit and which sets the agenda for our relationship for the next few years. The joint vision envisages enhanced cooperation in a wide range of fields, including health, capacity building, space, education, maritime security, and disaster management.

We are working with our Mauritian colleagues to make this vision a reality. As you would have seen, we recently delivered the first batch of 10 e-buses to Mauritius. We also handed over anti-drug equipment during the visit of Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri last month. Other projects are in various stages of implementation. For example, India has a very successful space program led by ISRO, and we are building a joint satellite with Mauritius that should be launched into space in the next few months. Work is also progressing well on the Renal Transplant Unit, the Forensic Science Laboratory, and the National Archives and Library.

We are also working to operationalise India's support of MUR 500 million for another set of Community Development Projects. This will continue our endeavour to take our collaboration to the doorstep of every Mauritian citizen. India's support for the construction of a new Parliament building was also announced during the visit. This will be a shining example of our shared democratic values.

DIPLOMACY

HENRY JARDINE, U.S. AMBASSADOR TO MAURITIUS

“U.S. provided over \$1 million in International Military Education & Training”

The U.S. Embassy in Port Louis stressed its growing collaboration with Mauritius in law enforcement, security, and capacity-building during a press briefing on Thursday. The event highlighted training programmes, international exchanges, and joint investigations. It also marked the end of FBI Supervisory Special Agent Leah Tanner’s 18-month tenure in Mauritius.



From left to right: Chief Inspector Shezad Nazeerally, Central CID, Mauritius; Beth Creason, Public Affairs Officer of the U.S. Embassy in Mauritius; U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Turqan, Chief Officer of Security Cooperation; H.E. Henry Jardine, U.S. Ambassador to Mauritius; Jared Lucero, Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Embassy; Leah Tanner, FBI Supervisory Special Agent; and Nandita Suneechur, Director of the Education and Preventive Division at the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC), Mauritius.

U.S. Ambassador Henry Jardine opened the press briefing by stressing the importance of U.S.-Mauritius collaboration. “We have the entire team from the embassy here that’s working on issues related to law enforcement, as well as security cooperation. This press meeting also marks the end of Leah Tanner’s (FBI Supervisory Special Agent) tenure in Mauritius. We want to talk about what she has accomplished, but also more broadly about the work we’re all doing here,” he said.

Ambassador Jardine underlined the scale of U.S. support over the past year. More than 800 Mauritian officials have benefited from training in various security and law enforcement-related programmes supported by the United States. A further 21 participants attended international training sessions in the United States and regionally, including at the International Law Enforcement Academy in Botswana.

“Through the Office of Security Cooperation, we have provided over a million dollars in International Military Education and Training, with a focus on maritime security and disaster response,” he explained. He also noted that these initiatives extend to joint operations and specialised training, including forensics and investigations, reflecting the consistent engagement between the two countries.

The ambassador also highlighted upcoming opportunities: “Two Mauritian law enforcement officers are going to join hundreds of top law enforcement officials from more than 100 countries in Nashville, Tennessee, next week, to meet and discuss innovative ways to expand international cooperation against organized drugs. In September, three more law enforcement officers will travel to Botswana for courses on cybercrime and child exploitation investigations.”

He emphasised that U.S. assistance was not limited to technical training but also sought to strengthen institutional resilience and governance. “This is reflective of the variety and consistent engagement we continue to do here in Mauritius. It is a global problem that requires global cooperation. We commend our Mauritian partners and look forward to strengthening this important relationship,” Ambassador Jardine concluded.

FBI's Role in Mauritius

FBI Supervisory Special Agent Leah Tanner reflected on her assignment, which she described as one of the most rewarding of her career. “My role has been very broad, but much of it has been capacity building. I worked closely with the FCC, MPF, MRA, FIU, and the DPP’s office – sitting with them, going through cases, identifying links to the U.S., and exploring opportunities for joint investigations,” she said.

Leah Tanner explained that her work went beyond classroom training. She spent considerable time mentoring investigators and prosecutors directly, offering guidance on cybercrime, financial crime, and asset recovery cases. She also facilitated connections between Mauritian institutions and U.S. agencies to speed up information exchange and ensure smoother cooperation on cross-border investigations. “We found many areas where we will continue working, even after I leave. We have other colleagues from the FBI who will continue to provide support, so this is not the end but a continuation of the path we’ve built together,” she added.

She described the openness of her Mauritian counterparts as central to the success of her posting. “We have a really good path forward, thanks to our partners working so closely with me and opening their doors so that we could find ways to continue to work together,” she noted.

Security and Defence Cooperation

Jared Lucero, Regional Security Officer at the U.S. Embassy, described his responsibilities: “I am in charge of the safety and security of the embassy and the diplomats, but also of the law enforcement relationship with Mauritius. My job is to bring in professionals such as Leah, the DEA, and others, to ensure collaboration against transnational organized crime and make both Mauritius and the U.S. safer.”

Lieutenant Commander Muhammad Turqan, Chief of the Office of Security Cooperation, added: “My office is responsible for all Department of Defence-executed security assistance in Mauritius. This spans maritime security, disaster response,

and even health programmes, focusing on training, combined operations, delivery of services, and equipment.”

Mauritian Perspectives

Nandita Suneechur, Director of the Education and Preventive Division at the FCC, emphasised the significance of the partnership. “Financial crime is fast evolving in complexity. It is important for us to have a collaborative strategy with international partners, and one of them is the FBI,” she said. She credited Tanner’s mentorship for improving prosecutions, asset recovery, cybercrime expertise, and investigative practices. “The FBI has been with us throughout, and we are very thankful to the U.S. Embassy and Leah Tanner. We look forward to this continued partnership.”

Chief Inspector Shezad Nazeerally, head of the Combating Trafficking in Persons Unit at the Central CID, also expressed gratitude. “I thank the U.S. Embassy for enhancing cooperation in law enforcement and capacity building, and Leah Tanner for her immense contribution,” he said. He explained that his unit tackles sexual exploitation, child labour, and child trafficking cases, while also leading awareness campaigns. “I work very much on the three E’s – to educate, engage, and enforce – so that the community can combat human trafficking collectively.” Nazeerally also highlighted his recent participation in the International Visitors Leadership Program (IVLP) in the United States.

Ongoing Partnership

Beth Creason, Public Affairs Officer at the U.S. Embassy, noted the “vast range of training and opportunities that our colleagues have put together, both abroad and here in Mauritius.”

Ambassador Jardine closed the session by reaffirming U.S. commitment to assisting Mauritius: “This is reflective of the consistent engagement we continue to do here in Mauritius. It is a global problem that requires global cooperation. We commend our Mauritian partners and look forward to strengthening this important relationship.”

DIPLOMACY

Providing recognition to informants is a common practice, says FBI agent in Mauritius

- “It is important for it to be regulated so we know where the funds are going,” said Leah Tanner, FBI Supervisory Special Agent, who has served in Mauritius for the past year and a half.
- U.S. recommends whistleblowing and freedom of information systems to boost government transparency.
- “We’ve had the DEA here several times to explore how we can assist with the transition to a new Drug Enforcement Agency, which the government (of Mauritius) is intent on establishing.”



Journalists attending the press conference at the U.S. Embassy in Port Louis on Thursday took part in a Q&A session with U.S. Ambassador to Mauritius Henry Jardine and Leah Tanner, an FBI Supervisory Special Agent who has been posted in Mauritius for the past year and a half. The discussion focused on combating drug trafficking, reward mechanisms for informants, the importance of a whistleblowing framework, and collaboration between the FBI and Mauritian investigative bodies. Bizweek brings to you the key features of the Q&A session.

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Le Mauricien – Could the Ambassador tell us more on the cooperation between the U.S. and Mauritius on combatting drug trafficking?

Ambassador Henry Jardine – I know that the issue of narcotics is a concern here in Mauritius. It certainly comes up quite a lot in our conversation

with counterparts on the government side or law enforcement, but also in the private sector as well. We often see many Mauritians saying that this is one of the more significant issues they see. So, one of the resources we have is our Drug Enforcement Agency, and as I mentioned, next week, there’s going to be a program that the Drug Enforcement Agency is doing through the International Drug Enforcement Conference. Two individuals from Mauritius will be going to Nashville, Tennessee, for this conference. The opportunity is to understand what the global trends are, to learn about techniques and procedures to deal with some of these broader global issues, but also build relationships with counterparts in other countries that are dealing with this. This is a global problem, and it requires global cooperation.

In addition, we’ve had the DEA come here on a number of occasions to look at where they can be supportive of ADSU (Anti-Drug and Smuggling Unit),

but also see how we can help in this transition that’s happening to a new drug enforcement agency that I know the government’s intent on doing.

The other thing we try to do is see how we can be supportive of the forensics efforts that are ongoing through the forensics lab. In the past, the DEA has helped in providing equipment to the local forensics lab here and training on forensics to the officials. The other thing that we try to do is provide intelligence. So, if we have information about potential drugs or nexus that would have relevance to Mauritius, we try to provide that information. We also try to work very closely with regional bodies that are working on this issue. The Regional Coordination Operations Centre has been heavily involved in helping to support interdictions at sea. I think you may have seen reports of instances where they’ve been able, through coordination of maritime assets in this region, to stop Iranian dhows that were transporting heroin into the

region, not just to Mauritius, but also to Seychelles and elsewhere. So that intelligence sharing, not only with Mauritius, but through regional bodies, is happening as well.

The Office of Security Cooperation works to develop that maritime domain awareness. Since a large portion of narcotics and drugs that are coming to Mauritius and into the region are coming over the water, the work that our security cooperation does tangentially, in a related way, impacts or helps in addressing that drug issue because they're providing or supporting training related to domain awareness, which helps in that regard. Our Cutlass Express exercises help in discrete skills, collaboration and regional cooperation on interdictions of illegal activity. Every year, there's exercises in the boarding of vessels and searching of vessels, etc.

If you recall previous years, there were two series of ministerial meetings looking at maritime security and regional cooperation on narcotics. At that point, Mauritius signed on to a global initiative looking at stopping or countering synthetic drugs. We've been also trying to see how we can be supportive of Mauritius's commitment to addressing synthetic drugs, what we can do in training, providing guidance and advice on identifying some of the samples that are being found. I know that one of the challenges with some of the synthetics is that they're seeing new synthetics coming into Mauritius, and so identifying those and sharing information, again through DEA and other offices, help in that regard.

As you can see, there's a host of different areas where we are trying to provide support and assistance across a spectrum of approaches when it comes to addressing the issue of illegal drugs and narcotics here.

Bizweek – We have two questions. What are the main challenges in Mauritius with regard to combating drug trafficking? And without referring to any specific cases, we would like to have your views on the issue of reward money. What is the FBI's position on offering reward money to informants?

Leah Tanner, FBI Supervisory Special Agent - In terms of narcotics trafficking, the challenges here, I think, as the ambassador talked about, is that there are so many ways for narcotics to get to Mauritius, whether it's by plane or by boat, and you have a very wide area to handle because of that. Part of the challenge is that it's usually not just one or two small things coming in. This is part of a very large criminal organization, typically, and those run internationally. This is why we do a lot of focus, with the MPF, on transnational organized crime, because it is not one person, one Mauritian citizen. We are talking about people from countries on the other side of the world, the US, the UK, Asia. etc. When you have that many countries and money going through even more countries, you need a lot of help to do that. So, that is a big challenge for a small country to be able to have access and contacts in all those different places to get all the information you need to really work on those cases.

That is where we try to come in as the US Government, whether it's the FBI, DEA, Department of Defence. We have more of those resources and people in all those places. That is where we try to identify where we can work on this together, and whether there are U.S. citizens involved or not.

This is something we care about. Drugs are moving through the U.S., money is moving through the U.S., and I think a challenge here is it's a small island without necessarily the access to all these places. That's where we can come in and provide a lot of that assistance for some of those cases, even if it's just a matter of me having a contact in the Philippines, where some of the money went. I can make a call and say, 'what do you know about this? Can we share some information with the MPF?' It allows for that free flow of information.

We found a way to really work together and start building a good network so we can help you with that. The officers over at the MPF and the Commissioner of Police have been fantastic at really opening doors and finding ways we can keep doing that.

Bizweek – And the second question regarding reward money...

Leah Tanner - I will just speak in general, not about anything specific to Mauritius. In general, it is not an uncommon practice for law enforcement to provide some sort of recognition to informants or individuals who provide assistance. It is something that helps us in our investigations. You sometimes need to provide incentive for people, especially when it's maybe not in their best interest to provide that information. So, it is something that is definitely a tactic we use in the United States.



We've had the support of the FBI in enhancing our capacity



It is important for it to be regulated so that you can ensure you know where the funds are going. It's also something that we want to make sure the money is going to the right places. From an overall standpoint, it is something that most countries do. It's just a matter of how it's done and making sure it's being done properly, with the right protocols in place.

Bizweek – From your time here, how do you assess our whistleblowing system? Do you see areas where it could be improved?

Leah Tanner - I would let the ambassador speak to this as well. I know he's had discussions at a much higher level than me. I know there is a significant desire here in Mauritius to focus on more formal development of a Whistleblower Protection Act. We have that in the United States. It is very important to protect those who are coming forward to provide information in sensitive cases, whether it's corruption or some type of victim-centred crime, which can be very difficult for someone. Having a very established law and protections for people is very important because the people who are really going to help you make your case, if you have protections for them and they feel supported, they will provide you information. They are so crucial for us to identify cases and move those cases forward for prosecution. I think it is incredibly important, and I know from my discussions with agencies and from different meetings that there is a very big need, and a push, here in Mauritius, to do just that.

Ambassador Henry Jardine – From the U.S. perspective, a whistleblower is one approach to providing transparency and accountability, and I think you need to have a multi-layered approach. What we'd recommend, generally, as a best practice, is having different systems in place, such as whistleblowers and a Freedom of Information Act, which allows more opportunities for citizens to understand the decision-making processes of a government and why decisions were made.

The other approach we have in the United States is an Inspector General. Every agency typically has an Inspector General office. There are typically hotlines where people, anonymously, can report to inspector generals and provide information which will then be investigated. A Whistleblower Act or a system in place provides one method. Usually, you like to have multiple methods of ensuring transparency and accountability that provide good governance in general.

It's obviously a challenge at times for governments to have those in place, and governments can be sensitive about that. But, in the long run, it benefits all governments to be able to have some mechanism for allowing for that kind of transparency and accountability as part of a series of different tools and approaches.



Bizweek – Have there been any discussions between the Government of Mauritius and the United States regarding the establishment of a Whistleblower Act?

Ambassador Henry Jardine – What I'm responding to is just some general observations from the US Government on how we typically try to implement these kinds of activities, and the general understanding of the best practices is to have multiple mechanisms for bringing accountability and transparency. We all struggle with it. It's always a challenge to have these systems in place, but again, they help in ensuring government services and government functioning.

Radio One – You mentioned the Freedom of Information Act. Have you had any discussions with the Government of Mauritius on this?

Ambassador Henry Jardine – I have not raised it with the government recently. I know it's been an issue of discussion, but in general, these kinds of mechanisms help in providing more accountability, more visibility. It depends. Each country has to decide what's the best approach for implementing something like that and what that might look like. But these kinds of mechanisms help to bring a bit of transparency to government privacy procedures and processes. I'd like to give Nandita an opportunity to jump in.

Nandita Suneechur (FCC) – Under the Financial Crimes Commission Act, we have reinforced provisions regarding protection of informers and protection of witnesses. The Financial Crimes Commission Act is a new legislation, and the actual enhanced provision is regarding a witness protection scheme which is being developed at the moment in collaboration with the UNODC.

We had a working session, two weeks ago, with representatives of the UNODC, the Solicitor General's Office, the Mauritius Revenue Authority and the Mauritius Police Force. This initial discussion was on the development of a witness protection scheme.

Top FM – We know that financial crimes tend to be very complex, and they differ from case to case. How has the FBI helped in providing the right guidance to tackle those complex financial crimes? Especially since the FCC is the main entity which addresses financial data.

Nandita Suneechur (FCC) – We have had guidance from the FBI in terms of case mentoring, in terms of putting us in relation to specific experts and relevant authorities to discuss issues and challenges, highlighting best practices and providing support in the development of special investigative techniques. In so many ways, we've had the support of the FBI in enhancing our capacity.

DIPLOMACY

GLOBAL INTERNET SYSTEM

U.S. voices concern over attempts to hinder Mauritius in safeguarding AFRINIC's independence

- “We have some serious questions as to why that’s happening and where it’s coming from,” says U.S. Ambassador Henry Jardine.
- “I would seek, and I would hope, that the Mauritian government continues in its efforts to preserve the integrity of AFRINIC,” he added.



Henry Jardine,
U.S. Ambassador to Mauritius

The U.S. Ambassador responded to a question from Bizweek during a press conference held at the U.S. Embassy in Port Louis on Thursday, on the ongoing legal battle involving the African Network Information Centre (AFRINIC), headquartered in Mauritius. AFRINIC has been placed into receivership by Seychelles-based Cloud Innovation Ltd. The Mauritian government subsequently launched an investigation into the company, which is now contesting the probe in court. Henry Jardine stressed that the United States is closely monitoring the situation and views developments concerning AFRINIC with concern. “What we want to ensure is an open, transparent, democratic process in the management of the global Internet system,” he said. Below is the Q&A between Bizweek and the U.S. Ambassador on the AFRINIC issue.

R.V.

Bizweek – Ambassador, can we have your views on the ongoing legal struggle surrounding AFRINIC, which is a continental Internet registry for Africa, in the broader context of global Internet governance in today’s geopolitical landscape?

Ambassador Henry Jardine – We have been following very closely the issues of AFRINIC and what I am stating is the U.S. Government’s perspective on Internet governance globally. What we want to ensure – not just the United States, but the global community – is an open, transparent, democratic process of management of the global Internet system. That’s the intent

behind it having a diffused, stakeholder-driven process. It’s democratic.

AFRINIC is a regional Internet registry. Its responsibility is essentially the distribution of IP addresses to people who need one for their organizations, like telecom providers, hotels, basically companies who need IP addresses. The intent behind that is not to make money. The idea is that this is a public service, a public good, for the people here in Africa.

AFRINIC serves Africa. So, the IP addresses should be for African people, for the African community. It should not be for profit and should not be exploited. The intent behind AFRINIC was that it would do this as a nonprofit, as part of a sort of global Internet management system.

We obviously see with concern what has happened with AFRINIC – which has been sued and then put into receivership – and we are very concerned about what’s happening with some of these cases. The intent was for there to be an election, in June, for a new board. I understand there were allegations of tampering, potentially of efforts to mismanage, or to influence the decisions of the board or the election of board members.

We would call for transparency, ensuring that AFRINIC is preserved here in Mauritius. We very much commend the Government of Mauritius and its efforts to try to ensure that AFRINIC is independent and operates effectively,

I understand there were allegations of efforts to influence the election of board members

transparently, and we really have serious concerns about efforts to prevent the Mauritian government from being able to do that. I think what the Mauritian government is trying to do is ensure that AFRINIC, as part of this open, transparent, democratic, stakeholder-driven part of the governance of the Internet, can remain as such here in Mauritius. I think efforts to undercut that are really concerning and very detrimental, and I have some serious questions as to why that’s happening and where it’s coming from. I would seek and I would hope that the Mauritian government continues in its efforts to preserve the integrity of AFRINIC.

NEWS

Stewards Investment Capital Highlights \$190 Million Acquisition of 1818 Park by Strategic Partner FAVO Capital

Stewards Investment Capital, a boutique investment advisory firm with a 25-year track record across Africa and the United States, highlighted a major milestone by its strategic partner, FAVO Capital Inc., which has completed the \$190 million all-stock and assumption-of-liabilities acquisition of 1818 Park, a premier Class-A mixed-use property in downtown Hollywood, Florida.

This milestone transaction underscores the strength of Stewards' U.S. platform and marks a defining step in FAVO's diversification strategy – integrating stabilized, income producing real estate alongside its growing private credit business. By combining real estate and private credit under one integrated platform, Stewards and FAVO are building a resilient, diversified investment model designed to deliver long-term value. *"By uniting the growth potential of private credit with the strength of high-end real estate, our partnership is shaping a distinctive platform that sets a new standard in the global investment landscape,"* said Bilal Adam, CEO of Stewards Investment Capital. *"These strategic developments not only expand*

our global footprint, but also highlight our enduring commitment to innovation and long-term value creation. I extend my sincere thanks and congratulations to our U.S. team for their exceptional execution and express our deep appreciation to the market for its continued confidence and support." The acquisition of 1818 Park builds on a partnership between Stewards and FAVO that began in 2023. Since then, the alliance has broadened global access for Stewards' investors, attracted a major investment from one of South Africa's largest pension funds, and accelerated FAVO's growth through acquisitions such as Believe Call Center and Lendtech CRM Solutions. *"1818 Park is a natural extension of our shared vision to build a diversified*

investment platform," said Glen Steward, Chairman of Stewards Investment Capital and Chief Strategy Officer of FAVO Capital. *"By combining the predictable cash flows of high-quality real estate with the dynamic growth of private credit, we are creating a balanced portfolio designed to perform across market cycles."* *"This acquisition is more than a real estate play – it's a deliberate step to strengthen our balance sheet and broaden the collateral base that underpins our private credit business,"* added Shaun Quin, President of FAVO Capital. *"With a stronger asset position, we can secure larger, more competitive financing lines, expand our lending capacity, and deliver greater value to the SMBs and shareholders we serve."*



Risk Governance in the Age of Emerging Technologies: MloD Mobilizes Leaders Around Collective Vigilance

The Risk Governance Forum of the Mauritius Institute of Directors (MloD), in collaboration with EY Mauritius, held a session on Thursday, August 21, 2025, at the Hennessy Park Hotel in Ebene, entitled "Risk Governance in the Age of Emerging Technologies." Dedicated to the business community and risk management professionals, this event was designed as a strategic space for reflection on the technological shifts that are complicating and redefining organizational risk landscapes. In a world where generative artificial intelligence, autonomous systems, and decentralized infrastructures are profoundly reshaping operational models and accountability chains, risk governance must evolve. Organizations now face a new typology of risks – often invisible, interconnected, and multidimensional – ranging from algorithmic bias and the opacity of automated systems to data leaks, increased technological dependency, and a governance framework that must constantly reconfigure itself to remain relevant. In this context, the forum explored how risk committees, boards of directors, and executive leadership can adapt their analytical frameworks to better address this new reality. The challenge is no longer just identifying risks, but also interpreting them through lenses tailored to emerging technologies, to inform resilient, ethical decisions aligned with increasingly demanding governance standards. This dynamic came to life through a high-level panel discussion moderated by Anousha Sathan, General Manager at Currimjee Informatics Ltd (CINF). The panel brought together four speakers from key sectors:

- Sidharth Sharma, Group CEO of RHT



Holding Ltd

- Sudheer Prabhu, CTO of CIM Group
- Pravesh Gaonjur, COO at Tylers
- Atishay Sookun, Head of Digital Transformation at Alteo

Together, they addressed the specific vulnerabilities of industrial, financial, technological, and agri-industrial environments, while emphasizing the need to adopt adaptive governance frameworks based on a systemic and up-to-date understanding of risks. This cross-sector dialogue highlighted the importance of shared vigilance and transversal collaboration to face emerging challenges with clarity and foresight. *"We are at a critical turning point. Technological innovation must not overshadow the imperatives of responsibility, ethics, and*

transparency. Today, boards and leaders must deal with risks that didn't even exist a few years ago. Our responsibility, through the Risk Governance Forum, is to create strategic spaces for dialogue to understand these disruptions, bridge sectoral perspectives, and build governance approaches that are not just reactive, but resolutely forward-looking," Sheila Ujoodha, Chief Executive Officer of MloD and Chairperson of the Risk Governance Forum, stated. *"At the intersection of corporate governance and innovation, MloD reaffirms its commitment to catalyzing strategic thinking and encouraging cross-sector collaboration to proactively tackle these new challenges."* In an environment where technological innovation constantly redefines the rules of the

game, the ability to anticipate, question, and adapt risk governance practices has become a strategic skill. Launched in May 2024 with the support of its founding members – including ABC Banking Corporation, Alteo, CIEL Group, CIM Finance, Currimjee Group, Innodis, Leal Group, MCB Group, MUA, RHT Holding Ltd, and UBP – the Risk Governance Forum (RGF) serves as a compass for boards of directors and risk committees. It creates spaces for strategic dialogue, fosters the emergence of a systemic understanding of risk, and nurtures a culture of shared vigilance. This positioning helps guide the business community in structuring decision-making frameworks and risk management systems that are agile, ethical, and aligned with the realities of a world in constant flux.

BUSINESS

MCB FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

Selvyn Cuttignane et Divyesh Nath Ramsaha sont les nouveaux boursiers

Selvyn Cuttignane, du collège du St Esprit, et Divyesh Nath Ramsaha, du Mahatma Gandhi Institute, ont respectivement décroché la bourse d'étude 2024 et 2025 de la MCB Foundation. La cérémonie officielle de la présentation des lauréats a eu lieu le jeudi 21 août, au MCB Centre, à Port-Louis, en présence du ministre de l'Education, le Dr Mahend Gungapersad.

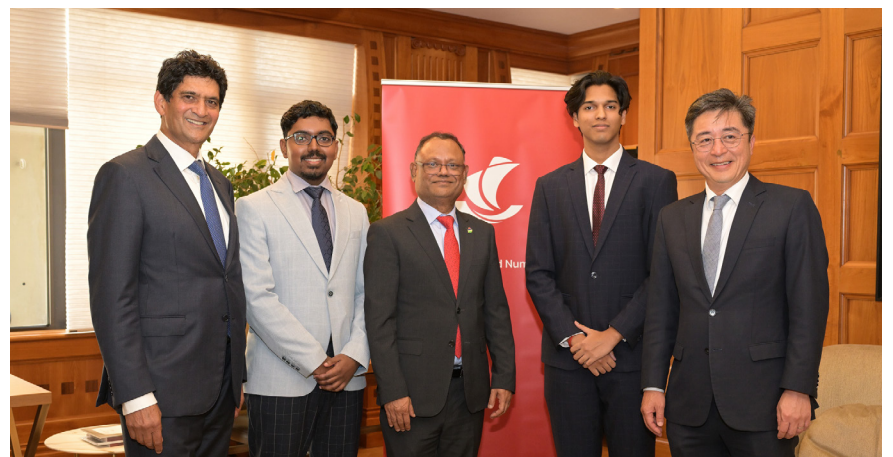
Les deux lauréats, âgés de 20 et 19 ans, ont brillé lors des examens du HSC de la cuvée 2023 et 2024, en étant classés 4es de la filière économie. Ils sont les 35e et 36e boursiers de la MCB Foundation Scholarship, une bourse d'étude universitaire instituée en 1988, en commémoration du 150e anniversaire de la MCB.

Selvyn Cuttignane s'est distingué par son engagement actif dans les activités extrascolaires, notamment en participant à la Model United Conference et à des concours de quiz. Il a été un membre dynamique des clubs de finance et d'écologie du collège du St Esprit. Il pratique aussi le Taekwondo depuis quatre ans et détient une ceinture rouge, ce qui témoigne de sa persévérance et de sa rigueur. L'étudiant poursuivra ses études à l'Université de Warwick, où il sera inscrit en Mathematics, Operational Research, Statistics, and Economics (MMORSE), et envisage une carrière dans le domaine de la finance. « Cette bourse est l'aboutissement de plusieurs années d'efforts et de constance. Elle

représente désormais le moyen pour moi d'étudier dans le pays de mes rêves, et me permet de me concentrer pleinement sur mes études, sans pression financière », explique le jeune homme.

Engagé sur tous les fronts

Divyesh Nath Ramsaha, quant à lui, s'est distingué par son engagement actif dans diverses activités extra-scolaires. Il a notamment participé à la conférence Model United Nations, au concours autrichien de mathématiques entre 2017 et 2019, ainsi qu'à la SADC Essay writing competition. Il a également été membre du club de badminton. Pour le jeune homme, qui a choisi de poursuivre un Bsc en comptabilité et en finance à la London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), cette bourse « représente l'aboutissement d'années de travail acharné et la concrétisation d'un rêve profondément ancré – celui d'étudier à l'étranger. Elle symbolise chaque effort consenti, chaque défi surmonté, et elle



incarne la fierté immense que je partage aujourd'hui avec ma famille ». « Nous souhaitons une pleine réussite aux deux lauréats de la Fondation MCB. L'engagement de la fondation en faveur de l'éducation va bien au-delà du soutien financier. A une époque où le numérique et l'intelligence artificielle occupent une place croissante, nous croyons aux talents et valeurs humaines », a quant à lui déclaré Jay Nirsimloo, Chairperson

de MCB Group Ltd. « La Fondation MCB s'engage à garantir l'accès à une éducation de qualité et à l'égalité des chances. Il s'avère que les 36 boursiers récompensés depuis 1988 sont à parité égale, hommes/femmes. Notre pays, comme le Groupe MCB, ont besoin de talents. Ainsi, nous encourageons nos lauréats à revenir au pays et contribuer à notre réussite commune. »

Absa Maurice célèbre l'aboutissement du parcours des neuf entrepreneures d'Absa Women Forward

Absa Maurice marque une étape majeure dans son engagement en faveur de l'autonomisation des femmes entrepreneures à Maurice avec la remise des diplômes des participantes du programme Absa Women Forward. Lancé en mai 2025, ce programme a accompagné neuf entrepreneures exceptionnelles dans un parcours complet de formation, de coaching et de mentorat visant à accélérer la croissance de leurs entreprises et à renforcer leur impact économique et social.

Au cours de ce programme, les participantes ont bénéficié d'un accompagnement personnalisé et stratégique avec des sessions couvrant la gestion financière, le marketing digital, le leadership, la gestion des ressources humaines et le développement durable, tout en s'initiant à l'utilisation d'outils innovants tels que l'intelligence artificielle. Le programme s'est conclu par un 'business pitch' où chaque entrepreneure a présenté sa stratégie, son plan marketing et ses prévisions financières, tout en mettant en avant l'impact positif qu'elle souhaite créer à travers son entreprise. Les diplômées de cette édition sont issues de secteurs variés :

- Dorine Lo Hun (Clido) – Production d'achards
- Anousha Mohon (Anousha Mohon Coaching) – Coaching relationnel, bien-être émotionnel
- Deeptha Soodaye (Deecraft) – Sacs

- Patricia Mallet (Flymates Limited) – Formation en aviation
- Virginie Saramandif (Odyvir Consulting) – Santé mentale, bien-être par coaching
- Natacha Mudhoo (Enchanted) – Paniers-cadeaux artisanaux de luxe
- Sabine Lamusse-Affouye (Sabine Lamusse Aromatologue) – Cosmétiques naturels, soins par aromathérapie
- Kalvay (Pamela) Sobran (Villa Alizé) – Maison d'hôtes locale éco-responsable
- Coraline Serret (Peizan) – Agriculture aquaponique, alimentation durable

Cette initiative illustre parfaitement l'engagement d'Absa Maurice à soutenir les femmes entrepreneures et est en cohérence avec sa raison d'être : Empowering Africa's tomorrow together... one story at a time. « Nous sommes fiers d'avoir accompagné ces neuf femmes extraordinaires tout au long de leur parcours avec Absa Women Forward. Ce programme a été bien plus qu'une formation : il a permis à chacune d'écrire un nouveau chapitre pour son entreprise, de renforcer sa résilience et de se projeter vers un avenir durable. Chez Absa, nous croyons que chaque histoire compte et que, lorsqu'elles sont soutenues et autonomisées, les femmes ont le pouvoir de transformer non seulement leurs entreprises, mais aussi leurs communautés et notre économie », explique Jennifer Johnson,



Head of Marketing and Corporate Relations de la banque.

« En tant que mentor, j'ai pu constater une transformation remarquable chez ces entrepreneures, passant d'une vision traditionnelle des affaires à une perspective intégrée alliant innovation technologique et durabilité. Grâce aux modules de formation et à l'intégration des outils d'intelligence artificielle,

elles ont renforcé leur confiance, affiné leurs stratégies et développé leur ingéniosité. Ce programme montre à quel point il est essentiel de soutenir les femmes entrepreneures à Maurice : en favorisant l'innovation, en réduisant les inégalités et en générant un impact durable pour leurs entreprises et leurs communautés », a ajouté Jean-Jacques André, mentor principal du programme Absa Women Forward.

DEBRIEF

PRODUCTION LOCALE

Quand les sucres spéciaux d'Agriterra inspirent l'artisanat

Morisien ena talan. Et qui dit production locale, dit savoir-faire unique. À Maurice, de nombreuses petites et moyennes entreprises valorisent les sucres spéciaux produits par Agriterra et distribués par le Mauritius Sugar Syndicate (MSS) dans la création de produits artisanaux. Avec la saison de coupe 2025 qui a démarré début juillet chez Agriterra, zoom sur tout le potentiel des sucres mauriciens, notamment à travers la richesse de leurs usages, de la matière première au produit fini, en passant par les mains expertes des artisans.

Parmi les entreprises à mettre en valeur les sucres spéciaux d'Agriterra dans leur produits, on retrouve Charlotte Skin, fondée par Charlotte Gilan, qui propose des soins de la peau faits main, ou encore Feuilles et Fleurs, créée par Nathalie Baissac Daruty de Grandpré, qui élabore des sucres aromatisés à l'hibiscus, à la cannelle ou au basilic sacré. Peu de gens le savent : le sucre est un allié précieux pour la beauté. Charlotte Skin intègre depuis plusieurs années

les sucres spéciaux dans la formulation de ses gommages pour le corps et les lèvres. Charlotte Gilan précise utiliser exclusivement un sucre issu d'Agriterra, sélectionné par le MSS, pour ses propriétés exfoliantes naturelles. « Ce sucre se distingue par la finesse de ses grains, sa texture régulière et sa teinte claire. C'est l'exfoliant idéal pour une action douce, efficace et non agressive », explique la fondatrice de Charlotte Skin. Même son de cloche du côté de Nathalie Baissac Daruty de Grandpré, créatrice

et directrice chez Feuilles et Fleurs. Si elle achetait initialement son sucre fin en grande surface pour la fabrication de ses confitures, ce n'est que plus tard qu'elle a découvert que le MSS proposait des sucres en grande quantité. Séduite par la qualité de ces produits, elle a été encouragée à les tester dans différentes préparations. « Ces sucres révèlent toute leur subtilité lorsqu'ils sont infusés avec des plantes. Ils transforment un simple yaourt, une crêpe ou un gâteau en une expérience gustative unique », confie-t-elle.



Sécurité et santé au travail : LFL obtient la certification ISO 45001

LFL franchit une étape importante dans sa démarche d'amélioration continue des conditions de travail de ses équipes. En effet, l'entreprise, qui fait partie du Groupe Eclasia, a obtenu la certification ISO 45001 pour son site de Pailles. Cette norme, référence internationale en matière de santé et de sécurité au travail, vient confirmer l'engagement de LFL à offrir un environnement de travail sûr et adapté à ses collaborateurs. L'obtention de cette certification récompense des mois de mobilisation collective, de formation et de structuration. L'objectif : mettre en place un système efficace de gestion des risques professionnels, capable de prévenir les incidents,

tout en impliquant chaque collaborateur dans cette démarche grâce à des actions de sensibilisation. « Cette certification est une étape clé dans notre démarche d'assurer à nos collaborateurs et partenaires un environnement de travail sécurisé », explique Christophe Noël, Country Manager de LFL à Maurice. « Elle traduit une prise de conscience claire et une intégration profonde de notre approche dans l'ensemble de nos processus et de nos pratiques, allant bien au-delà des exigences réglementaires. Notre ambition est de continuer à renforcer une culture où la santé et la sécurité s'inscrivent durablement au cœur de nos priorités. »

Air Mauritius introduit des procédures pour les familles endeuillées et les patients atteints de cancer

Depuis le 5 août, Air Mauritius a introduit deux procédures dédiées à l'accompagnement de ses passagers qui se retrouvent dans des situations éprouvantes. La première est une politique de deuil permettant le remboursement, la modification de réservation et un traitement adapté des bagages en cas de décès d'un passager d'Air Mauritius ou d'un membre de sa famille immédiate. La seconde, qui concerne les passagers atteints de cancer, est une procédure de modification de dates de voyage leur offrant une flexibilité lorsqu'ils doivent se rendre à l'étranger pour un traitement médical. Pour la procédure en cas de deuil, l'éligibilité concerne le décès du passager qui survient avant ou pendant le voyage, le voyage d'un proche avant ou après le décès, ou encore le décès d'un membre de la famille immédiate nécessitant l'annulation ou la modification du billet. Cette procédure comprend de nombreux avantages tels qu'un remboursement sans pénalité, même si le billet émis initialement était non remboursable. La modification gratuite de la réservation ou l'échange du billet pour une autre destination sont également possibles. Aucun supplément tarifaire ne sera perçu pour un voyage dans la même cabine.

Par ailleurs, le passager accompagnant aura le droit de transporter gratuitement les bagages à main et les bagages enregistrés de la personne décédée. Pour se prévaloir de ces facilités, les proches endeuillés devront présenter un certificat de décès et des preuves du lien familial (acte de naissance, de mariage ou tout autre document légal).

Assistance aux personnes atteints de cancer

Cette mesure vise à alléger les contraintes logistiques des patients et de leurs familles dans ces circonstances délicates. Les cas seront considérés sur présentation d'un certificat médical mentionnant le diagnostic de cancer et devra clairement indiquer la nécessité médicale de modifier la date de voyage. Les passagers devant voyager à l'étranger pour suivre un traitement contre le cancer pourront alors demander un changement de date de voyage, sous certaines réserves. Ainsi, le remboursement du billet sera effectué conformément aux règles tarifaires initiales. La revalidation est autorisée dans toute classe de réservation disponible pour le patient, ainsi que pour tout accompagnateur voyageant sous le même dossier.



Jaisen Pandoo décroche le titre de Meilleur Sommelier de l'île Maurice 2025

La journée a tenu toutes ses promesses. Jaisen Pandoo a obtenu le titre convoité de Meilleur Sommelier de l'île Maurice, le 19 août, au Trianon Convention Centre, s'imposant sur le fil face à des adversaires redoutables. Dégustations à l'aveugle, identifications des vins, accords mets/vins, étaient au menu de cette édition 2025, trois ans après la dernière compétition. Face aux compétences des finalistes, le jury aura eu fort à faire pour désigner un vainqueur. La sommellerie est désormais une institution établie à Maurice. En effet, sous l'impulsion de Jérôme Faure, l'un des pionniers de la discipline sur l'île et président de l'Association des Sommeliers de l'île Maurice (ASIM), l'art de servir le vin a incontestablement acquis des galons chez nous au fil des années. Preuve en est, la compétition du Meilleur Sommelier 2025 a mis en lumière d'incroyables talents locaux, certainement capables de se frotter à l'élite internationale.

DEBRIEF

CONFÉRENCE DU DR KLARA BOYER-ROSSOL À L'IFM

Visages d'ancêtres – Retour des archives et de la collection de bustes Froberville à Maurice

À l'occasion de la Journée internationale du souvenir de la traite négrière et de son abolition, l'Institut français de Maurice (IFM) a accueilli, le jeudi 21 août, une conférence publique d'envergure à la croisée de l'histoire, de la mémoire, de la recherche scientifique et de la coopération muséale.

Organisée en partenariat avec le Musée Intercontinental de l'Esclavage (ISM Mauritius Ltd), cette rencontre intitulée Visages d'ancêtres – Retour des archives et de la collection de bustes Froberville à Maurice, marque une étape importante dans le processus de revalorisation d'un patrimoine méconnu et dans la reconnaissance d'une mémoire longtemps effacée.

Au cœur de cette conférence figure la collection Froberville, un ensemble unique de bustes anthropologiques moulés à l'île Maurice entre 1845 et 1847, à partir de visages d'individus est africains anciennement captifs. Longtemps conservés en France, ces objets ont été redécouverts grâce au travail rigoureux

de l'historienne Klara Boyer-Rossol, spécialiste des traites et des esclavages dans l'océan Indien.

Eugène de Froberville, né à Maurice en 1815, s'inscrivait dans une pensée libérale et abolitionniste. Entre 1845 et 1847, il interrogea plus de 300 personnes africaines de naissance, à la Réunion et à Maurice. La plupart avaient été victimes d'une traversée forcée depuis les côtes de l'Afrique orientale, notamment du Mozambique, du Malawi ou de la Tanzanie. Au total, Froberville fit mouler environ quatre-vingts bustes, dont cinquante-huit sont aujourd'hui conservés.

À travers une démarche exigeante, l'historienne s'attache à retrouver les identités, les trajectoires et les mémoires

des personnes représentées. Elle redonne une voix à celles et ceux qui en avaient été privés. Autrice du catalogue d'exposition Visages d'ancêtres (Éditions Le Charmois, 2024), elle a assuré le commissariat scientifique de l'exposition du même nom présentée en 2024 au Château royal de Blois. Elle est actuellement chercheuse invitée au Bonn Center for Dependency and Slavery Studies en Allemagne.

Sa conférence a apporté un éclairage inédit sur les conditions de réalisation des moulages à Maurice en 1846, les parcours des individus représentés, les processus d'effacement et de réapparition de leur histoire, ainsi que sur la responsabilité contemporaine des institutions à leur offrir une narration digne et humanisante.



Decathlon et Beau Plan s'unissent pour donner une seconde vie aux équipements sportifs

Ceux qui ne savent pas quoi faire de leur vieille raquette de tennis ou de leur ballon de basket dégonflé seront ravis. Initiative à la fois pratique et durable, le Second Life Bazar est un événement inédit à Maurice qui permettra au grand public d'échanger ses équipements sportifs usagés contre des bons d'achats chez Decathlon. L'événement, organisé en partenariat avec Beau Plan, aura lieu du 22 au 31 août 2025. Le Second Life Bazar se déroule en deux temps : tout d'abord, la collecte des articles du 22 au 27 août, puis la revente des articles du 28 au 31 août.

En ligne avec l'engagement de Decathlon et de Beau Plan en faveur du développement durable, cette initiative vise à encourager le réemploi des équipements sportifs, à réduire les déchets, et à rendre le sport accessible à un plus grand nombre. Lors de la première phase, les clients seront invités à déposer au magasin Decathlon de Beau Plan leurs équipements sportifs usagés, toutes marques confondues (hors appareils électriques). En remerciement de leur contribution, ils recevront immédiatement un bon d'achat Decathlon d'une valeur de Rs 200.

Santé intestinale

Les conseils clés du Dr Tarun Kumar Mautadin

Un déséquilibre de la santé intestinale peut affecter l'ensemble du corps. En perturbant l'harmonie du microbiote intestinal, il déclenche un véritable effet domino, où la digestion, l'immunité, le métabolisme, la santé hormonale et même l'humeur peuvent être impactés.

Pour le Dr Tarun Kumar Mautadin, consultant en médecine interne chez C-Care Darné, afin de garder un intestin en bonne santé, il faut penser à varier ses assiettes : des fruits et légumes de différentes couleurs, des céréales complètes et des grains secs comme les haricots rouges ou les lentilles. Varier ses choix reste un moyen simple de nourrir toutes les familles de bactéries présentes dans l'intestin.

En effet, si les prébiotiques sont des fibres que notre corps ne digère pas, mais qui servent de nourriture aux bonnes bactéries de l'intestin, les probiotiques, eux, sont des micro-organismes vivants qui enrichissent directement notre flore. En les combinant, on crée un environnement idéal pour un microbiote plus fort et équilibré.

Les nouveaux produits laitiers Avonmore désormais disponible à Maurice

ABC Foods, entreprise pionnière du Groupe ABC, a récemment lancé ses nouveaux produits laitiers de la marque Avonmore, une marque reconnue pour la qualité de ses produits élaborés en Irlande à partir de lait de pâturage. Cette gamme se décline en deux produits phares, notamment une crème de cuisson et une crème à fouetter, toutes deux appréciées pour leur onctuosité et leur goût naturellement savoureux.

« Nous avons choisi la marque Avonmore pour la qualité de ses produits, qui allient

simplicité d'utilisation et fiabilité. Ces crèmes sont faciles à intégrer dans toutes sortes de recettes : elles aident à bien mélanger les ingrédients, offrent une texture onctueuse, restent stables et préservent leur consistance aussi bien lors de la préparation que pendant la conservation. Avec une durée de vie de 9 mois, elles sont idéales pour enrichir vos recettes et apporter une touche gourmande à vos plats du quotidien », explique Paul Ah Lim, General Manager d'ABC Foods.

Journée mondiale de la photographie

Sugar Beach dévoile une nouvelle expo photo dédiée au croquet

Chaque année depuis 2010, le 19 août marque la journée mondiale de la photographie. À l'occasion de cette journée spéciale, Sugar Beach présente une nouvelle exposition-photo intitulée « Une invitation au jeu intemporel » sur le jeu du croquet. Elle vous propose de découvrir 20 photos sur l'histoire et la création du croquet, et fait la part belle aux clichés pris lors des éditions précédentes du tournoi de croquet au Sugar Beach.

À Sugar Beach, le croquet est bien plus qu'un jeu – c'est un rituel empreint d'élégance. Entouré de palmiers et bercé par la brise de l'océan, il mêle tradition et sérénité, invitant les joueurs dans un univers où se rencontrent concentration, finesse



et plaisir. Le Crazy Croquet est la signature ludique de Sugar Beach – une version audacieuse et joyeuse du croquet classique, revisitée avec une touche locale. Il figure dans la « Come Alive Collection », qui est une liste d'expériences uniques au sein de chaque resort.

DEBRIEF

REGUS PORT-LOUIS

Un emplacement stratégique pour les professionnels du droit et de la finance

Regus Operating Companies a accueilli les médias, le mercredi 20 août, dans son centre de Port-Louis pour une visite exclusive. Situé au cœur du quartier d'affaires de la capitale, à deux pas de la Cour Suprême et des principales institutions financières, Regus Port-Louis se positionne comme un partenaire privilégié pour les avocats, notaires, conseillers financiers et entreprises cherchant une adresse professionnelle de premier plan.

« Nos clients apprécient d'être installés au centre des affaires de la ville. Être basé à Port-Louis, à proximité immédiate de la Cour Suprême et du district financier, fait de notre centre une adresse idéale pour les cabinets d'avocats et les sociétés de services financiers », a souligné Andrew Slome, CEO, Regus Operating Companies.

Au cours de cette rencontre, les membres de la presse présents ont pu découvrir comment Regus accompagne au quotidien les entreprises grâce à des solutions flexibles et adaptées. « Nous avons accueilli des clients très divers : des start-up cherchant une base professionnelle abordable jusqu'à des multinationales installant leur première antenne à Maurice. Nos bureaux équipés, nos connexions haut débit et nos salles de réunion à la demande offrent un cadre qui favorise la croissance et la continuité des affaires », a déclaré Caroline Charlot, Acting Area Sales Manager, Regus Operating Companies.

« Ce que nos clients apprécient particulièrement à Port-Louis, c'est la combinaison de la localisation et de la qualité de service. Être au cœur du hub économique donne un accès direct aux banques, aux institutions gouvernementales et aux grandes entreprises, tandis que notre équipe assure un accompagnement professionnel et personnalisé. Plus qu'un espace de travail, Regus Port-Louis est une véritable plateforme où les entreprises peuvent opérer avec confiance, se développer avec agilité et renforcer leur réseau », a-t-elle ajouté.

Cette flexibilité, conjuguée à la force d'un réseau mondial de plus de 4 000 centres dans 120 pays, a séduit des acteurs de renom comme Happy World Limited. « Nous avons choisi Regus car il est le leader mondial des bureaux équipés et du coworking. Son modèle nous donne accès à un réseau international tout en offrant aux professionnels mauriciens une alternative aux baux rigides et coûteux. Regus permet aux entreprises locales et internationales de travailler avec agilité et d'élargir leur réseau dans un



environnement professionnel dynamique », a expliqué Jonathan Seeyave, Executive Director, Regus Operating Companies.



NGO Day : La Terra Foundation célèbre son 15e anniversaire aux côtés de 16 associations

Le Beau Plan Creative Park a accueilli un événement significatif le mercredi 13 août. La Terra Foundation y a en effet organisé une NGO Day spéciale à l'occasion de son 15e anniversaire, accueillant pas moins de 16 associations telles que Caritas, Safire, Autisme Maurice, Ti Diams, Lizie dan la main et d'autres œuvrant pour les enfants, les femmes sans emploi et les personnes en situation de handicap. Ce fut l'occasion pour la fondation de raffermir ses liens avec les acteurs du milieu associatif, tout en réaffirmant son engagement envers la société mauricienne. Une centaine de collaborateurs provenant des différents clusters du Groupe Terra étaient présents pour découvrir le monde associatif et le travail essentiel abattu par les acteurs sociaux. Chaque ONG disposait d'un stand doté de supports visuels pour accueillir les équipes de Terra et partager avec eux ses projets, ses actions et d'autres informations clés. Les collaborateurs avaient également la possibilité de s'inscrire auprès d'ONG dont les causes les ont particulièrement touchés. La journée s'est déroulée dans un esprit humain, interactif et instructif, permettant de précieux moments d'échange, de découverte et de reconnaissance.

La campagne « Ambiance Verte » de Home+ pour un aménagement intérieur et extérieur responsable

Home+ lance la campagne « Ambiance Verte », qui se déroulera du 25 au 31 août 2025. Cette initiative vise à promouvoir une approche plus responsable de l'aménagement intérieur et extérieur, en mettant en avant des produits et des pratiques respectueux de l'environnement.

« Home+ n'est pas uniquement un centre dédié à la maison. C'est un lieu qui rassemble les marques et le public autour d'une même vision : améliorer le quotidien grâce à des solutions innovantes. À travers Ambiance Verte, nous affirmons notre conviction que durabilité et design vont de pair. La maison constitue aujourd'hui un levier central de bien-être et d'écoresponsabilité. C'est pourquoi nous collaborons avec des partenaires de référence comme Rooftop Gardening Mauritius et Eco-Planet Ltd pour proposer des expériences concrètes et porteuses de sens. Cet engagement reflète notre volonté de positionner Home+ comme un acteur majeur de l'habitat moderne,



durable et inspirant », déclare la direction de Home+. Avec une superficie de 10 000 m², Home+ s'impose comme un pôle populaire de l'aménagement et du design intérieur à Maurice. Ce hub unique rassemble des enseignes de renom telles que Mr Bricolage, Bagno Design, Ixina, Kohler, Batismart, Rey & Lenferna, Dulmar et Supertech, offrant un espace de référence où convergent expertise, innovation et solutions durables pour l'habitat.

Konpoz to Lamizik 2025 : Dix finalistes sélectionnés après des auditions riches en découvertes

Les auditions de la 4e édition de Konpoz to Lamizik (KTL) 2025, qui ont eu lieu le samedi 16 août, ont tenu toutes leurs promesses, réunissant cette année une nouvelle génération d'artistes mauriciens venus partager leur univers musical. Ce concours, qui met en lumière les talents locaux et leur offre des opportunités de développement professionnel, a une nouvelle fois permis la découverte des artistes de demain.

Les dix finalistes choisis à l'issue de ces auditions se produiront sur scène lors de la finale prévue le 4 septembre prochain. Le grand gagnant remportera Rs 150 000 pour la production d'un clip professionnel, tandis que tous les finalistes



bénéficieront d'ateliers de présence scénique et auront la chance de se produire sur des scènes partenaires prestigieuses, comme La Isla ou encore dans les hôtels Attitude.

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