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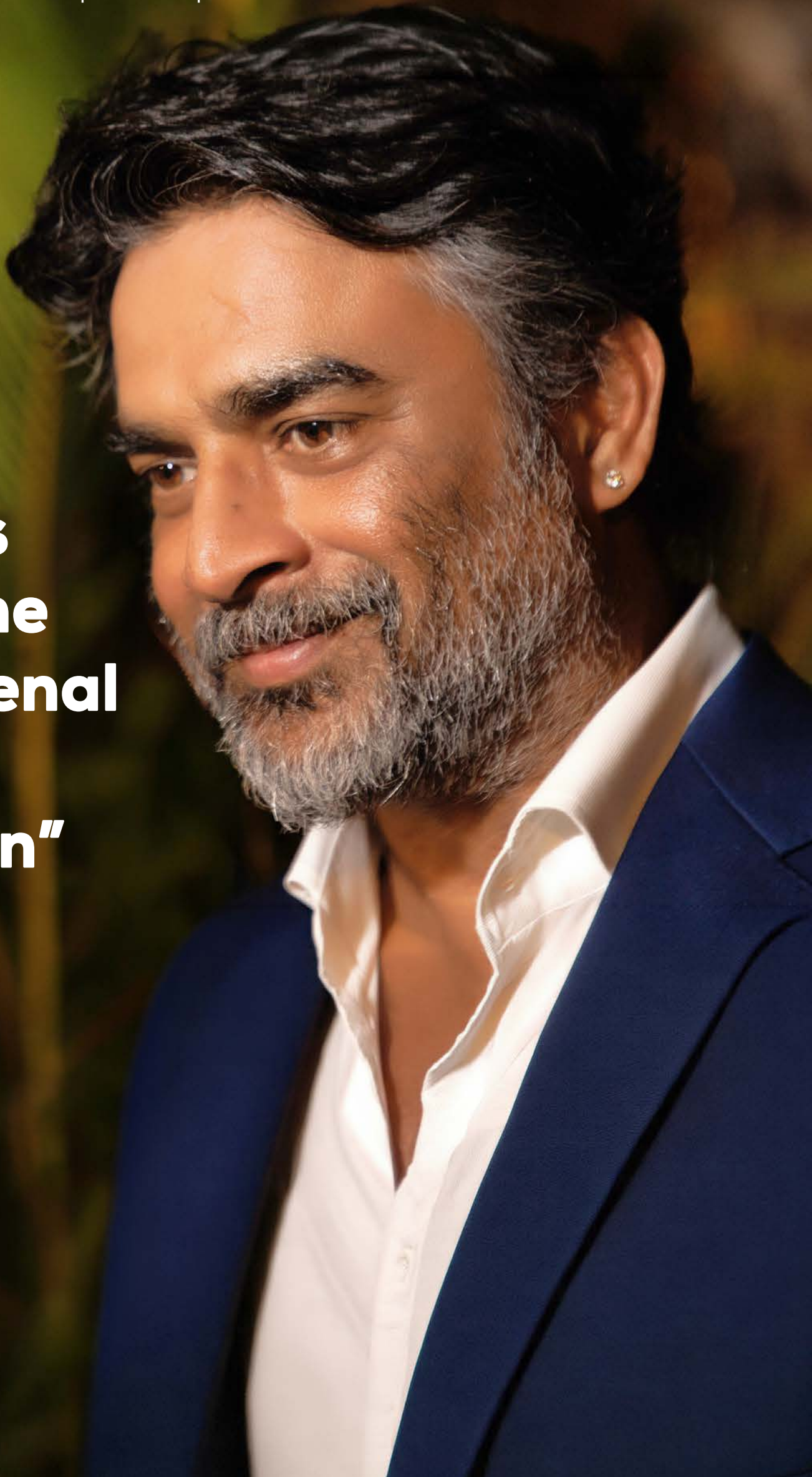
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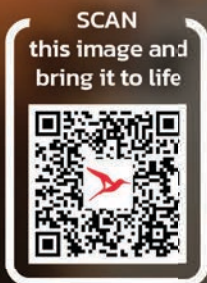




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R. MADHAVAN

“Mauritius can become a phenomenal golfing destination”

Returning to Mauritius three decades after filming *Sea Hawks* in Grand Baie, famous actor, screenwriter, film producer and Stars Golf League co-founder R. Madhavan says the island has the courses, hospitality and social fabric to build an international identity around golf. Speaking at the league's official introduction at Sugar Beach, he credited the sport for developing the ability to focus essential to his acting career and argued that the March 2027 event could generate new stories, visitors and global awareness for Mauritius.



The Stars Golf League Mauritius was officially introduced on Saturday, 22 August 2026, during “The Opening Swing” at Sugar Beach, in Flic-en-Flac. R. Madhavan joined Kapil Dev, Mahesh Bhupathi and Brandon de Souza in addressing representatives of Government, tourism and business leaders, partners and the media on the sporting, commercial and destination-building ambitions behind the new property.

Madhavan – an actor, screenwriter, film producer and director, as well as a co-founder of the league – travelled to Mauritius for a visit of barely 12 hours before returning to his film commitments. He nevertheless began by telling the audience that it was “so lovely” to see them and that he felt “very honoured” to be present.

A RETURN AFTER THREE DECADES

The visit was not R. Madhavan's first encounter with the island. “People keep asking me whether this is my first trip to Mauritius. It isn't, because I came here 30 years ago when I was shooting a series called *Sea Hawks*,” he said. The production was filmed in Grand Baie, but it was not the location alone that remained with him.

“I thought I would have forgotten everything about Mauritius. But the one thing I did not forget was how I felt about the people I met here 30 years ago,” he recalled. “I remember the sweetness with which they welcomed and treated us and, most importantly, the wonderful coexistence among different people from around the world who had made Mauritius their home.”

He said that experience had made him “quite jealous” at the time, and even more envious on his return, after seeing the country's evolution. “You have done such a wonderful job. Considering all the craziness happening around the world today, you are truly living in paradise,” he said.

For the actor, that quality deserves wider interna-

tional recognition. He said it was time for more people to visit Mauritius and show the island the respect it merits as a tourism destination. The proposed golf properties, he suggested, could contribute to that growth. “Hopefully, we can add to those numbers with the golf league we are hoping to start here. In fact, we are planning to start two golf leagues,” he said, referring to the Stars Golf League and a companion Celebrity Golf League, whose details are to be announced.

GOLF AS A LESSON IN ACTING

R. Madhavan's desire to promote golf came from his own experience. He said that the sport had played an important role in his career by teaching him to act better. He deferred the longer version of that story for another day, but explained that the common thread between golf and acting was the ability to concentrate completely at a decisive moment.

“The ability to focus precisely at any given point in time and completely forget about your surroundings when you hit that ball – which is almost divine – is probably very similar to what I do when the director calls ‘action,’” he said. “So, if I have honed my skills as an actor, it is thanks to golf. And I really mean that, without wishing to patronise the sport.”

THE AUGUSTA EXAMPLE

R. Madhavan also drew on a recent trip to the Masters tournament to illustrate how a golfing event can shape the identity and economy of its host destination.

“I have seen how they have created a brand, how a small town called Augusta becomes the centre of the golfing universe for just two weeks, and how everybody in that small town benefits from it and is proud of it as a product,” he said.

He sees scope for Mauritius to develop that type of association here given the island's established

tourism appeal and golf infrastructure. “I am seeing something similar here, if not greater. I am sorry to use such a big word, but I see that possibility,” R. Madhavan said.

Pointing to Mauritius' “absolutely fantastic golf courses” and the prospect of the country becoming “a phenomenal golfing destination,” he explained that his ambition is for the Stars Golf League to create memorable moments across the course, creating “stories that other golfers will want to replicate, thereby increasing tourism and awareness of Mauritius.”

A TEN-YEAR INTERNATIONAL PLATFORM

Scheduled for 25-28 March 2027, the Mauritius edition is being developed as a franchise-led team competition involving 36 personalities across six franchises. The announced field comprises 24 golfing legends, six leading women golfers and six celebrity golfers. Confirmed personalities include Ernie Els, Colin Montgomerie, AB de Villiers, Kapil Dev, Ruud Gullit and Yuvraj Singh, with further player, sponsor and franchise announcements expected.

The organisers have announced a prize purse of USD 1.6 million and international coverage expected in more than 130 countries. More than a one-off tournament, the project is intended to become an annual fixture in Mauritius over ten years, combining elite sport with entertainment, business, tourism and international broadcasting.

R. Madhavan framed the promoters' role in deliberately modest terms. “If we are able to contribute to that in a small way – in a very, very small way – we will consider ourselves extremely privileged,” he said, before apologising that his time in Mauritius was short. His message, however, was expansive: a global sporting property can give Mauritius another platform through which its courses, people and destination appeal are recognised internationally.

KAPIL DEV

“Let’s hope that this will be a better place to play golf than anywhere else in the world”

Former India cricket captain Kapil Dev combined humour with a serious reflection on sporting discipline at the introduction of the Stars Golf League Mauritius. The 1983 World Cup-winning captain said golf demands extraordinary concentration, joked that it might have added thousands of runs to his cricket career, and explained why Mauritius emerged ahead of Dubai as the competition’s long-term home.

The Stars Golf League Mauritius was officially introduced on Saturday, 22 August 2026, at “The Opening Swing,” an exclusive reception held at Sugar Beach, in Flic-en-Flac. Kapil Dev joined R. Madhavan, Mahesh Bhupathi and Brandon de Souza in outlining the sporting, commercial and destination-building ambitions behind the competition, which is scheduled for 25-28 March 2027.

After a brief “Good evening,” Kapil Dev – one of cricket’s most celebrated all-rounders – set a relaxed tone. “Speaking wasn’t part of the deal,” he joked. Recalling the invitation, he said he had simply been told: “Just come to Mauritius. We’ll have a good time.”

HOW MAURITIUS MOVED AHEAD OF DUBAI

“First of all, I want to thank all the sponsors who are coming forward, and the Government, which really wants us to come and play here,” Kapil Dev said.

The project, he indicated, had been close to settling elsewhere before local stakeholders mobilised around the Mauritius proposal.

“This tour was almost finalised in Dubai, but at the last minute, everybody got organised and decided that this was the better place, with better weather. Why not come here to play?” he said, adding that “a new destination is always sweeter than the previous one.”

THE CONCENTRATION THAT GOLF DEMANDS

Kapil Dev’s relationship with golf developed after a much-celebrated international cricket career. He later became an accomplished golfer and is now President of the Professional Golf Tour of India. At



Sugar Beach, he argued that the mental demands of golf could have made him an even more productive cricketer. “Had I played golf while playing cricket, I would have scored at least 2,000 to 3,000 more runs,” he said. “I honestly believe that, because the concentration you require in golf, I would say, is 100 times greater.”

The comparison was not simply about maintaining attention over several hours. Kapil Dev focused on

the short interval immediately before a shot, when a player’s decision and execution can change.

“Those one to three seconds spent standing there can change your thought process and the direction of the ball,” he explained. The implication was that the same discipline – pausing, controlling the mind and committing to a direction – could have sharpened his decisions at the crease.

Kapil Dev closed by returning to the welcome extended by Mauritius and the pleasure of taking the game to the island. “I think it’s a great game. We are coming here, you are hosting us, and we are delighted and happy,” he said. “Let’s hope that in March, this will be a better place to play golf than anywhere else in the world.”

His own final assessment was emphatic: “This is the best place to come and play.”



This tour was almost finalised in Dubai, but at the last minute, everybody got organised and decided that this was the better place.



Mauritius to host Stars Golf League for ten years



Mauritius will host the inaugural edition of the Stars Golf League on the island from 25-28 March 2027, bringing together 36 global sporting and celebrity personalities across six franchise teams. Introduced at Sugar Beach in the presence of Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam, the USD 1.6 million competition is being positioned as a ten-year annual fixture, with international coverage expected in more than 130 countries.

The Stars Golf League Mauritius was officially introduced on Saturday, 22 August 2026, during "The Opening Swing," an exclusive reception held at Sugar Beach, in Flic-en-Flac. The launch was attended by representatives of Government, tourism and business leaders, commercial partners, media and the league's international delegation. Kapil Dev, R. Madhavan, Mahesh Bhupathi and Brandon de Souza set out the sporting, commercial and destination ambitions attached to the new competition.

The format will combine 24 golfing legends, six leading women golfers and six celebrity golfers in a franchise-led team competition. The confirmed roster so far includes renowned golfers Ernie Els and Colin Montgomerie; former South African cricketer AB de Villiers; India's 1983 Cricket World Cup-winning captain Kapil Dev; former Netherlands footballer Ruud Gullit; and former Indian cricketer Yuvraj Singh.

Brandon de Souza even referred to personalities associated with Manchester United and Liverpool as part of the international sporting appeal being assembled. The final mix, he said, would bring together figures

from golf, cricket, football, tennis and cinema. More names and sponsors, he added, would be disclosed as preparations advance.

A FULL WEEK OF DESTINATION EXPOSURE

The organisers' central commitment is that Mauritius will not simply stage one edition. The league is intended to return annually over ten years, establishing the island as the long-term home of an international sporting property. Its proposition extends beyond four days of competition: elite golf, celebrity participation, entertainment, business engagement, tourism and global broadcasting are being brought together under one event platform.

Brandon de Souza said that the international delegation was expected to spend a full week in Mauritius, giving the event a footprint beyond the four competitive days. The objective is to use the golfers and personalities around the league to draw attention to the island's courses, which he described as hidden gems, its hotels and the wider tourism offering.

"What we are aiming for is to make sure that Mauritius is the cynosure of the world: not just in the eyes of

the golfing world, but in people's eyes more broadly," de Souza said.

A FRANCHISE MODEL WITH AN ESTABLISHED PEDIGREE

Former tennis star player Mahesh Bhupathi placed the new league within the portfolio developed by the team behind the World Tennis League – which has attracted players like Novak Djokovic and Aryna Sabalenka – and the World Padel League. Those properties have already brought elite athletes, entertainment and international broadcasting into team-based formats over several seasons, providing the operational model for combining competitive sport with entertainment, franchises and international reach.

"The Stars Golf League is going to be our third property. It is a franchise-based concept and is very unique," he said. "Following the success of the IPL, we truly believe that franchise-based sport is gaining momentum across the world. We are here to deliver world-class golf."

The former doubles tennis world No. 1 also paid tribute to co-founder Amit Sharma, whom he credited with helping to assemble the Stars Golf League project and its international

delegation.

GOLF AS A PLATFORM FOR TOURISM

For Mauritius, the announced scale is significant: a USD 1.6 million prize purse, 36 international personalities and intended broadcast exposure across more than 130 countries. The potential value will depend on how the final roster, franchise ownership, sponsorship programme, broadcast distribution and visitor experience are developed before March 2027.

The promise is not limited to television visibility. A delegation spending a full week on the island could support hotel stays, golf tourism, hospitality spending, business networking and destination marketing. Sustaining those benefits over ten annual editions would give the event a different economic profile from a one-off tournament.

The organisers have set out an ambitious proposition: to use a franchise-led sporting competition to give Mauritius a recurring place on the international golf calendar. The coming months will determine how the first edition, scheduled for 25-28 March 2027, translates into a durable and profitable event for the island.







Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants

PRESS COMMUNIQUÉ

Public Notice – Warning Against Fraudulent Misrepresentation and Alleged Extortion Attempts

The Board of the Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA) wishes to inform its members and the public that it has recently been made aware of allegations that certain individuals may be fraudulently using the names of MIPA, its Board Members, and its Chief Executive Officer in an attempt to solicit and extort money from members of the public in relation to matters under the jurisdiction of MIPA.

According to information brought to the attention of the Board, it has been alleged that individuals have falsely represented that they have influence over MIPA processes, investigations, inquiries, and decisions, and have purportedly requested payments in exchange for favourable outcomes. MIPA wishes to categorically state that neither the Institute, its Board Members, nor its Chief Executive Officer authorise, condone, or participate in any such conduct.

The Board takes these allegations with the utmost seriousness. In order to protect the integrity of the Institute and safeguard its members and the public, the matter has been reported to the Police for necessary action to be taken.

MIPA wishes to emphasise that:

- No Board Member, Officer, employee, or representative of MIPA is authorised to request or receive any payment in exchange for influencing, delaying, suspending, or resolving any inquiry, investigation, complaint, or regulatory matter.
- Any person claiming to act on behalf of MIPA or its officials for such purposes should be treated with extreme caution.
- Any request for money, gifts, favours, or other benefits purportedly linked to MIPA decisions should be reported immediately.

Members of MIPA and the public are strongly encouraged to report any similar incidents, approaches, communications, or suspicious activities without delay to MIPA and, where appropriate, to the relevant law enforcement authorities.

MIPA remains committed to the highest standards of integrity, professionalism, transparency, and accountability and will continue to cooperate fully with the competent authorities in relation to this matter.

**By Order of the Board
Mauritius Institute of Professional Accountants (MIPA)**

For reporting or verification of any suspicious communication, members and the public are requested to contact MIPA immediately through its official communication channels.

MIPA

27 August 2026



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Loïc Koenig, General Manager, Agriterra

“Investing in agriculture today is investing in national resilience”

At Agriterra, there is a strong belief in the future of the agro-industry sector. In this interview with Bizweek, General Manager Loïc Koenig talks about the company’s high-export diversification strategy, and its commitment to self-sufficiency and the circular economy. National resilience in food production can only happen, he believes, if there is preservation of the arable land base, a real commitment to irrigation, mechanisation and digital tools, and consistent policy support in the long term.

How is Agriterra performing in terms of activities and turnover?

Agriterra remains a diversified agricultural group built around sugar cane as its core activity. Our milling activities are carried out through Terra Milling, complemented with food crops like potato, onion and others.

Our performance has been resilient despite rising input costs, labour constraints and climate variability affecting the sector. We expect to process around 670,000 tonnes of sugarcane this year, representing an increase of 20,000 tonnes compared with 2025.

This is expected to yield between 66,000 and 67,000 tonnes of sugar. With more than 95% of our production targeted for specialty sugars, we anticipate producing approximately 63,000 tonnes of specialty sugars.

How does Agriterra contribute to the Mauritian economy beyond the sugarcane sector?

“Zero waste is already a reality for us, and we are constantly striving to reduce our carbon footprint.”

Beyond sugarcane, we contribute through vegetable production (potato and onion) that directly supports local food supply. We also carry out industrial activities that valorise

bagasse, ash and scum, which are transformed into organic fertiliser. Through this activity, we contribute directly to reducing agricultural waste and the sector’s reliance on imported chemical inputs. We are also continuing our development of unproductive, fallow and marginal land for productive use through land levelling.

Each of these activities generates employment and local economic activity well beyond the cane fields.

What agricultural diversification levers do you prioritize to strengthen the country’s economic resilience?

We currently prioritise high-value export diversification. In this area, we are actively working on a potential macadamia production and exportation project, in addition to our current import-substitution crops such as potato and onion.

Moreover, we are actively reclaiming unused



land for agricultural purposes through derocking and levelling. This will enable us to grow more crops and increase production in the future, strengthening national agricultural production while enhancing economic resilience.

Agriterra is also heavily engaged in the promotion of circular economic practices such as industrial product valorisation, which reduce input costs and environmental impact. Zero waste is already a reality for us, and we are constantly striving to reduce our carbon footprint. Through our partnerships with other Group subsidiaries, every by-product of sugarcane is transformed into a valuable resource. This integrated model perfectly illustrates our circular economy approach, delivering environmental, social and economic benefits.

To what extent do your activities contribute to job creation and regional development?

Agriterra is one of the larger employers in the North region, across factory operations, fields, logistics and agronomy. New projects added to this base will create both agricultural and skilled processing roles over the coming years, while our development projects engage local contractors and partners.

As a longstanding economic player in Mauritius, Agriterra has extensive experience across a wide range of industries and economic activities. We actively participate in a number of job fairs throughout the year, offering many job opportunities to the public. We also offer tailored leadership programmes and various training opportunities to help our teams develop essential expertise, while engaging with schools to promote careers in agriculture.

These initiatives demonstrate our commitment to fostering meaningful relationships with



surrounding communities and empowering the next generation of talent.

What is your assessment of the current food security situation in Mauritius?

Unfortunately, Mauritius remains structurally dependent on food imports for many staples. Recent volatility in global commodity and freight prices has made that dependence more visible and more costly for households.

I believe that the country needs to embrace a new consumption model in order to achieve long-term food security. Local and seasonal products should be given greater value, and we must also diversify our crops to provide affordable alternatives for the population.

Agriterra has been actively contributing to this effort for several years. Our production of potatoes for direct consumption is steadily increasing, for example, helping to strengthen local supply chains and reduce reliance on imported produce. We produce potato seeds as well.

As part of this commitment, we continue to invest in sustainable farming practices and local agricultural resilience.

How can Agriterra help reduce dependence on food imports?

To achieve this, the group has two main objectives: bringing more land into productive vegetable cultivation and improving productivity. Our derocking and land-levelling projects are turning fallow or rocky plots into cultivable land for potato, onion and other food crops.

To increase our production capacity, we are also investing significantly into additional, modern equipment. This strengthens our resilience to



climatic changes and rising costs, while enabling us to maintain a significant area dedicated to food crop cultivation.

What concrete projects are you implementing to support self-sufficiency?

Agriterra is implementing several concrete initiatives to strengthen agricultural self-sufficiency. We have over 15 hectares dedicated to potato production, complemented by an additional 15 hectares for potato seed production, ensuring a sustainable, locally sourced seed supply for future seasons.

Our onion production currently covers 7 hectares, while we also cultivate over 1 hectare of sweet potatoes. In addition, we have established a 6-hectare macadamia production trial to assess the crop's suitability and its long-term potential for diversification.

Do you believe the sugarcane industry can play a role in a broader food security strategy?

Yes, in a complementary rather than direct role. Sugarcane by-products such as bagasse and molasses already contribute to energy generation and soil fertility, supporting the wider agricultural ecosystem. Equally important, mechanisms such as the guaranteed minimum revenue for sugarcane planters help preserve agricultural land by preventing its conversion to non-agricultural purposes. Preserving that arable land base is a fundamental prerequisite for any food security strategy, even if some areas may eventually transition to other crops.

What budgetary measures did you expect from the government to support agriculture and agro-industry?

We would have welcomed continuity and predictability in price-support mechanisms covering cane and food crops, complemented with targeted capital grants or concessional financing for diversification of infrastructure, irrigation systems and water access for all planters. Additional support and incentive for mechanisation to offset rising labour costs, as well as a faster, clearer land-conversion and permitting process for strategic agricultural investments, would also make a tangible difference to projects such as ours.

Does the 2026-2027 budget sufficiently address food security and the rising cost of living?

Beyond the initiatives announced in the Budget, Mauritius, as an island nation, continues to face the challenge of a high dependence on imported food. There is always room to further strengthen support for local agriculture, as increasing domestic production is key to enhancing food security, building resilience and helping to mitigate the impact of rising living costs.

Was there enough emphasis on agricultural





modernization and sustainability?

The Budget has announced several encouraging measures in line with the sector’s priorities, including those covering climate-resilient practices, value-chain investment and strategic reserves. However, this scale of modernisation cannot be achieved through a single Budget exercise. It requires sustained, multi-year commitment to irrigation, mechanisation and digital tools.

What type of fiscal incentives or subsidies would be necessary to encourage local production and achieve self-sufficiency?

I believe that VAT or duty exemptions on agricultural equipment and irrigation infrastructure would help lower the capital barriers to modernisation. Accelerated depreciation or capital allowances could also further encourage investment in value-added activities rather than raw production alone. To encourage the expansion of local vegetable production, similar pricing support mechanisms to those currently applied to sugarcane could be extended to strategic import-substitution crops such as onions and potatoes.

How does Agriterra plan to align its projects with the priorities defined in this budget?

Our diversification agenda (macadamia, vegetables, industrial composting) already goes in the same direction. Furthermore, we intend to engage with relevant schemes, such as those offered by Landscope Mauritius, as well as any food-resilience or controlled-environment agriculture support programs that are applicable to our land and projects. We are also pursuing our Bonsucro certification work, which aligns with the sustainability principles presented during the Budget.

What is your ambition for Agriterra over the next five years?

Agriterra’s ambition is to strengthen its role as a key partner in the sugarcane sector in the North. While sugarcane will remain our core activity, we will also focus on improving productivity, optimising land management and embracing digital solutions to support more efficient and sustainable operations.

At the same time, we want to further develop a more diversified agricultural model by exploring complementary crops and initiatives that contribute to local food production and long-term resilience.



Agriculture needs the same level of predictability and support that other strategic sectors benefit from today.



Do you see opportunities for regional cooperation in the Indian Ocean to strengthen collective food security?

Yes. Mauritius shares many of the same structural challenges as its Indian Ocean neighbours, such as a small landmass, import dependence and exposure to climate shocks. There is real scope for cooperation on agronomic research, joint procurement of inputs, and even coordinated strategic reserves among Indian Ocean Commission members. This approach would give smaller economies more collective weight than they have individually.

Is Agriterra looking towards the wider Indian Ocean region?

We remain open to regional partnerships or export opportunities supporting our strategy, even though we have no immediate plans for direct operations outside Mauritius.

What message would you like to convey to policymakers and citizens about the importance of investing in local agriculture?

Investing in agriculture today is an investment in national resilience, not an attachment to the past. Every hectare of land kept productive and every locally grown vegetable that replaces an import makes Mauritius less exposed to global price shocks and supply disruptions. That resilience could only be built by consistent policy support in the long term. To remain attractive and viable for the next generation of workers, agriculture needs the same level of predictability and support that other strategic sectors benefit from today.



USHMESH RATHI, Director of Icon Steel

“Mauritius does not need to have minerals to be a major trading hub for India”

The future of the global steel industry will be shaped by scale, technology, greener production and increasingly interconnected supply chains. That is the opinion of Ushmesh Rathi, Director of Icon Steel, a company based in the state of Maharashtra, India. In Mauritius for the first time to receive the Lokmat Global Icons Award, Ushmesh Rathi talks about an industry where things are fast-moving and failure to adapt isn't an option. About Mauritius, he says that the country can be a hub from where India accesses both the African and Australian markets to tap into new opportunities, notably in mineral resources and scrap metal.

What does receiving the Lokmat Global Icons Award in Mauritius represent for you personally, and for Icon Steel?

Receiving the Lokmat Global Award in Mauritius is of great value to Icon Steel. As we are slowly becoming global, Mauritius is important because it is called “the door of Africa.”

Lokmat is a strong and respected brand in Maharashtra and across the western part of India. Therefore, the award brings immense value and credibility to both the Icon Steel brand and to me personally, not only in Mauritius, but also back in India.

How would you describe the current outlook for India's steel industry, particularly in view of the country's infrastructure and manufacturing ambitions?

India being the fastest growing economy and a place where infrastructure spending is playing a major role in that growth, I feel there is immense demand and immense potential for the steel industry to grow there. India's infrastructure and manufacturing ambitions will continue to create opportunities across the steel value chain.

How would you assess the current state of the international steel market?

Currently, the international steel market is largely dominated by China, while Australia is a major source of iron ore and other resources.

Slowly, what I see is that India is emerging as both a major steel manufacturer and a mining hub. With the global China-plus-one strategy, I believe India is a perfectly natural fit for companies looking to diversify their supply chains.

In addition, what I feel is that Africa is opening up new opportunities as its mineral resources are increasingly being explored. For the steel industry, I therefore see India and Africa becoming important supply-chain partners.

What are the principal challenges and opportunities facing steel industry players?

The biggest challenges are scale and technology. If you do not grow, expand and continuously adopt new technologies, you risk becoming outdated. Steel is a very fast-moving industry, so companies have to adapt constantly.

As for opportunity, the world is growing at a pace which has never been seen before. India, if I may say so, is growing at the highest growth rate in the world. So, I see immense opportunity as well as challenges in the steel industry.

Currently, the steel industry is under pressure to reduce its carbon footprint. How is Icon Steel approaching the transition towards greener production?

Traditionally, steel production can emit more than 2.7 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne of steel produced. At Icon Steel, we produce steel with emissions of less than 1.2 tonnes of CO₂ per tonne. We are therefore already significantly greener than traditional steelmaking routes and, this is largely because we



use recycling as part of our production process.

Recycling is the way forward. In the past, there was a perception that steel produced through recycling or from scrap metal was less pure. But processing technologies have advanced significantly. Today, green steel and recycling are clearly part of the future of the industry.

Another thing that we have to focus on is the transition towards renewable energy to make steel production even greener.

How are automation, artificial intelligence and advanced manufacturing transforming your operations at Icon Steel?

It is often said that data is the new oil. Automation, technology, advanced manufacturing and AI are now becoming the new buzzwords of our industry.

Until recently, many industries were focused on moving beyond Industry 4.0, with automation and the Internet of Things playing a central role. Now, companies have to take the next step and embrace AI.

I am of the strong opinion that industries that fail to adapt to these technologies will eventually become outdated. Technology adoption is no longer optional; it is becoming essential for competitiveness.

What opportunities do you see for Mauritian businesses to collaborate with Indian steel and manufacturing companies?

There are two or three major areas of opportunity. Firstly, Africa has significant unexplored mineral resources, while considerable quantities of scrap metal are also generated and, in some cases, dumped. From a supply-chain point of view, this creates immense opportunities in Mauritius. Mauritius is also culturally very close to India, and can serve as a gateway to Africa.

Secondly, several African markets are developing rapidly, and new industries are being established. This creates opportunities for Indian manufacturers to invest and build supply-chain synergies. For example, iron ore from a country such as Nigeria could potentially be supplied to India for steel production. These kinds of linkages can create value across both markets.

The third opportunity is definitely investment. Indian companies can look at Mauritius as a strategic base from which to explore wider African opportunities.

Could Mauritius serve as a financial, commercial or distribution platform for Icon Steel's expansion into African markets?

Icon Steel has been supplying the African market for some time. However, given the strong cultural and business links between Mauritius and India, I believe Mauritian businesses and traders have an immense opportunity to bring these markets closer together.

For Icon Steel, increasing our scale is essential to sustaining and expanding the business. To support sales as well as the wider supply chain, Mauritius can provide an important gateway into this part of the world. The island can potentially play a much bigger role as a commercial and distribution platform connecting Indian companies with African markets.

Looking ahead, what are your principal ambitions for Icon Steel in India and internationally?

Our first ambition is to gain greater control over



the supply chain.

Our second ambition is to increase our scale. In this industry, if you do not increase your scale, you risk becoming outdated!

And, thirdly, what I want is to build a global footprint. That also means becoming increasingly compliant with the requirements of European, African and American markets. Global expansion requires companies to meet different regulatory and market standards.

As far as Mauritius is concerned, one opportunity I see for Mauritian people to benefit from this globalisation is that Mauritius is a gateway for India to Africa, and also to Australia. Since there is a large Indian diaspora living in Mauritius, the trust factor is there with Indian businessmen trying to get into these parts of the world.

Mauritius does not need to have minerals or a huge domestic market to play this role. Look at Singapore or Dubai; none of them has a huge domestic market, but both have leveraged their strategic locations to become major trading hubs.

So, this is what Mauritius can become for India. This is how Mauritius can grow. Mauritius and India can be strategic partners, holding hands together and getting into the African market to tap opportunities.



Automation, technology, advanced manufacturing and AI are now becoming the new buzzwords of our industry.



CHITRANGADA SINGH, Indian actress

“Mauritius should be explored much more as a shooting destination”

Bollywood actress Chitrangada Singh sees cinema as more than entertainment. For her, it is a powerful instrument of cultural diplomacy and a natural extension of the deep historical and emotional ties between India and Mauritius. During her visit here for the Lokmat One World Summit & Awards, she spoke about the links that bind the two countries, the affection Mauritians have for Indian cinema, and the island’s potential as an international filming destination.



India and Mauritius share strong historical, cultural and people-to-people ties. From your perspective, can cinema play a bigger role in strengthening this relationship?

Absolutely. I think cinema is a very important form of soft power. The relationship between India and Mauritius already has such a strong foundation because of our history, culture, heritage and languages.

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi has spoken about the connection between the two countries, and when you actually come to Mauritius, you understand what he means. It genuinely feels like a part of India. There is such a strong cultural connection that makes you feel at home. Cinema naturally strengthens that feeling because so many things are familiar. Our families are similar, our emotions are similar, and there is a shared cultural understanding. When you watch Indian films here, people connect with the stories and the characters because there is already an emotional bond.

So, yes, I believe films can play a much bigger role in bringing the two countries even closer.

You described cinema as being a soft power. How important is that cultural dimension compared with the economic and financial relationship between India and Mauritius?

I think both are important. Economic and financial ties are obviously significant, but cultural connections create something much deeper. They create familiarity and emotional understanding between people.

And that connection is already very strong between India and Mauritius. You can feel it when you interact with people here. There is a sense that we understand each other.

Films are one of the easiest ways to take that relationship even further, because cinema crosses boundaries. You may not speak exactly the same language, but you understand the emotions, the



family relationships and the stories. And that is the beauty of cinema.

What has struck you most about the connection Mauritians have with Bollywood?

It feels incredibly warm. What is particularly special for us as actors is knowing that people who are geographically so far away from India have watched our work and know our films. It is then that you realise cinema has travelled much farther than you have.

For an actor, there is something very special about meeting audiences in another country and discovering that they know your work, appreciate your films and have followed your journey. Mauritius makes you feel that you are not really far away from home as the love people have for Indian cinema creates that connection.

If there is one message you would take back to Bollywood from Mauritius, what would it be?

I would say that Mauritius feels like an extended family. Even though I am in another country, I have never felt disconnected. It feels like home. So, my message would simply be: come here, experience this place and explore the possibilities. And, of course, I would take back a huge thank you to Mauritius for all the love and warmth.

What is it about Mauritius that makes you feel so connected to the island?

What’s there not to love? The beauty is obviously one thing. Mauritius is incredibly scenic. But more than that, I think it is the people who make the country. The warmth of the people is what makes you feel comfortable and welcome. That is something you will cherish.

You have visited Mauritius before. Would you consider returning for a holiday?



I have been here before for around a month, but it was essentially for shooting films. But yes, absolutely, I think we should come and shoot here much more often. It is such a scenic and beautiful place. And you have lovely weather as well.

Do you see Mauritius having greater potential as a shooting destination for Bollywood?

Absolutely. I think there is enormous potential. What really struck me is the variety of landscapes. At one point, I felt as though I was in Thailand. Then I looked towards the hills, and it felt like I was somewhere in America.

That variety is unbelievable. You have beaches, mountains, hills and such different landscapes within a relatively compact space. For filmmakers, that is a huge advantage. You can create very different visual settings without necessarily travelling to several countries.

So, yes, I definitely think that Mauritius should be explored much more as a shooting destination.

Finally, what will you remember most about this visit to Mauritius?

The people, definitely. The beauty is wonderful, but the warmth of the people is what makes the experience special. There is a familiarity here. You feel connected. And that is what I will take back with me: the feeling that, even though Mauritius is another country, it feels like home.

Any words for your Mauritian fans?

To my fans in Mauritius, I would just say thank you. It feels wonderful to know that people here have seen our work and connected with our films. We may be separated by distance, but you make us feel like we are at home because you love us, you love our work and you know us through our films. That means a lot to us.

YURI ALEMAO, Leader of the Opposition in the Goa Legislative Assembly

“Mauritius and Goa share striking assets and similar challenges”

At first struck by the similarities between Goa and Mauritius – which he visited for the first time to attend the Lokmat Summit and Awards – Yuri Alemao, Leader of the Opposition in the Goa Legislative Assembly and member of the Indian National Congress Party, was quick to identify differences. Although the two tourist destinations share sunshine, beaches and hospitality, Mauritius, he believes, is a step ahead of Goa in ensuring development doesn’t come at the expense of the environment. Goa, he argues, can learn from Mauritius, and stronger ties can be built to explore opportunities for stronger trade and economic cooperation.

As a first-time visitor to our island, what is your assessment of Mauritius?

I see a lot of similarities between Mauritius and Goa. In fact, when I landed, I initially felt that I was somewhere in Goa. The beaches, sand, sunshine and tourism industry are all very familiar. There is also a strong similarity in the people and their hospitality. The warmth with which I was welcomed at the resort, the environment, and the overall atmosphere reminded me very much of Goa.

This is why I believe there is considerable scope for strengthening ties between Mauritius and India, and particularly between Mauritius and Goa. We have much in common, and those similarities can become the foundation for deeper cooperation.

Where do you see opportunities to strengthen ties between Mauritius and Goa?

Definitely, looking at the way tourism is being promoted in the state of Goa, there is a lot that we could learn from Mauritius, especially the need to define the building capacity of an area. Tourism development cannot simply mean creating concrete jungles and putting pressure on natural resources. This is not what is happening in Mauritius. But it seems to be an agenda in the state of Goa!

That is a serious concern. Mauritius demonstrates that tourism and environmental protection have to move together.

According to you, what is the current state of tourism in Goa?

Goa is a jewel of India, but our tourism sector is facing serious challenges. We are dealing with problems related to garbage, water shortages, unclean beaches and wider environmental issues.

Our beaches are like paradise. That is our biggest asset. But maintaining them is becoming a major challenge. Beach cleanliness, waste management and the availability of water are not issues that can be ignored. If we do not protect the environment, we will eventually damage the tourism industry itself.

This is why I believe there is a very sensitive balance that needs to be maintained. We have to ensure that tourism remains economically beneficial while protecting our natural resources.

How was the response of Mauritian leaders and officials during your interactions with them?

I had the opportunity to interact with the Foreign Affairs Minister, as well as the Minister responsible for Agro-industry, and I can tell you that those discussions were very fruitful. There is a lot that we can learn from Mauritius, not only in tourism, but also in environmental protection, trade and safety measures.

For me, this visit has been a learning experience. I have seen how Mauritius has developed its tourism industry while giving importance to the



environment. These are lessons that can be taken back to Goa.

At the same time, I believe there is scope for greater trade and economic engagement. The relationship should not remain limited to political or cultural ties. There are opportunities to build stronger economic partnerships.

The Lokmat Summit and Awards brings together people from different sectors. How can such a platform strengthen economic and trade ties between Mauritius and India?

The Lokmat Summit and Awards comes at a very opportune time. Mauritius and India have always shared strong ties. Platforms such as this can take that relationship further by bringing people together, creating dialogue and identifying new areas of cooperation.

The initiative led by Dr Vijay Dardaji is particularly important because the summit is organised in different countries and creates opportunities to strengthen relationships.

Trade and economics will naturally continue to move forward, but there is something even more important, which is the sense of brotherhood. What impressed me about Mauritius is the way people from different religions and communities live together. There is a sense of liberalism and inclusiveness that I believe we can learn from.

That is one of the messages I will carry back to Goa. Economic development is important, but so are social harmony, openness, and the way people live together.

What specific opportunities do you see for Goa-Mauritius cooperation?

Tourism is an obvious area. There can also be greater interaction in trade, investment and knowledge-sharing.

Goa has significant experience in tourism, while Mauritius has developed a strong international tourism model. Rather than competing, we can learn from each other. Environmental management is another area where cooperation

can be useful. Goa needs to address issues such as waste, water management and the protection of beaches.

There is also an opportunity to look at employment and skills. Goa is a tourism-oriented economy, but we are simultaneously facing high unemployment and migration.

If we can create better opportunities and partnerships, there can be benefits for both sides.

You mentioned unemployment in Goa. How significant is this challenge?

Goa is among the states with high unemployment in India, which is ironic because we are also a major tourism destination. At the same time, there is considerable migration taking place. We therefore have to ask ourselves why a state with such a strong tourism industry is unable to generate sufficient



Mauritius demonstrates that tourism and environmental protection have to move together.



opportunities for its own people?

This is certainly another area where we can learn from Mauritius. We need to look at how tourism can generate sustainable employment, and how local communities can benefit more directly from the sector.

The objective should not simply be to attract more tourists. We need to ensure that tourism creates opportunities for local people and contributes to the wider economy.

What is the main message you will take back to Goa from this visit?

My main message is that there is a lot we can learn from Mauritius. The assets Mauritius and Goa have in common are striking, but the challenges are also similar. We have an opportunity to learn from Mauritius before some of Goa's problems become even more serious. We need to protect our beaches, manage our environment, address water and waste issues, and ensure that development remains sustainable.

There are also significant opportunities for stronger trade and economic cooperation.

I would like to thank Vijay Dardaji for giving us this opportunity through the Lokmat Summit and Awards. I have genuinely learned a lot during this visit, and I believe there are many opportunities ahead, particularly for Goa and Mauritius to work together in tourism, trade, employment and sustainable development.



Yuri Alemao at a glance

Yuri Lenon Elias Alemao is an Indian politician, businessman, and former aircraft pilot who currently serves as the Leader of the Opposition in the Goa Legislative Assembly, representing the Cuncolim Assembly constituency since 2022. He is credited with advocating the inclusion of the Cuncolim Revolt in the educational curriculum of schools and colleges in Goa. He also raised the longstanding issue of hazardous waste disposal at the Cuncolim Industrial Estate.

Yuri Alemao has a commercial pilot licence from Basair Aviation College, New South Wales, Australia, since 2006.



Lokmat One World Summit & Awards 2026

India – Mauritius: From ancestral ties to African ambitions

At the Lokmat One World Summit & Awards 2026, speakers painted a portrait of the evolving relationship between Mauritius and India. It is one based on historical and cultural ties. At Government level, it has seen the two countries advocate each other's interests. Economically, there is a "multi-faceted economic partnership involving trade, investment, tourism, business, culture and technology." For others at the event held on August 25 at Le Meridien Ile Maurice, investment is meant to become "the powerhouse" of the relationship. That is where Mauritius, as the "natural bridge between Asia and Africa," can thrive.

The India-Mauritius relationship has moved well beyond history and cultural affinity into an era of economic opportunity. That is what came out of the Lokmat One World Summit and Awards 2026 held on August 25 at Le Meridien Ile Maurice. In attendance were the President of the Republic of Mauritius, Members of the National Assembly, Indian industrialists and businessmen, and a former Member of the Rajya Sabha (upper house of the Indian Parliament), amongst others.

In his opening address, Dharam Gokhool, President of the Republic of Mauritius, described the relationship between India and Mauritius as uniquely deep, rooted not only in history, but also in education, culture and people-to-people ties.

Recalling a statement made by a former Indian Prime Minister, he said that "Mauritius and India are not two countries, but one family with a blood relationship."

President Dharam Gokhool also highlighted India's contribution to Mauritius before independence, stressing that "Indian universities opened their doors to Mauritian students, many of whom later occupied senior positions in the country's public service."

According to him, the Lokmat Summit, which he described as "a great advertisement for Mauritius," demonstrates the strength of the relationship.



Referring to his meeting with Lokmat officials, he quoted a social media post describing Mauritius as offering a "strong cultural connect, deep-rooted relations, and immense entrepreneurial potential."

FROM CULTURAL AFFINITY TO INVESTMENT

Speaking at the Summit, Arvin Boolell, Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, first talked about how "India has consistently been Mauritius' first partner, not merely because of shared cultural heritage, but because of the practical support extended by India. At international forums, Mauritius has also consistently supported India's aspiration for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council," Minister Boolell said.

A legitimate aspiration, as according to him, India is a powerhouse, and a force to be reckoned with.

Minister Boolell then talked about taking the Mauritius-India relationship a step further, towards investment and economic empowerment. "Beyond emotion and cultural affinity, we need to look at economic ties," he stressed.

Mauritius, he argued, can serve as an enabler for Indian businesses seeking opportunities across Africa.



"With the African Continental Free Trade Area representing a market of almost 1.4 billion people, there is immense opportunity for Mauritius to act as a springboard for Indian investment into the continent," said Arvin Boolell, who added that the country's service-oriented economy, investment framework and international agreements can help facilitate this ambition.

He therefore called for investment to become "the powerhouse" of the relationship, stressing that economic cooperation should ultimately translate into education, employability, trade and poverty reduction.

AFRICA AS A PARTNER, NOT JUST A MARKET

For Dr. Vijay Darda, Chairman of Lokmat Media Group and Former Member of the Rajya Sabha, the Lokmat summit represents more than an annual event. It is intended as a platform to connect minds, ideas and institutions, and build meaningful partnerships between India, Mauritius and Africa.

Drawing on more than five decades in journalism, public life and institution-building, he said that journalism taught him to ask questions, while his years in Parliament taught him that leadership ultimately lies in finding solutions.

He went on to explain that India's changing growth story is driven not only by the size of its economy, but also by entrepreneurs, young people, technology and democratic institutions. Importantly, he argued that India's next phase of growth cannot depend solely on large corporations. Start-ups, family businesses and regional entrepreneurs will also be critical in creating employment and driving innovation.

Highlighting artificial intelligence, which is transforming media, agriculture, healthcare, education, manufacturing, business and government, he stressed that "technology must remain a servant of humanity, not its master," and called for journalism to retain its accountability and credibility even as AI transforms the media landscape.

Speaking about Africa, Dr. Darda said that the continent should not be viewed simply as a market, but a partner, identifying healthcare, digital technology, agriculture, renewable energy, education and infrastructure as areas for cooperation.

MAURITIUS: THE NATURAL BRIDGE

Indian businesses, he argued, should go beyond exporting products by investing locally, sharing technology, developing skills and creating employment.

Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India to Mauritius, underlined the exceptional nature of the bilateral relationship in his speech. Having spent around one-and-a-half years in Mauritius, he said he had witnessed first-hand how the relationship goes beyond conventional diplomacy. For many Mauritians, India is not simply the ancestral land of their forefathers. It remains part of everyday life, as reflected in language, music, festivals and traditions.

This relationship, he argued, has however evolved into a multi-faceted economic partnership involving trade, investment, tourism, business, culture and technology. Mauritius, he stressed, is a "natural bridge between Asia and Africa," citing its strategic location, trade agreements, multilingual and skilled workforce and economic architecture as assets.

Anurag Srivastava highlighted the Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement signed in 2021 as an important framework for strengthening bilateral economic relations and positioning Mauritius as a gateway for India's engagement with Africa.

"Digital payments and financial cooperation are also expanding, with India's UPI system supporting greater convenience for visitors, particularly tourists and medical travellers, while a local currency settlement mechanism is intended to facilitate trade and reduce dependence on hard currencies," added the High Commissioner of India to Mauritius.

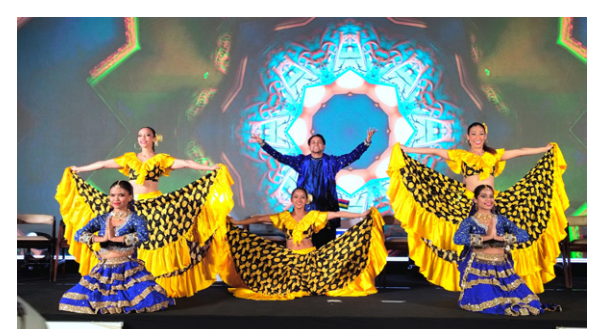
A RELATIONSHIP BUILT ON TRUST

For his part, Rajen Narsinghen, Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, described the bilateral relationship as a "great love" between the two countries and, more importantly, between two peoples.

He also pointed to the historical contribution of Indian artisans and architects to Mauritius, alongside the later arrival of indentured labourers, as foundations of the country's modern identity.

"Today, cooperation extends into strategic areas such as energy, healthcare and maritime security," said Rajen Narsinghen, as he reiterated India's support for Mauritius on international issues, including the country's position on the Chagos Archipelago.

For Junior Minister Narsinghen, however, the next chapter must involve the private sector. "With Mauritius a small country but a major ocean state possessing an extensive Exclusive Economic Zone, Indian entrepreneurs and investors can look beyond the traditional cultural relationship and examine the country's strategic and economic potential," he stressed.



Opening ceremony of XPENG showroom

Axess powers Mauritius' EV future with XPENG



Mauritius is shifting into a new gear in smart mobility, with XPENG and Axess stepping up their electric vehicle ambitions. Following XPENG's Mauritius market entry last May, Axess has now unveiled the brand's dedicated showroom at Bagatelle Motorcity during the opening ceremony on Aug 27. This move comes with an expanding product pipeline, advanced driver-assistance technology, and a clear focus on artificial intelligence. With two to three additional models expected by year-end, XPENG and Axess are betting on Mauritius as a strategic growth market for stronger regional ambitions.



Rather than opting for a conventional opening ceremony, XPENG designed the evening as an immersive experience reflecting its core positioning around technology, innovation and the future of mobility. The event was held in its dedicated showroom at Bagatelle Motorcity, on Aug 27, in the presence of Land Transport Minister Osman Mahomed and representatives of XPENG Middle East and Africa.

Guests were introduced to the showroom through XPILOT – XPENG's digital host, while an evolving audio-visual environment allowed participants to select their experience through an application. The evening also offered an opportunity to experience the G6 and X9 first-hand.

Located at the former Peugeot showroom at Bagatelle Motorcity, the new facility has been designed around XPENG's technology-led identity, combining automotive retail with a more experiential approach to mobility.

For Stéphane Chateau de Balyon, Managing Director of Axess Ltd, the showroom gives XPENG a stronger physical presence in Mauritius. "Beyond being a new sales space, it gives the brand a genuine physical foothold on the island and reflects our determination to establish XPENG sustainably within the Mauritian automotive landscape", he said.

MAURITIUS AS A STRATEGIC MARKET

XPENG also views the Mauritian operation as more than a standalone market. Jerry Dong,

representing XPENG Middle East and Africa, stated that "Mauritius occupies a special place in our international development," before adding that the showroom demonstrates XPENG's intention to establish a long-term presence alongside Axess.

The company is also betting on the profile of Mauritian consumers, whom Jerry Dong described as increasingly technology-savvy and demanding.

Indeed, for Minister Osman Mahomed, "the arrival of technology-focused automotive players such as XPENG in our market reflects the positive evolution of the Mauritian automotive sector towards more innovative and environmentally responsible solutions."

XPENG currently offers two flagship models in Mauritius. The G6 is positioned as an electric SUV combining performance with advanced technology, while the X9 is a premium seven-seater focused on comfort, space and connectivity.

The portfolio is expected to expand rapidly. Axess plans to introduce two to three additional models before the end of the year, reinforcing its ambition to build XPENG into a significant player in the local electric vehicle market.

BUILDING THE XPENG ECOSYSTEM

Founded in 2014 and headquartered in Guangzhou, XPENG develops electric vehicles around artificial intelligence, smart driving and connected technologies. The company develops



key technologies in-house, including advanced driver-assistance systems, its intelligent in-vehicle operating system, powertrain and electrical/electronic architecture.

XPENG operates across major technology and automotive centres including Beijing, Shanghai, Silicon Valley, Munich and Amsterdam. Its vehicles are primarily manufactured in Zhaoqing and Guangzhou.

For Axess, the partnership adds another technology-driven brand to an established automotive platform. A subsidiary of ER Group, Axess claims close to 25% of Mauritius' new-vehicle market, while also operating in used vehicles and heavy equipment.

With the new showroom and an expanded model pipeline, XPENG is now moving from market entry to market consolidation in Mauritius as the automotive industry is undergoing a structural shift towards electrification, connectivity and advanced driver-assistance technologies.

XPENG's proposition sits squarely at the intersection of these trends, with artificial intelligence and software increasingly central to the driving experience.



Official launch of Fillin

Powering the energy resilience of Mauritius

The launch of *Fillin* on August 21, at L'Aventure du Sucre, marks more than the rebranding of a familiar fuel network. It opens a new chapter in the energy landscape of Mauritius, with Bhunjun Group becoming the first fully Mauritian-owned player to operate a national fuel distribution network. For Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, the development is closely tied to energy security, resilience and economic sovereignty. For Veekram Bhunjun, CEO of Bhunjun Group, it is a bold vote of confidence in Mauritius, and a commitment to invest in strategic infrastructure that can strengthen the country's ability to withstand external energy shocks.



Mauritians won't have to get used to the name. *Fillin*, the new national fuel distribution network operated by Bhunjun Group, is simply the Mauritian creole word for filling or service station. Having bought Engen Petroleum (Mauritius) Limited, Beta Oil Terminal Limited, a subsidiary of the Bhunjun Group, becomes the owner of the former's fuel distribution network, including aviation, maritime and storage operations, lubricants and commercial activities.

The transition from Engen to *Fillin* was formalised during an event held on August 21, at L'Aventure du Sucre. The ceremony was held in the presence of Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam, Ministers, Senior Chief Executives in the civil service, as well as influential CEOs and Chairmen of the business community.

Addressing the launch, Navin Ramgoolam said that the operation is more than a change of corporate identity. *"It is also an opportunity to reflect on an industry that supports almost every aspect of our economy and daily lives,"* he stated. For him, the emergence of a fully Mauritian-owned fuel distribution network demonstrates the growing capacity of local businesses to participate in strategic sectors traditionally dominated by international players.

BHUNJUN GROUP AND THE BETAMAX CASE

Prime Minister Ramgoolam's intervention took a distinctly political dimension when he referred to what he described as the difficulties experienced by the Bhunjun Group under the previous government.

"I do not wish to dwell on the past. But I cannot help but speak about the persecution of the Bhunjun Group by the previous government."



The CEO of Bhunjun Group, together with his family, lived a period of systematic harassment, humiliation and blatant hostility," he stated.

The State, he reminded those in attendance, was subsequently required to pay billions of rupees in damages following the termination of the transport of petroleum products to Mauritius contract between the State Trading Corporation (STC) and Betamax – a subsidiary of Bhunjun Group – in 2015.

Navin Ramgoolam also criticised the previous government's decision, in 2019, to terminate the supply of petroleum product agreement between the STC and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Limited (MRPL).

INDIA AND ENERGY SECURITY

Talking about energy security, Navin Ramgoolam stated that Mauritius remains fully dependent on imports for its petroleum requirements, leaving the country exposed to international prices, geopolitical tensions and supply-chain disruptions.

He explained that on the eve of the *Fillin* launch (August 20), Mauritius signed two agreements with India, namely a Memorandum of Understanding on cooperation in the oil and gas sector, and a long-term sale and purchase agreement between the STC and IndianOil.

"The signing of these two agreements is of strategic importance to Mauritius. Above all, they will safeguard our energy security and strengthen the resilience of our economy," he noted.

This is all the more important as international oil prices remain high. Mauritius' price stabilisation mechanism, said the Prime Minister, currently absorbs more than Rs 5 per litre of petrol, and



nearly Rs 14 per litre of diesel sold in Mauritius.

"When the government came to power in November 2024, the price stabilisation account had a deficit of around Rs 3.2 billion. While subsequent measures improved the position, geopolitical tensions have again placed pressure on the mechanism," he warned, adding that "countries do not build resilience during a crisis."

A COMPETITIVE ACQUISITION

For his part, Veekram Bhunjun, CEO of the Bhunjun Group, said it was a proud moment for Mauritius, "as for more than 100 years, the fuel retail business in our country has been operated by international players. Today, we are witnessing the birth of the very first Mauritian-owned fuel distribution network."

According to Mr Bhunjun, the bidding process was highly competitive, involving more than 20 international bidders, including some of the world's largest energy companies.

"We had to demonstrate operational excellence, technical capability, financial credibility and, above all, the confidence that we could successfully grow a strategic national network over the long term," he explained.

Already active in construction, building materials, hospitality, shipping and bunkering, the group now adds fuel distribution to its growing portfolio. The journey, Mr Bhunjun recalled, began more than six decades ago with his father, Soodursan Bhunjun. Starting as a concrete mason at the age of 18, he later established himself as a contractor before founding the Bhunjun Group in the early 1960s.

"The group has since been involved in several major Mauritian developments, including the University of Mauritius, Cyber Tower 1, the Swami Vivekananda International Convention Centre, the New Oil Jetty, and the former Voile D'Or Resort," Veekram



Bhunjun stated.

The group, continued the CEO, is currently constructing five storage tanks at a cost of Rs 1 billion. The project, he said, will increase Mauritius' strategic oil reserves by approximately one week, "enhancing our resilience to external shocks and disruptions in global energy markets."

"MAURITIUS IS OUR HOME"

For Veekram Bhunjun, the decision to invest in the fuel sector was ultimately a statement of confidence in the country, as *"Mauritius is not only a market; it is our home."* Fillin's slogan, "Lesans nou pei," a clever play on the Mauritian creole word for fuel and the word essence, underlines that fact.

For him, Fillin shows how far local capital,

entrepreneurship and strategic investment can reshape a sector critical to the country's economic security. Indeed, Bhunjun Group's CEO argued that Mauritian entrepreneurs have a responsibility to invest locally, create value, innovate and contribute to the country's ambition of becoming a high-income economy.

Government alone, he stressed, cannot deliver that ambition. Neither can the private sector. What is required, he argued, is a genuine partnership between government, businesses, civil society and citizens.

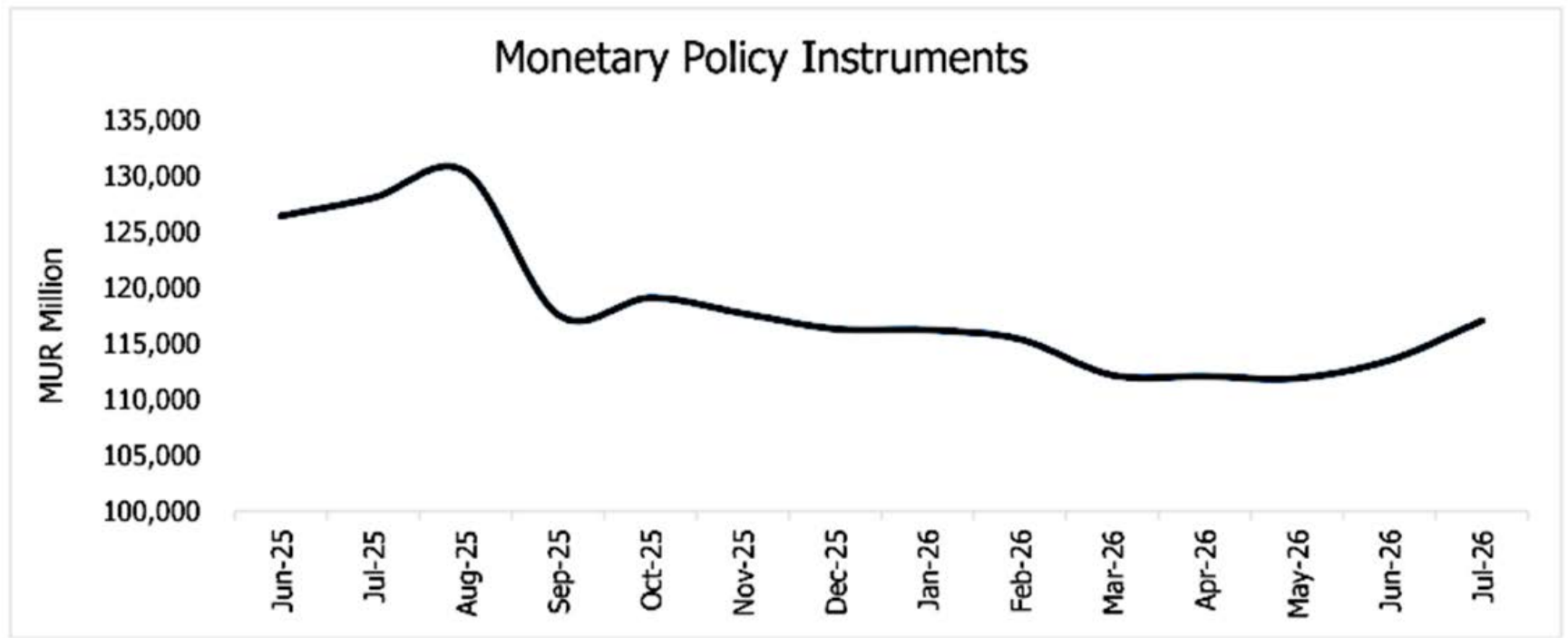
As for Fillin, Veekram Bhunjun, says the ambition is to evolve the service station into a broader mobility and service hub, incorporating conventional fuels, electric vehicle charging, digital payments, retail and other services.



Sovereign securities reach Rs 524.8bn as yields ease

Outstanding Government of Mauritius securities rose by 9.2 per cent year on year to Rs 524.8bn at the end of July, equivalent to 65.6 per cent of forecast 2026 GDP, according to CareEdge Africa. Strong demand at auctions held between August 17 and 21 coincided with lower short-term yields, while international reserves declined sharply and private-sector bank financing continued to expand.

Outstanding BOM Instruments



- Total outstanding BOM instruments increased by 3.11%, reaching MUR 117,049 million at the end of July 2026 from MUR 113,521 million at the end of June 2026.

The domestic sovereign debt market entered the second half of August with robust investor demand and broadly easing yields. Government securities increased by 1.3 per cent in July alone, while outstanding Bank of Mauritius instruments rose by 3.11 per cent to Rs 117bn. The figures point to sustained liquidity in the financial system, although the fall in international reserves and continued pressure on the rupee remain important points of scrutiny.

CareEdge Africa's latest Mauritius Sovereign Debt Market report, dated August 27, places outstanding government securities at Rs 524.8bn, or \$11.2bn. Bank of Mauritius instruments stood at Rs 117bn, equivalent to \$2.5bn.

"Total outstanding government securities stood at Rs 524,841mn at end of July 2026, reflecting a monthly increase of 1.30 per cent and a year-on-year growth of 9.16 per cent," the report said.

The stock of government securities represented 65.6 per cent of forecast gross domestic product of Rs 800.6bn for 2026. Longer-term government bonds remained the largest component, accounting for 49.7 per cent of outstanding securities at the end of July. Treasury bills represented 17.6 per cent, Treasury notes 15.9 per cent, five-year government bonds 15.8 per cent and Silver Bonds 1 per cent.

A further Rs 11.6bn in Treasury Certificates had been issued to non-financial public-sector bodies,

accounting for 2.3 per cent of total outstanding debt.

STRONG DEMAND AT AUGUST AUCTIONS

Investor appetite remained pronounced during the week under review. A seven-year government bond auction held on August 19 attracted bids equivalent to 260 per cent of the Rs 3bn tender. The full amount was accepted at a weighted average yield of 5.28 per cent, marginally below the 5.29 per cent recorded at the previous auction in July. The coupon rate remained at 5.23 per cent.

Demand was also strong for shorter maturities. Bids for Rs 1bn of 182-day Treasury bills reached 240 per cent of the tender amount, up from 210 per cent a week earlier. The weighted average yield declined by three basis points to 4.15 per cent.

The Rs 1.5bn auction of 364-day Treasury bills was nearly three times subscribed, with bids reaching 293 per cent of the amount offered. Its weighted average yield fell five basis points to 4.37 per cent.

Demand for 91-day central bank bills strengthened. The Bank of Mauritius received bids equal to 190 per cent of its Rs 4bn tender, compared with 156 per cent at the preceding auction. The weighted average yield remained unchanged at 4 per cent.

The results contrasted with the five-year



Government securities increased by 1.3 per cent in July alone.

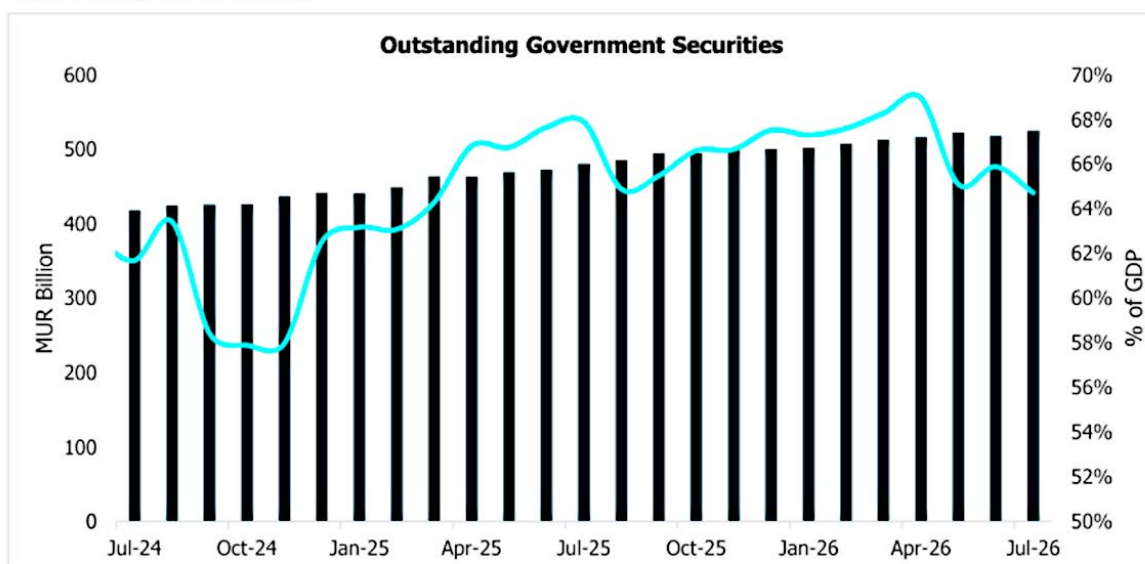


government bond switch auction held on August 17. Although bids reached 106 per cent of the Rs 2.5bn tender, only Rs 653mn, or 26 per cent of the amount offered, was accepted. The weighted average yield was 5.35 per cent, up from 5.32 per cent at the August 5 auction, while the coupon rate stood at 5.35 per cent.

Since the beginning of August, Rs 17.4bn of government securities had been issued, representing 3.32 per cent of the stock outstanding at the end of July. This comprised Rs 8.5bn in Treasury bills, Rs 3.43bn in five-year bonds and Rs 5.5bn in other government bonds.

The Bank of Mauritius separately issued Rs 12bn in bills, equivalent to 10.25 per cent of outstanding central bank instruments. CareEdge said nine government and central bank bill auctions had taken place since the beginning of August,

Outstanding GOM Securities



- Total outstanding government securities stood at MUR 524,841 million at end of July 2026, reflecting a monthly increase of 1.30 % and a year-on-year growth of 9.16%.
- At the end of July 2026, the ratio of total outstanding Government securities to forecasted GDP at market price of MUR 800,598 million for 2026 was 65.6%.

resulting in Rs 20.5bn of bill issuance at an aggregate weighted average yield of 4.14 per cent a year.

YIELDS REMAIN BELOW LAST YEAR'S LEVELS

The broader direction of sovereign yields continued to point downwards. The weighted average Treasury bill yield stood at 4.20 per cent in July, compared with 4.24 per cent in June and 4.56 per cent in July last year.

Treasury note yields fell to 4.86 per cent from 4.98 per cent in June and 5.27 per cent a year earlier. The seven-year government bond yield stood at 5.29 per cent in July, while the 15-year yield was 5.75 per cent.

Bank deposit and lending rates both increased in June. The weighted average rupee deposit rate rose from 2.52 per cent to 2.70 per cent, while the lending rate climbed from 6.77 per cent to 6.94 per cent.

"Accordingly, the interest spread decreased from 4.25 per cent per annum in May 2026 to 4.24 per cent in June 2026," CareEdge said.

The Monetary Policy Committee kept the key rate unchanged at 4.75 per cent in August, balancing persistent inflation risks against weaker growth prospects. The committee considered the effects of earlier monetary tightening and recent Budget measures. According to CareEdge, stress tests showed that the banking sector remained resilient, supported by strong capital and liquidity buffers.

BANK FINANCING RISES AS EXCESS LIQUIDITY NARROWS

Private-sector bank financing to non-financial companies and households rose to Rs 622.6bn at the end of June, from Rs 611.5bn one month earlier, an increase of Rs 11.1bn.

Banks held an average cash balance of Rs 97.2bn during the maintenance period ending August 6. This consisted of Rs 70.6bn in Mauritian rupees and Rs 26.6bn in foreign currencies.

The minimum cash balance required was Rs 90.5bn, comprising Rs 68.3bn in rupees and Rs 22.3bn in foreign currencies. The requirement was

calculated on a deposit base of slightly more than Rs 1tn.

Excess cash holdings amounted to Rs 2.3bn in rupees and Rs 4.35bn in foreign currencies. Total excess liquidity consequently stood at Rs 6.64bn, down from Rs 7.48bn for the period ending July 9.

Secondary-market transactions declined to Rs 16.8bn in July from Rs 19.3bn in June. Activity represented 2.62 per cent of combined outstanding government and Bank of Mauritius debt, which totalled Rs 641.9bn at the end of July.

AfrAsia Bank, Absa Bank (Mauritius), SBM Bank (Mauritius) and The Mauritius Commercial Bank are the four institutions appointed as primary dealers. They are eligible to participate in primary auctions and are expected to support liquidity, develop the secondary market and help establish a domestic yield curve for pricing government and corporate debt.

RESERVES FALL BY MORE THAN RS 62BN

Gross official international reserves fell to Rs 461bn, or \$9.71bn, at the end of July, from Rs 523.1bn, or \$11bn, in June.

This represents a monthly decline of Rs 62.1bn, or almost 12 per cent. Despite the reduction, reserves provided cover for 13.7 months of imports of goods and services, based on the 2025 import bill.

Currency indicators also showed sustained pressure on the rupee. MERI 1 stood at 135.093 in July, compared with 136.539 in June and 130.584 a year earlier. MERI 2 reached 133.777, against 135.237 in June and 129.325 in July 2025.

CareEdge said the year-on-year movement reflected the "continued depreciation of the Mauritian rupee".

Gross direct investment inflows nevertheless increased by 22.8 per cent year on year during the first quarter of 2026. Construction, real estate, and professional, scientific and technical activities were the principal drivers.

LISTED DEBT REACHES RS 58.1BN

Outstanding debt listed on the Stock Exchange

Gross direct investment inflows increased by 22.8 per cent.

of Mauritius amounted to Rs 58.1bn, or about \$1.22bn, across 18 issuers. Rated listed debt stood at Rs 26.1bn, equivalent to 3.3 per cent of forecast GDP, while unrated listed debt amounted to Rs 32bn, or 4 per cent of GDP.

Rupee-denominated instruments accounted for Rs 36bn, or 62 per cent of the listed market. The remaining Rs 22bn, or 38 per cent, was denominated in US dollars, euros, sterling and South African rand.

CareEdge estimated total rated debt, including listed and unlisted instruments, at Rs 103.7bn, equivalent to 12.95 per cent of forecast GDP. Of this amount, Rs 26.1bn was listed and Rs 77.6bn was unlisted.

The auction calendar included Rs 2.5bn of three-year Treasury notes on August 26, followed by Rs 1bn of 182-day Treasury bills and Rs 1.5bn of 364-day bills on August 27.

TRADE, ENERGY AND INFLATION SHAPE GLOBAL OUTLOOK

CareEdge also highlighted developments across major international markets. Trade talks between the US and Canada broke down, prompting Washington to impose 50 per cent tariffs on about \$20bn of Canadian products, including wine, dairy products and furniture.

Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney said Ottawa would retaliate from September 8 with tariffs targeting US steel, agricultural equipment, dairy products, pulp and paper. The dispute threatens to raise costs for businesses and consumers while adding uncertainty to North American trade relations.

In Africa, Tanzania commissioned the 2,115-megawatt Julius Nyerere Hydropower Project, more than doubling its installed electricity-generating capacity. The country's largest hydropower plant is expected to improve electricity supplies, reduce shortages and support industrial growth.

Singapore's headline inflation rose to 2.2 per cent year on year in July, its highest level in almost two years, although it remained below the market forecast of 2.3 per cent. Core inflation stood at 2 per cent.

Higher global energy prices drove up electricity, gas and transport costs, while imported food and goods were also expected to become more expensive. The figures followed the Monetary Authority of Singapore's surprise monetary tightening in July. The government introduced about S\$2bn in support measures and raised its 2026 economic growth forecast to between 4.5 and 5.5 per cent.

Arpita Banerjee brings Kathak's cinematic journey to Mauritius

In *Kathak Ki Kahaani, Bollywood Ki Zubaani*, acclaimed dancer and choreographer Arpita Banerjee traces the relationship between one of India's great classical traditions and the silver screen. Ahead of two performances at the Caudan Arts Centre, she spoke to Bizweek about returning to a country she considers home, preserving Kathak's authenticity and keeping human creativity alive in the age of artificial intelligence.

For Arpita Banerjee, returning to Mauritius is more than another engagement on an international itinerary. It is a homecoming. The Indian Kathak exponent taught on the island and retains close ties with her former students and fellow artists. Those relationships are now central to *Kathak Ki Kahaani, Bollywood Ki Zubaani*, the 90-minute dance-theatre production she has curated and directed for the Mauritian stage.

"I truly felt as though I was coming back home," she tells Bizweek. "My students, my colleague and her students have all been extremely supportive. There is a connection that allows us to work together very easily. It is the coordination, the mutual understanding and respect, and the love of Kathak that we all share. The production is emerging from all those feelings."

That sense of continuity matters to Arpita Banerjee. The show is built around a meeting of two powerful strands of Indian cultural memory: the centuries-old storytelling tradition of Kathak and the popular reach of Indian cinema. On stage, familiar songs become a way of retracing the dance form's evolution from its narrative origins and classical vocabulary to its enduring presence on screen.

The production was scheduled to be performed yesterday, Saturday 29 August, at 7.30 p.m. at the Caudan Arts Centre, and again today, Sunday 30 August, at 6 p.m. Arpita Banerjee appears alongside her students and those of Mauritian Kathak teacher Trishtee Toory.

CINEMA AS A DOORWAY INTO KATHAK

Although the association with Bollywood may suggest a lighter or more commercial interpretation of classical dance, Arpita Banerjee's intention is precisely the opposite. She spent considerable time researching a cinematic repertoire through which the history and language of Kathak could be presented without compromising its integrity.

"This is a very special production that I conceptualised, and it took time," she says. "I am a Kathak dancer, and I did not want to dilute its authenticity or traditionalism. At the same time, I wanted to create something carrying the nostalgia of Bollywood."

The songs were not selected merely for their popularity. Each has a connection to Kathak, through its composition, choreography, the gurus involved in its creation, or its relationship to folk and courtly traditions that helped shape the classical form.

The performance reaches back to the earliest decades of Indian cinema and moves through later films and contemporary productions. In doing so, it shows how cinema has drawn upon Kathak's rhythms, gestures, musical structures and expressive language across generations.

"When Indian cinema began in the early 1930s, it was already taking a great deal from Kathak and classical music," she explains. "Through cinema, and across different periods, we can see how Kathak evolved. We see the classical tradition, the in-



fluence of the Mughal and Islamic courts, contemporary interpretations, and moments when people feared that traditionalism was losing its place. Then it returned again through new films and series."

For Arpita Banerjee, this revival demonstrates that popular culture does not necessarily erase classical heritage. When approached with knowledge and discipline, it can introduce that heritage to audiences who may never have entered a traditional recital hall.

The production incorporates demanding footwork and chakkars – Kathak's characteristic turns – but also gives considerable space to bhaav, the expressive dimension of the form. Banerjee refers to pieces including "In Aankhon Ki Masti" and the more recent "Hat Jao Saiyaan" from Heeramandi to illustrate how a dancer can use familiar music

to create a distinct visual narrative.

"Kathak is a storytelling tradition, and this time we are telling the story of Kathak through Bollywood music," she says. "There is intricate footwork and there are strong chakkars, but I have also placed great emphasis on expression. Kathak is a form that can speak simply through the eyes."

ROOT, TRUNK AND BRANCHES

Arpita Banerjee's work frequently moves across artistic boundaries. Her earlier Mauritius production, *Hansini*, brought Kathak into conversation with ballet and reimagined Tchaikovsky's *Swan Lake* through Indian classical instruments. Yet, she rejects the notion that innovation must come at the expense of tradition.

Her philosophy rests on a simple image: before an



artist can extend the branches, the root and trunk must be secure.

"It is very important to know your roots. It is important to hold on to the trunk and then spread out the branches," she says. "What I received from my gurus, I want to preserve and pass on to the next generation. I do not like to dilute the essence of Kathak, because that is what will carry it into the future."

The depth of the form itself, she argues, leaves ample room for creativity. Its compositions, ragas, taals, narrative possibilities and technical intricacies constitute a field too vast to exhaust in one lifetime.

"There is so much to explore. That depth will never let me go," she says.

Her convictions are rooted in childhood experience. As a young student, she made long train journeys with her mother to study under her guru. Fatigue would disappear as soon as she heard the tabla, harmonium and ghungroos near the dance school. That memory remains part of her artistic foundation.

"It is where I come from," she reflects. "My parents and my gurus made the base so strong that I hope I can remain stable upon it. Contemporary influences may come like a breeze, but if the foundation is strong, they will not dilute it."

A LANGUAGE BEYOND WORDS

Although Kathak Ki Kahaani, Bollywood Ki Zubaani draws on Hindi cinema, Arpita Banerjee insists that neither knowledge of the language nor previous exposure to classical dance is necessary to appreciate it.

Kathak communicates through rhythm, percussion, melody, movement and facial expression. This has allowed her to perform before audiences in countries like the United States and Canada without translating every lyric.

"You do not have to be a Kathak student or professional to enjoy Kathak," she says. "There is rhythm and there is expression, where you do not have to speak. There is the sound of percussion and the pakhawaj, and there are musical phrases. We do not need a common language to connect."

That ability to communicate across cultures also gives Kathak a place in India's soft power. Through performances, teaching and the international work of cultural institutions, the dance form creates

When Indian cinema began in the early 1930s, it was already taking a great deal from Kathak and classical music.

relationships that are not confined to official diplomacy.

Mauritius provides Arpita Banerjee with a personal illustration of that influence. The connection has endured beyond her formal posting: her students remain here, and the artistic branches she helped nurture continue to grow.

TRADITION IN THE AGE OF AI

Her defence of the human element extends beyond dance. Asked what younger generations should retain in an age increasingly shaped by artificial intelligence, she raises both environmental and creative concerns.

She worries about the resources consumed by rapidly expanding AI infrastructure, particularly water, and about what may happen if people surrender too much intellectual and creative effort to machines. AI, in her view, can be useful in science and other highly technical fields, but it should remain a tool rather than become a substitute for human thought.

"Human intelligence is God-given," she says. "If we give all control to artificial intelligence in our day-to-day lives, the brain will try to sleep for longer."

For an art form built upon emotion, discipline and direct transmission from guru to student, this distinction is fundamental. A machine may reproduce patterns; it cannot live the years of practice, memory and feeling that give a gesture its meaning.

Yet, Arpita Banerjee is not pessimistic about the next generation. Through two festivals she organises annually in India – one for senior artists and another for younger performers – she sees children as young as five approaching classical dance

with striking discipline and enthusiasm.

"When I watch children between five and ten perform, I am amazed by their sincerity," she says. "That does not come from one day of practice. It is a continuous process, and they are not doing it by force. You can see the happiness on their faces."

Young dancers are also more willing to experiment and present their own ideas to their teachers, she observes. Provided that parents and gurus continue to support them, she believes classical traditions can remain secure while benefiting from a new generation's confidence and imagination.

LEAVING WITH A NEW MEMORY

Arpita Banerjee hopes the production will speak differently to different generations. Older spectators may recognise songs associated with films from their youth and encounter them anew through Kathak. Younger audiences may discover both the music and the classical tradition for the first time.

"One generation will carry the nostalgia of the older films," she explains. "For younger people who may not have heard those songs, I hope the production will create a bright new memory. They will see how Kathak can tell a story through music that may otherwise have produced a completely different picture in their minds."

The initial presentation on 19 August drew an audience that included the President of the Republic, members of the diplomatic corps and government representatives. Their response, says Arpita Banerjee, reinforced her belief that a rigorously classical production can remain accessible, emotionally direct and theatrically compelling.

Her invitation to Mauritian audiences is straightforward: come without apprehension, and allow the rhythm and expressions to do their work.

"Come, sit, relax and listen to the story," she says. "Watch the performances, and take away the memories."

Performance details	
Production	Kathak Ki Kahaani, Bollywood Ki Zubaani
Venue	Caudan Arts Centre
Saturday 29 August 2026	7.30 p.m.
Sunday 30 August 2026	6 p.m.
Duration	90 minutes
Language	Hindi and English

Start-up de La Turbine

TIBOK développe une solution de santé numérique pour faciliter l'accès aux soins

De la téléconsultation au suivi des maladies chroniques, TIBOK, start-up incubée à la Turbine, propose un dispositif de santé numérique conçu autour de My Medical Intelligence, son moteur d'intelligence artificielle clinique, avec l'ambition de faciliter l'accès à des soins de qualité à Maurice et, à terme, à l'échelle régionale et africaine.

L'accès aux soins évolue avec les technologies numériques. À Maurice, une nouvelle solution entend contribuer à cette transformation : TIBOK, une plateforme de santé numérique conçue et développée localement. Si elle propose notamment la téléconsultation, TIBOK se veut avant tout un dispositif de santé plus large, conçu pour accompagner le patient tout au long de son parcours de soins. « À l'origine de TIBOK se trouve une conviction forgée par ma propre expérience : près de trente années de pratique médicale m'ont convaincu que l'accès aux soins à distance n'a de sens que si la qualité de la prise en charge peut être garantie, quel que soit le médecin consulté ou l'endroit où se trouve le patient. C'est pour répondre à cet enjeu qu'a été développé My Medical Intelligence, le moteur d'intelligence artificielle clinique qui constitue le cœur de TIBOK. Je ne pouvais pas lancer une

plateforme de téléconsultation sans garantir une qualité de service strictement identique à chaque patient, quel que soit le médecin qui le reçoit. C'est précisément ce constat qui m'a conduit à concevoir My Medical Intelligence. Sans elle, je n'aurais jamais lancé TIBOK. Elle structure, sécurise et uniformise chaque décision médicale sur la plateforme, en présentiel comme à distance », explique le Dr Stéphane Bach, le fondateur de TIBOK. Une plateforme qui va au-delà de la téléconsultation. Concrètement, TIBOK permet au patient d'accéder à différents services de santé à travers une même plateforme. La téléconsultation constitue l'une des portes d'entrée du dispositif, mais elle s'inscrit dans un parcours plus large intégrant notamment le suivi des maladies chroniques, l'orientation vers un spécialiste et le second avis médical. TIBOK est également interconnecté avec une grande partie de



l'écosystème privé de santé à Maurice, notamment les pharmacies, les laboratoires, les services d'imagerie, les services d'urgence des cliniques et les assurances. Cette interconnexion permet à la plateforme de ne pas limiter son intervention à une consultation isolée, mais de contribuer à organiser un parcours de soins plus complet.

Répondre au défi des maladies chroniques
Le suivi des maladies chroniques constitue l'un des autres axes majeurs de TIBOK. À Maurice, les maladies chroniques représentent un enjeu majeur de santé publique. Pour répondre à ce défi, TIBOK intègre directement dans son application un module de suivi chronique permettant notamment de

suivre la tension artérielle, la glycémie et le poids, sans nécessiter d'outil tiers. Des alertes proactives permettent d'identifier certaines évolutions nécessitant une attention particulière. L'objectif est ainsi de passer d'une logique de consultation ponctuelle à une logique de suivi continu, particulièrement importante pour les patients vivant avec une maladie chronique.

Un visiteur inattendu fait escale à LUX* Le Morne

Il est arrivé. Il a fait son check-in. Et il n'est certainement pas passé inaperçu ! Un éléphant de mer a été aperçu sur la plage donnant sur les chambres de LUX* Le Morne, aux alentours de 22h15, le lundi 24 août. Les employés de l'hôtel ont immédiatement alerté la National Coast Guard et la police. Une fois sur place, les autorités ont établi un périmètre de sécurité autour du mammifère afin de lui permettre de se reposer sans être dérangé, et de maintenir le public à distance. Toute la nuit, l'équipe de sécurité de l'hôtel a prêté main-forte aux officiers de la National Coast Guard et du Fisheries Protection Services pour veiller à la sécurité et au bien-être de l'animal. « Pour nous tous à LUX* Le Morne, accueillir un éléphant de mer sur notre plage est une rencontre aussi rare qu'exceptionnelle. Ce n'est pas quelque chose que nous avons l'habitude d'observer sur nos côtes, et naturellement, sa présence a suscité beaucoup



de curiosité et d'émerveillement auprès de nos clients et de nos équipes. À LUX* Le Morne, notre raison d'être – « We care about what matters » – prend ici tout son sens : aujourd'hui, ce qui compte avant tout, c'est la sécurité, le bien-être et la tranquillité de l'éléphant de mer. Prendre soin, c'est aussi savoir garder ses distances et laisser les experts faire leur travail. Notre rôle est de les accompagner au mieux et de veiller à ce que l'animal bénéficie du calme et de l'espace dont il a besoin », a déclaré Ashok Bhugoo, General Manager de LUX* Le Morne.

C-Lab fait évoluer le diagnostic du cancer avec la technologie Ventana Benchmark Ultra Plus

À une époque où la précision et la rapidité des résultats sont essentielles à la prise en charge des patients, C-Lab poursuit son engagement à investir dans des technologies de diagnostic de pointe. Le laboratoire du groupe C-Care vient d'acquérir le Ventana Benchmark Ultra Plus, un équipement de dernière génération, inédit à Maurice, qui améliore la précision, la fiabilité et la cohérence des résultats. Cette technologie, répondant aux plus hauts standards internationaux en matière de diagnostic, renforce la qualité des analyses en oncologie et fournit aux médecins des informations essentielles pour orienter leurs décisions thérapeutiques avec davantage de précision. Déjà équipé de la technologie Ventana BenchMark GX, C-Lab franchit une nouvelle étape dans le diagnostic de précision du cancer avec l'introduction de la nouvelle génération Ventana BenchMark Ultra Plus. Le laboratoire devient ainsi le seul laboratoire à Maurice à

adopter cette technologie de pointe. Alors que le cancer touche de nombreuses familles mauriciennes, cette innovation offre aux médecins un accès à des analyses plus rapides, plus précises et conformes aux meilleurs standards internationaux. En effet, le Ventana Benchmark Ultra Plus permet de réduire les délais de diagnostic de deux mois à quelques semaines grâce à une technologie locale. Jusqu'à présent, plusieurs analyses de biomarqueurs devaient être envoyées à l'étranger, entraînant des délais de deux mois. Désormais, les examens sont réalisés directement au laboratoire C-Lab. Les analyses courantes sont disponibles en quelques jours et les plus complexes sous deux semaines, permettant une prise en charge plus rapide et réduisant considérablement l'attente des patients et de leurs proches. « L'acquisition du Ventana Benchmark Ultra Plus constitue une avancée stratégique pour



C-Lab et pour la prise en charge du cancer à Maurice. Grâce à cette technologie dernière génération, nous renforçons notre capacité à fournir des diagnostics plus rapides, plus précis et plus fiables, tout en élargissant considérablement les possibilités de détection grâce à un plus grand nombre de marqueurs diagnostiques. Au-delà de la performance technologique, cet investissement traduit notre engagement à mettre les meilleurs standards internationaux au service des patients et des professionnels de santé », souligne Zaahirah Moreea Coowar, General Manager de C-Lab.

Collaboration avec Uniciti International Education Hub

Swansea University accréditée pour opérer une école de médecine à Maurice

Uniciti International Education Hub (UIEH), pôle éducatif du groupe Medine, annonce l'établissement d'une école de médecine par Swansea University sur son campus à Pierrefonds. Cette étape majeure intervient près de deux ans après le lancement du partenariat stratégique entre UIEH et l'université britannique autour de la licence en Nursing (Top-Up). Elle marque une nouvelle avancée dans l'ambition commune des deux institutions de développer à Maurice un véritable écosystème de formation dans les domaines de la santé et de la médecine, à vocation nationale et régionale.

L'annonce a été faite à l'occasion du UK/Mauritius Medical Educators Symposium, qui s'est tenu le jeudi 20 août 2026 sur le campus de l'UIEH. L'événement était animé par une délégation de Swansea University conduite, entre autres, par la professeur Ffion Williams, Head of Swansea University Medical School, et le professeur Kenneth McKeegan, Academic Head of Medicine. Le symposium a réuni médecins, professionnels de santé et acteurs de l'éducation médicale autour d'échanges consacrés au curriculum britannique, au modèle pédagogique de Swansea University et aux perspectives de collaboration avec la communauté médicale mauricienne. Lors de son séjour à Maurice, la délégation de Swansea University a également effectué une série de visites dans plusieurs hôpitaux publics et cliniques privées de l'île. Ces rencontres ont permis de présenter la structure du programme de Graduate Entry Medicine (GEM) et d'engager des échanges avec les professionnels de santé en vue

de préparer les futures périodes de formation clinique des étudiants. À l'issue de ces échanges, la professeur Ffion Williams a souligné l'importance de cette nouvelle étape. « C'est une grande fierté de concrétiser l'implantation de notre école de médecine à Maurice. Les échanges menés dans les hôpitaux et cliniques de l'île, tout comme la tenue du symposium du 20 août, témoignent de la dynamique positive qui s'est créée et de notre volonté commune, avec la communauté médicale mauricienne, de bâtir un environnement de formation rigoureux, innovant et résolument tourné vers l'excellence », a-t-elle déclaré. Le professeur Dhanjay Jhurry, Managing Director d'Uniciti International Education Hub, a quant à lui souligné que « l'établissement de cette école de médecine vient renforcer la feuille de route académique de l'UIEH et s'inscrit pleinement dans la stratégie du groupe Medine. En consolidant notre partenariat avec une institution britannique de premier plan comme Swansea University, nous



faisons évoluer l'offre d'enseignement supérieur à Maurice vers des filières à forte valeur ajoutée. Notre ambition est de contribuer progressivement à la construction d'un véritable pôle médical,

capable de former des médecins hautement qualifiés, de renforcer les compétences locales et de répondre durablement aux besoins de santé de Maurice et de la région. »

CIEL Ferney Trail 2026 : 4200 passionnés au rendez-vous le 12 septembre



La 19e édition du CIEL Ferney Trail, qui aura lieu le 12 septembre 2026, confirme la popularité de ce rendez-vous de l'aventure et de la solidarité, devenu au fil des ans la plus grande fête du sport-nature à Maurice. A la clôture des inscriptions le 12 août dernier, 4 200 personnes au total avaient confirmé leur participation sur les quatre parcours : Sunlife 5km Fun Run, CIEL 10km, Bank One 18km et C-Care 35km. Ces traileurs ont d'abord rendez-vous le 9 septembre, à Nouvelle Usine, à Floréal, pour la collecte des dossards, avant de se retrouver le 12 septembre, à côté de l'ancienne usine sucrière de Ferney, pour les départs. L'épreuve destinée aux plus aguerris, sur 35 kilomètres, passera par la partie haute de la montagne du Lion en début de course, puis dans les collines de Ferney. La course la plus courte, celle de 5 kilomètres, s'adresse surtout aux enfants et aux familles pour un partage 'fun' dans les pâturages et en traversant une rivière. Les courses de 10 kilomètres et de 18 kilomètres

sont de niveaux intermédiaires et proposent un défi sportif ou une belle balade avec un paysage montagneux et la vue sur le lagon de Grand Port. Aucun de ces parcours ne passe par la zone de conservation de la forêt de la Vallée de Ferney. « Tout en donnant aux traileurs l'occasion de s'exprimer à la recherche d'une place parmi les meilleurs ou pour aller au bout d'eux-mêmes, le CIEL Ferney Trail s'inscrit dans le paysage sportif mauricien bien au-delà de la compétition. L'âme de cet événement, c'est la beauté et la variété des parcours pour tous les niveaux de pratiquants, entre champs, montagnes et vue sur mer à Ferney, ainsi que la qualité de l'organisation et un esprit de partage et de camaraderie incroyable ! Familles et groupes d'amis, participants comme accompagnateurs, peuvent y vivre ensemble des moments inoubliables à la rencontre de la nature, et se connecter au caractère authentique de la région sud-est de Maurice », a déclaré Percy Driver, le directeur de course du CIEL Ferney Trail.

Quand sport, shopping et divertissement se rencontrent à La Croisette



Les Grands Soldes font leur grand retour à La Croisette jusqu'au 6 septembre. Pendant dix jours, La Croisette réunit ainsi shopping, sport, bien-être, musique, gastronomie et divertissement pour proposer une expérience qui va bien au-delà des soldes. Cette année, les Grands Soldes prennent une dimension résolument sportive, particulièrement durant la deuxième semaine, avec l'organisation du Sport 2000 Grand Baie Night Run 2026, qui se tiendra le samedi 5 septembre. « Les Grands Soldes sont devenus un rendez-vous attendu à Grand Baie La Croisette, et cette édition 2026 nous permet d'aller encore plus loin. Nous avons souhaité créer une programmation qui combine shopping, divertissement et nouvelles expériences, avec une place particulière accordée au sport et au bien-être. Le Sport 2000 Grand Baie Night Run représente le point culminant de cette édition et donnera une énergie particulière à La Croisette. Notre objectif est simple : permettre à chacun, qu'il soit passionné de sport, amateur de shopping ou simplement à la recherche d'un moment agréable en famille ou entre amis, de trouver une bonne raison de venir et de profiter pleinement de l'expérience La Croisette », a déclaré la direction.

Sunlife transforme la Flic-en-Flac Government School en un espace d'apprentissage du développement durable

Dans le cadre de son engagement en faveur du développement durable et des communautés locales, Sunlife a réalisé un projet éducatif à l'école primaire de Flic-en-Flac afin de sensibiliser les enfants à la protection de l'environnement. Au cœur de cette initiative se trouve Izzy the Bee, l'abeille ambassadrice du développement durable de Sunlife. Ainsi, les murs d'enceinte de l'école et l'arrêt d'autobus situé à proximité ont été transformés en supports pédagogiques colorés. À travers des illustrations vivantes et des messages simples en anglais et en créole, Izzy sensibilise les enfants à des gestes essentiels du quotidien : protéger nos plages et nos océans, réduire et recycler les déchets plastiques, planter des arbres, préserver les abeilles et les pollinisateurs et économiser l'énergie,

entres autres. Ces messages – « Act today, save tomorrow », « Trees are life », « Nature needs us » ou encore « Together, we keep our beach beautiful » – rappellent que chacun peut, à sa manière, contribuer à préserver son environnement. À Flic-en-Flac, le projet va ainsi au-delà de l'enceinte de l'école. Ces illustrations et ces messages peuvent également être vus par les parents, les habitants du quartier et les usagers de l'arrêt d'autobus, faisant de cet espace un outil de sensibilisation pour toute la communauté. A noter que cette initiative a été réalisée en étroite collaboration avec Preveena Rowjee, Headmaster de la Flic-en-Flac Government School, afin de veiller à ce qu'elle réponde au mieux aux besoins de l'école et de ses élèves.



Allianz Services Mauritius organise une journée portes ouvertes à Ebene



Allianz Services Mauritius a organisé une journée portes ouvertes à Allianz Tower, Ebene, le 29 août, invitant les candidats potentiels et le grand public à découvrir son environnement de travail. L'événement s'est déroulé de 10h à 16h et a offert aux candidats potentiels et au public l'opportunité de découvrir le cadre de travail de l'entreprise, d'échanger avec ses équipes et de s'informer sur les opportunités de carrière au sein de l'un des principaux groupes mondiaux de services financiers et d'assurance. Les talents potentiels ont eu

l'opportunité d'échanger directement avec les membres des équipes, de poser des questions sur les postes disponibles et de comprendre les parcours d'évolution de carrière au sein de l'entreprise. Le programme incluait aussi des ateliers interactifs sur la rédaction de CV assistée par l'IA et la préparation aux entretiens, offrant aux participants des outils pratiques pour renforcer leur candidature, ainsi qu'une session dédiée aux métiers de demain, abordant les métiers émergents et l'impact de la technologie et de l'innovation sur les carrières futures.

Ile aux Cerfs Golf Club se classe n°1 à Maurice dans le Top 100 X-Factor 2026

Ile aux Cerfs Golf Club vient d'intégrer le prestigieux Golf World Top 100 X-Factor Courses 2026, se classant 59e au monde. Cette performance lui permet de devenir le parcours de golf n°1 à Maurice dans ce classement, devant Heritage La Réserve. Les parcours figurant dans la catégorie « X-Factor Courses » se distinguent avant tout par le caractère exceptionnel de leur environnement et de leur design, qu'ils soient situés en bord de mer ou au cœur de paysages naturels remarquables. Le classement prend également en considération d'autres critères tels que la qualité et l'entretien du parcours, l'accueil de tournois, le caractère spectaculaire de certains trous et l'expérience globale

proposée aux golfeurs. « Cette reconnaissance internationale est une grande fierté pour Ile aux Cerfs Golf Club et pour le groupe Sunlife. Elle vient également confirmer l'ambition portée par notre nouveau Golf Cluster, réunissant Anahita Golf et Ile aux Cerfs Golf Club, de renforcer notre positionnement comme acteur de référence du golf à Maurice et dans la région. Je tiens à saluer l'ensemble des équipes de Sunlife et d'Ile aux Cerfs Golf Club pour leur engagement, leur passion et leurs efforts quotidiens afin de maintenir des standards d'excellence, tant dans la qualité de nos parcours que dans l'accueil et l'expérience proposés à nos golfeurs », a déclaré le groupe.



Social / Environnemental

MauBank formalise son soutien à 12 projets portés par huit ONG

Douze projets à impact social et environnemental seront déployés à Maurice et à Rodrigues avec le soutien de MauBank, en partenariat avec huit organisations non gouvernementales (ONG). Les initiatives ciblent des besoins concrets dans l'éducation, l'assistance médicale, l'inclusion sociale, le soutien aux communautés et la protection de l'environnement.



D'arrière chacun de ces projets se trouve une réalité du quotidien. Celle d'un enfant en situation de handicap qui a besoin d'un environnement adapté pour gagner en autonomie, d'un jeune placé en foyer qui doit se rendre à l'école chaque matin, d'un enfant pour lequel l'accès à des soins spécialisés peut être déterminant, ou encore de personnes vulnérables qui comptent sur l'accompagnement d'associations pour répondre

à des besoins essentiels. C'est précisément sur ces situations concrètes que portent les 12 projets soutenus par MauBank, mis en œuvre aux côtés de huit ONG qui, par leur présence sur le terrain, connaissent au plus près les besoins des bénéficiaires qu'elles accompagnent. Les organisations partenaires sont l'Association of Disability Service Providers (ADSP), la Trevor Huddleston Association à Rodrigues,

World Light Kids Villa, le Rotary Club of Bagatelle, PAWS Mauritius, We-Recycle, l'Association Rays of Hope et Prévention Information Lutte contre le SIDA (PILS). Les conventions de partenariat ont été signées le jeudi 20 août, au siège de MauBank, à Ebene, en présence de membres du Conseil d'administration et de la direction de la banque, ainsi que des représentants des huit organisations partenaires. Au titre de l'exercice financier

2025/2026, MauBank a consacré Rs 5,5 millions à la réalisation de ces projets. « À MauBank, notre façon d'exercer notre métier repose sur cinq valeurs, nos 5C : Customer, Company, Colleagues, Community et Control. La dimension 'Community' est essentielle, car elle traduit la responsabilité qui est la nôtre envers la société dans laquelle nous évoluons. Une banque accompagne des projets, finance des ambitions

et participe au développement économique ; elle doit aussi rester attentive aux fragilités et aux besoins qui existent autour d'elle. C'est précisément le sens de ces partenariats. En soutenant ces 12 projets, nous voulons permettre à huit ONG de poursuivre et de renforcer un travail qu'elles accomplissent déjà au quotidien auprès de ceux qui en ont besoin, à Maurice comme à Rodrigues », a déclaré Issa Soormally, Officer in Charge de MauBank.

SICOM Group soutient le FAREI dans la mise en place d'un jardin bio à Wooton

Le groupe SICOM s'associe au Food and Agricultural Research and Extension Institute (FAREI) pour la mise en place d'une parcelle bio de démonstration à la Wooton Crop Research Station. Sur 600 m², le jardin bio permettra aux planteurs, entrepreneurs agricoles et autres professionnels du secteur d'observer les techniques de l'agriculture biologique en conditions réelles pour les reproduire dans leurs propres exploitations.

La parcelle regroupe plusieurs pratiques déjà opérationnelles : compostage aérobie, vermicompostage, production de plantules en pépinière, cultures associées et plantes compagnes, paillage, 'banana circles' et récupération d'eau de pluie. Les premières cultures sont en production, dont la coriandre, le chou, le chou-

fleur, les haricots, le piment, le céleri, l'aubergine, la laitue, le thym, la menthe et des plantes médicinales.

Le jardin bio servira de site pratique à la Farmers' Training School que le FAREI développe à Wooton. L'école, dont l'inauguration est prévue en septembre 2026, accueillera environ 200 apprenants par an. Les formations porteront notamment sur la santé des sols, la protection des cultures, le compostage, la gestion de l'eau et les techniques de production durable.

« La durabilité guide nos actions au quotidien. Avec le jardin bio, nous contribuons à la formation des agriculteurs et à la diffusion de pratiques plus respectueuses de l'environnement. Cette démarche rejoint notre politique ESG et des



priorités nationales de sécurité alimentaire, de développement des compétences et de résilience

agroalimentaire », a souligné Nandita Ramdewar, Group CEO de SICOM.

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