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Email: editor@mauritiusnews.co.uk Website: www.mauritiusnews.co.uk

Mouthpiece of the Mauritian Diaspora. Every Overseas Mauritian is an ambassador for Mauritius

#### Electoral Reform

October 2011 - No 286

# Mauritian expatriates want right to vote in Mauritius

There is a lot of talk these days about electoral reform in Mauritius. Consultations have been taking place of late between Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam and the leaders of the other political parties for a consensus about the changes to be introduced

On the opening of the present session of Parliament, in his speech outlining the Programme of Government for the fresh mandate, Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam told the House that legislation would be introduced for the reform of the electoral system in Mauritius.

A similar pledge was made by the MSM/MMM coalition government of 2000 in their parliamentary programme resulting in the Sachs Commission in 2001, whose recommendations have never been implemented.

It has been reported that the present PM, Navin Ramgoolam, will set up a new commission under the chairmanship of French Law Professor Guy Garcassonne (?) to make a study of the country's electoral system, taking into consideration the Sachs report, and to propose up-to-date recommendations.

In view of this new electoral commission, we take the opportunity, as expatriates, to reiterate to the Mauritius government our request for the Right to Vote in Mauritius to be extended to Mauritian citizens living overseas, i.e. in the UK, Europe, Australia, United States, Canada etc. Those Mauritian nationals should be ignored at election time.

The terms of reference of the new electoral reform commission could comprise the studying and reporting on a case for the overseas Mauritian citizens to be included on the Mauritian register of electors.

**Present Electoral System** 

The Mauritius electoral system handed over to the island by Britain on its accession to independence in 1968 has worked well so far with the First Past The Post (FPTP) application.

Peter Chellen

Continued on Page 3

#### End of Summer time

The clock goes back on October 30, a date reckoned to be the end of summer time.

Actually, it's the end of autumn and the advent of winter time that will last until March.

Five months of gloomy dark days ahead. It's already dark in the morning now, and the absence of daylight has certain effects on some people as summer does on others.

However, Diwali, (the Festival of Lights) will cheer many, and so willChristmas and the New Year etc. Not so gloomy, after all!

#### <u>Erratum</u>

As a result of an error some draft texts appeared in our August issue instead of the edited and proofread articles. We are endeavouring to avoid such unpleasant experience as much as possible.

# An early general election for Mauritius?

According to the latest standing while Mireille analysis of experts from The Martin from the same Economist Intelligence Unit constituency is but a new (EIU), the scandal of the century connected with the purchase of the MedPoint Clinic by the Mauritius Government at the cost of Rs144.7 million (originally quoted at 75 million rupees) and the prevalent political upheaval in the country could provoke a general election well before the end of the government's present mandate. This is said to be contained in the Country Report of the EIU on the political situation in Mauritius.

The possibility of an early poll is being reinforced by the protest of alleged discontented MPs within the Labour Party who were not promoted during the recent Cabinet reshuffle while MP Mireille Martin who crossed the floor from the MSM has been made Minister of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare.

Among the alleged dissatisfied MPs is the Private Parliamentary Secretary (PPS) Kalvanee Juggoo from the Long Mountain Constituency (No 4) who has been a member of the Mauritius Labour Party of long

comer to Labour. However, in an interview to Le Défi Media Kalyanee Juggoo said she was not herself frustrated but she felt

sorry for her constituents who voted Labour. A snap election in Mauritius does not seem to be in the offing as, according to press report, PM Navin Ramgoolam is showing no concern about any political or social unrest in the country. He is, however on shifting ground, as a realignment of the MMM with the MSM could reduce the

influence of the Labour Party at an election held too soon. Outgoing MSM leader, Pravind Jugnauth, from the coalition government and now on the Opposition, has made it known that he will now endear himself to his old friend, the MMM and Opposition leader, Paul Bérenger.

On various occasions we have stated in this paper that the MMM holds the balance of power in many situations. In the 1990s when Prime Minister Sir Anerood Jugnauth wanted to remove Navin Ramgoolam as MP (because of his frequent absences from the Parliamentary sessions.) he

PPS Kalyanee Juggoo on Défi Iedia vic

> needed, in accordance with the Constitution, the two-thirds majority of the House to pass such a resolution. Bérenger's MMM refused to bring its weight to such a move. Jugnauth, The Elder, could not rid himself of Ramgoolam. When Ramgoolam, during his first term of office as PM, wanted to remove Jugnauth from the Presidency of the Republic, he too needed the two-thirds majority of the House. Again Bérenger's MMM objected and failed to comply with the wishes of Ramgoolam. So, Sir Anerood Jugnauth remains President of the Republic to this day.

> It is not impossible for the Labour Party on its own steam to win the majority of parliamentary seats at a forthcoming poll, but the Labour leader, Navin Ramgoolam, cannot afford to underestimate an alliance between the MMM and he MSM.

> Everything is definitely not for the best on the Mauritius political scene, a very interesting development to follow!

Ahmad Macky



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**Mauritius News** 





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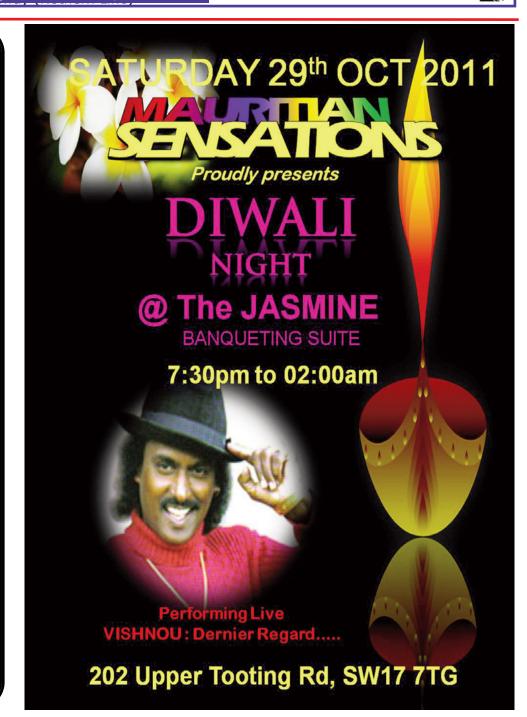
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#### News summary from Mauritius

#### **Mauritius News**

# **Titbits from Mauritius**

#### **MORE TOURISTS** ARRIVAL

increased by 5.8%, from 439,150 in the first semester of 2010 to 464, 604 in the first semester of 2011.

The main sources were France, Réunion Island, the United Kingdom, The Republic of South Africa, India, Italy and Germany. It is to be noted that tourists from India have increased by 15% during the first six months of 2011.

#### SALARY **COMPENSATION IN** FORCE SOON

Employees earning up to Rs7,000 per INVESTMENT month will be fully compensated. Those who obtain basic wages up to Rs5,000 will get a compensation of Rs330. Those who draw between Rs7,000 and Rs30,000 monthly will obtain a uniform compensation of Rs460. This new salary compensation will be in force as from January 2012.

According to the Finance Minister Xavier Luc Duval, this exercise will cost Rs1.6 billion to the government and Rs1.9 billion to the private sector. Finance Minister Duval mentioned at a press conference that the rates of have been determined bearing in mind the deteriorating economic situation around Europe, including Great Britain, where many civil servants are being laid off.

Duval said that 2012 would be a more difficult year than 2011. With Mauritius being a low-wage economy, he appealed to profitable companies and state agencies to make extra effort, wherever possible, to pay more than the minimum rate in a bid to show solidarity towards those at the bottom of the social ladder.

#### **NO TO ABORTION**

Some religious organisations have formed a Common Front against the legalisation of abortion. The Muslim Youth Federation, the Mouvement d'Aide à la Maternité, Father Maurice Labour, Municipal Councillor ITS CENTENARY Bashir Nazeer and Dr Francois Ip have forces to fight abortion. The Front plans to meet MPs to discuss the issue. Father Labour believes that legalising abortions "slaughterhouses" encourage would everywhere in the country.

#### FORGERY **ALLEGATION IN** RODRIGUES

of fraud as a resident of Cave Provert alleged that his French business partner. with whom he ran a Guest House, had transferred "my shares to another person after having forged my signature." The victim gave a copy of the fake document to the police.

#### 2011-2012 GLOBAL **COMPETITIVENESS** KEPUKI UN WUKLD ECONOMIC FORUM

#### **GOOD GOVERNANCE EVENT**

Tourist arrivals in Mauritius have A 3-day International Conference on **Corporate Governance & Sustainability** opened on the 15th September, 2011 at the ugar Beach Resort. Organized by the Mauritius Institute of Directors, in collaboration with the National Committee on Corporate Governance, the theme was "Enhancing Effectiveness of Boards through Corporate Governance Best Practices." of

Among the international participants was Dr. M. Verapa Moily, Minister for Corporate Affairs Government of India who was honoured as the Chief Guest.

#### **BOARD OF** WORKSHOP

A 2-day interactive workshop on the theme "Mauritius Moving Ahead" was inaugurated on the 15th September, 2011 at La Canelle Restaurant, Restaurant, Domaines Les Pailles. Organized by the Board of Investment, the workshop had as moderator Mr. Ong Boon Hwee, the Founder and Managing Director of Beyond Horizon Consulting (BHC) of Singapore. Finance Minister Xavier Duval has participated in the closing ceremony on the 16th September.2011.

#### **INFLATION ROSE IN AUGUST 2011**

All the three underlying measures of inflation rose in August 2011. Core 1 inflation stood at 5.5 % for the 12 months period ended August 2011, up from 5.2% for the twelve-month period ended July 2011. Core 2 inflation increased from 4.5% for the twelve-month period ended August 2011. For the same period in 2010, Core 1 and Core 2 stood at 2.4% and 2.5% respectively.

# **MEDINE SUGAR ESTATE CELEBRATES**

Medine Sugar Estate celebrated its 100th anniversary in September. Founded in 1911, Medine Limited, listed on the Stock Exchange and rebranded in 2009, is a major player in the socio-economic development of Mauritius and has taken an active role in reshaping the western landscape of the island. It has 3 distinct clusters: Medine Property, Medine Agriculture and Medine Leisure

#### Port-Mathurin Police is investigating a case **COLLECTION SOLIDARITY FOR SOMALIA**

The population of Mauritius was very moved by the famine in Somalia. A collection was organized by various NGOs, sections of the Private Sector and many Company Directors, as well as the Town Hall of Port Louis to save money in order to send to Somalia in an endeavour to help those who are affected badly by the scourge. More than Rs2 million was collected on Tuesday the 6th September, 2011. According to a UN Report there are more than 750,000 people in Somalia who are in danger of death due to malnutrition. Already 29,000 children have died.

# **By Ahmad Macky**

his case was deemed serious. His daughter said that an argument broke out between her father and her mother on that day. The wife was arrested.

#### **EAST AFRICAN COMPANY INVESTS IN** MAURITIUS

Kenyan flagship Centum Investments has incorporated two subsidiaries in Mauritius to be used as a vehicle to penetrate new regions as the company powers on its geographical diversification strategy.

Centum is the largest quoted investment company in East Africa with over 38,000 shareholders and has been listed on the Nairobi Stock Exchange since 1967. It plans to diversify its portfolio both by encouraging mature equity investments and spreading its funds in the region, with a target of having at least 50 % of its investment outside Kenya. The company chose Mauritius because of its numerous tax agreements with other countries.

#### **MAURITIUS AND TURKEY SIGN** AGREEMENT

Mauritius and Turkey signed on the 9th September, 2011, a Free Trade Agreement to allow preferential market access for some 120 local products to Turkey. A Mauritian delegation led by Foreign Minister Dr Arvind Boolell was in Turkey.

The agreement will allow Mauritian products such as textiles, fruits and vegetables to enter the Turkish market dutyfree. This will open up new opportunities for local SMEs.

#### **SURVEY ON FLEXIBLE** WORKING PRACTICES

The Mauritius Employers' Federation (MEF) is carrying out a survey on Flexible Working Practices in Mauritius. The aim of this survey, funded by the UNDP, is to examine current practices and the constraints faced by enterprises in implementing flexible working. The results will be used to make recommendations for the promotion of flexible working which is an important means of increasing labour market flexibility. It also improves access to employment opportunities for workers seeking to meet the competing demands of family and work life.

#### **BUDGET 2012 : OFFICIAL ON THE 4TH NOVEMBER 2011**

Finance Minister Xavier Luc Duval will deliver his Budget 2012 speech in Parliament on the 4th November 2011. His priorities are to combat poverty making grants to those at the bottom of the social ladder, and workshops will be financed fully in the SMEs to alleviate rty in th e ghetto areas of Mauritius

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Mauritius moves one place up, from the 55th position last year to the 54th position in the 2011-2012 Global Competitiveness Report of the World Economic Forum.

Switzerland maintains its position at first place, while Singapore overtakes Sweden for 2nd position. India ranks 56th, Malaysia 21st, China 26th, U.A E 27th, South Africa 50th, whilst UK and France rank 10th and 18th respectively.

#### **DOMESTIC DISPUTE**

A domestic dispute nearly turned to tragedy when a resident of Riambel scalded her husband. The latter, a gardener aged 54, suffered severe burns. He was admitted to the Burn Unit of Victoria Hospital where

#### po

There will be additional taxes on certain areas such as environment polluting, exports and imports, on motorists using certain first class roads such as motorways, on plastic shopping bags etc.

So far, Mr Duval has been meeting various union representatives and the private sector, and other departments involving commerce and trade. There is the possibility that wages of public servants could be frozen for a while in order to prevent the country from going into recession or a similar economic catastrophe being faced by Europe.

\* Road Traffic Claims against insurers \* Debt Recovery Offences Injunction against CSCi to prevent home closure/loss of registration.

Mrs Maistry has the higher right of audience in all courts, Supreme Court, Court of Appeal, House of Lords and European Court of Justice.

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#### Marketing guru Philip Kotler's seminar in 2012

Marketing guru, Professor Philip Kotler, is expected in Mauritius for a full day certified training seminar, which will be held at Swami Vivekananda International Convention

**Centre, Pailles, on February 27, 2012.** Kotler is the author of the best-selling book Marketing Management, a textbook which is widely used in business schools around the world, with 20 million plus copies sold to date.

The host organization in Mauritius is the Whitefield Business School which is currently making provision for 1500 participants. The 9am to 5 pm seminar will allow participants to understand what Marketing 3.0 is and how to implement it.

Professor Kotler, considered the father of new marketing, is the inventor of concepts such as 4Ps of Marketing (subsequently 7Ps), Social Marketing, Marketing 1.0, Marketing 2.0 and lately Marketing 3.0.

#### **Central Bank forecasts** inflation at 6.1 percent in December

One of the major concerns of the Monetary Policy Committee of the Bank of Mauritius is inflation.

Headline inflation is expected to remain strong till the end of the year, from 5.8% in August to 6.6 per cent in December. Year-onyear inflation is estimated to decline from 6.5 to 6.1 per cent. However, these figures are based on a no policy change. The impact of the 2012 budget is yet to be taken into consideration if it is not neutral.

#### Switzerland to set up medical school

A small delegation from the University of Geneva is expected to arrive in November to discuss the project of creating a new is the first comprehensive university in Western Europe.

According to global ranking of tertiary institutions, it is ranked 118thg out of 13,000 institutions. The new medical school will allow students to complete their six years of study on the island at a lower cost. The project is being done in collaboration with the University of Mauritius. For the last few years, UoM has been offering three-year courses in the medical field, after which the students have to travel to other foreign universities such as Bordeaux or Cape Town to complete their studies.

#### 'Anou Pedaler' on October 9

The 2011 edition of the cycle tour, 'Anou Pedaler' (100 km and 50 km), will take place on October 9. It is sponsored by the Deutsche Bank.

The competition is open to all cycling fanatics and the 100 km cycle tour will start at Pointe d'Esny while the 50km race will start at Belle Mare, both culminating at Mont Choisy beach, where a carnival will be organized. Registration is due on October 6 to 8, at Le Caudan Waterfront, where an expo is planned. The event has as primary objective the raising of funds which will be given to Circle Charitable Trust, a NGO which supports numerous charitable organizations around the island.

#### Cricket season to start this month

#### The 2011-2012 national cricket season will start this month and end in May 2012. Around ten teams are expected to take part in the championship which will begin with test matches.

Games will be played at the Mauritius Gymkhana Club, Vacoas while waiting for the opening of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) National Cricket Grounds at Belle Vue Harel. This is scheduled to be ready by December. The Belle Vue stadium playing grounds are nearly complete with only the turf remaining to be installed on the pitch. The new stadium has been built at a cost of Rs 30 million

#### Fifty to take up jobs in Quebec

Some 50 Mauritians will be recruited in the province of Quebec, Canada, this month. This has been facilitated by the circulatory migration programme.

They have been recruited to work in the meat industry for a period of two years. Employees have already been selected via webcam. Canada is also seeking qualified technicians for mechanical and automotive industries. France is also interested in local labour and is ready to accommodate 350 people in several sectors of the economy.

#### Mauritius News Digest

A<u>ir Mauritius:</u>

#### 3 new South Africa flights in the pipeline

Air Mauritius will operate three supplementary flights to Durban in December and two in January in 2012.

The decision was taken due to the growing number of Mauritians opting for South Africa as their preferred holiday destination. To further the promotion of South Africa, Air Mauritius will organize educational tours and press trips for local agents and media people.

#### **UoM**, Imperial college to offer health course

University of Mauritius and Imperial College, London, will run a Masters' in Public Health programnme for academic year 2012-2013. UoM and Imperial College also propose to conduct research activities in various fields and exchange programmes for the benefit of faculty members and graduate students.

#### **Renowned international** experts to assess IT sector

Experts from three international firms, AT Kearney, Gartner and World Economic Forum, will visit the island on October 5. Their main aim is to make an assessment of the current situation of the Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in Mauritius.

AT Kearney, Gartner and World Economic Forum are specialised firms in the field of IT and research that usually prepare reports for different countries. It will be the first time that they will be sending experts to the country to conduct an assessment of the different companies in the ICT sector. The experts will make an assessment of the Business Processing Outsourcing (BPO) companies and will also examine the structures of the cyber towers located at Ebène. Following their evaluation, they will prepare a report and identify loopholes in the sector.

#### 53 speed cameras across towns and villages to curb rising trend in road accidents

The Ministry of Public Infrastructure, National Development Unit, Land Transport and Shipping wants to curb the rate of accidents by acquiring 53 new speed cameras.

The devices will be installed by the end of December. Fifty of these will be fixed cameras such as those used on the motorway while the remaining three will be mobile cameras. These will be vital to curb the rate of accidents as between January and June 2011, the number of road accidents increased by 1.8 per cent to 11,426 compared to 11,227 during the corresponding period of 20

Among those accidents, 63 were fatal as compared to 65 during the corresponding period of 2010. The total number of vehicles (motor and non-motorised) involved in road accidents during the period January to June 2011 was 20,191. Procedures to acquire the cameras are underway and the ministry is trying to secure a supplier. It could take up to three months to acquire the cameras and the procedure could end by November. The ministry is aware of the growing traffic across the island which had noted a growth of 2.1 per cent at the end of June 2011 with 392,276 vehicles compared to 384,115 at the end of December 2010. The cameras will be installed across towns and villages.

#### **Fish auction market at Trou Fanfaron to be operational** next year

A fish auction market, a project announced years ago, is scheduled to open in January 2012 at Trou Fanfaron fishing port. Port Louis.

This facility will allow boats to sell their catch directly to customers in appropriate structures. The officers of the ministry of Fishery are also studying the possibility of opening other fish auction markets on a regional basis so that all fishermen can benefit from such facilities. At this stage of the project at Trou Fanfaron, the ministry is proceeding with the installation of refrigeration equipment. The ministry would still have to find the best way to operate the platform, either by private/public partnership or an international tender for the selection of the operator.

#### PhD mandatory for lecturers

#### **Finals for best teachers forum**

Four local education officers - Raksheet Haulkory, Yogesh Sunnoo, Lalita Aworer and Joyce Arekion - have been selected to participate at the 2011 edition of the Middle East and Africa Partners in Learning Forum.

They will join other teachers from east and Sub-Saharan Africa at the forum, which will be held in Aqaba, Jordan. Farana Commettant and Rachel Lionnet from Seychelles and Lala Rivosoa Razafinjatovo from Madagascar will complete the delegation representing the Indian Ocean region. The best teachers at the regional forum will qualify for the finals to be held from November 6 to 11 in Wahsington DC. The forum organized by Microsoft is a key component that Microsoft sets up with governments to actively contribute to the integration of new technologies in schools.

#### **Budget Day on November 4**

November 4 has been allocated as the tentative date for the presentation of the economic budget 2012 in Parliament by the Minister of Finance and Ecocomic Development, Xavier-Luc Duval.

According to sources from the Finance Ministry, the 2012 budget will focus on social protection, fiscal reform, boosting productivity and measures to face the world economic crisis. In this perspective the first meeting of the tripartite committee, comprising representatives of the government, private sector and trade unions, to discuss salary compensation took place at the New Government House on Tuesday 6 September.

The meeting was chaired by the Minister of Finance. As an outcome of this first meeting, the private sector showed its disagreement with trade unions that salary compensation should be based on inflation only.

#### **Pre-voc extended to four years**

For 2011, 7270 students have opted for the pre-vocational stream which spans over three years. However, as from 2012, Government is proposing to extend prevocational education to four years.

Therefore, as from next year, students who opt for pre-vocational education will not only spend four years in the system but will also benefit from a gradual integration of trade skills and entrepreneurial skills as from Year I. Moreover, the National Trade Certification Foundation Module will be integrated across curriculum. This was decided during the national forum on Pre-Vocational Education: New Strategic Orientations, held at La Cannelle, Domaine Les Pailles, during the first week of September.

#### St Pierre bypass in the pipeline

Work on a bypass, 4.3 km long, estimated to cost Rs 235 million, is due to start in November and be completed by the end of 2012.

It will start at Apollo Bramwell and end at Verdun village. This bypass aims to decongest the regions of St Pierre, Gentilly and Helvetia that have become crowded due to the setting up off the Mauritius Broadcasting Corporation and the Helvetia Commercial Centre.

#### **Phoenix/Beaux Songes link** road soon opened

Ongoing construction work on the Phoenix/Beaux Songes link road will be completed this month. Work on the new road started in January 2010.

The construction of the 6.8 km link road has been undertaken by the Colas Company at a cost of Rs 280 million. This bypass will help decongest traffic in Palma and St Jean as there is a heavy influx of traffic towards Palma and Flic en Flac and other places located in the west of the island.

The bypass will start somewhere near the Phoenix Commercial Centre (Jumbo), cross the Vacoas-Quatre Bornes road and go down straight to Beau-Songes to meet the road leading to Black River.

#### **Ex-Dubreuil squatters' houses** near ready

The houses meant for the ex-Dubreuil squatters could be ready by Christmas. The houses are part of the integrated village project initiated by the National Empowerment Foundation (NEF) and would be allocated to families who were illegally occupying state land at Dubreuil.

The squatters had been dislodged in August 2010. Each housing unit consists of a bedroom, a living room, an open kitchen, toilets and a bathroom with a water reservoir and a septic tank. Each unit costs around Rs 360 000. The beneficiaries would be able to extend the houses.

#### Social housing equipped with **PV** system

By December social housing will be equipped with photovoltaic (pv) system. After the construction of three eco-friendly housing units at Baie du Tombeau, around 10 additional houses equipped with solar panels are expected to be built by December. Expenditure on electricity will be lower since with the pv system, the residences will have storage capacity for three days.

#### Eliminate use of HCFC by 2030

After completing phasing out ozone depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) in a bid to preserve the ozone layer, Mauritius is set to cut down the production of the super greenhouse gas known as hydro-chlorofluorocarbons (HCFCs) under the Montreal Protocol ozone treaty. The Ministry of Environment is finalizing a management plan for HCFCs with the German Agency GTZ -Proklima. The plan will include measures to eliminate the use of HCFCs through conversion projects and training of technicians in alternative technologies. The aim is to eliminate the use of HCFC by the year 2030.

#### in ten years

Each faculty of the University of Mauritius will receive the sum of Rs 1 million from the University Research Fund as a proactive measure to make research week a regular activity.

The university having done an excellent work as a teaching university over the last forty years, it is high time to consolidate as a research university. At the level of the Ministry of Tertiary Education, more research conferences are being organized, a Research Alliance and National Research Chairs have been created

in order to promote a research culture. The ministry is planning to make PhDS mandatory in order to teach at the university level in the next ten years.

#### Acquisition of hi-tech mobile clinics

The Ministry of Health is planning the acquisition of two hi-tech mobile clinics for the dentistry section in the coming months.

Such facilities will bring to more people free health services and will promote awareness for the need to have good oral hygiene. This project, together with a course in Dental Assisting which will span over two years at the cost of Rs 3.5 million, will help improve the public dental services in general.

The course is being delivered at the Mauritius Institute of Health in Pamplemousses.

#### Tech expo in October

After the success of Electronic and Technology (ET) 2010, Adze Events is back with the second edition, ET 11, which will take place from October 13 to 16, at the Swami Vivekananda **International Convention Centre at Pailles.** 

The exhibition aims to promote everything related to electronics and technology. The expo will also bridge the gap between Africa and Asia and give buyers and sellers the opportunity to meet and further their business.

#### **AFMMH marks 35th** anniversary

The 'Association Fraternité Mauricienne des Malades et des Handicapés' (AFMMH) is hoisting a series of activities to celebrate its 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

A camping activity will be organized at the belle Mare recreational centre. The basketball court of the association will be equipped with lighting facilities and the eighth magazine will also be launched in late October.

Another association regrouping and administrated by handicapped persons, the Association Vivre Debout (AVD\_), is

preparing to celebrate its 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary by the end of the year. AFMMH has its headquarters in Port Louis and AVD in Eau-Coulée.

**NEWS FROM AUSTRALIA** 

#### **MAURITIAN DIASPORA IN** AUSTRALIA



EDDY ABRAHAM. OAM MELBOURNE.

An e-mail emanating from the stresses that the "information will be Mauritius High Commission in used for a registration exercise of all Canberra, is inviting individuals to Mauritian expatriates in Australia." forward details of Mauritian Clubs and Cultural Associations in their The exercise will help the "Mauritius locality. It requests also details of High Commission to interact with the the Club activities, the official Mauritian community and provide address, the contact person and the any assistance required." list of members be made available.

information The is required so that the Government of Mauritius "an can prepare inventory/database of the Mauritian diaspora in Australia." The e-mail

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# **Top Resa 2011 a Paris**



grand Le international du Tourisme et des cocotiers » et « ca vous donne envie Voyages - Top Resa 2011- s'est tenu à Paris du 20 au 23 Septembre. Au stand de l'île Maurice & Rodrigues, l'accueil était particulièrement chaleureux. Le groupe « Boum Boum » interprétait le single de son album « Mauritius c'est un plaisir ».

C'est un « brand name » produit par la MTPA. Les paroles de la chanson très enlevée sont une invitation au voyage : « l'île Maurice c'est un plaisir », « l'île Maurice c'est un paradis », « l'île Maurice c'est un paradis de rêve, de lune de miel, de

Salon professionnel soleil » « il y a beaucoup de de rester » et vous remet au 7ème ciel ».

> Sur notre cliché les deux belles danseuses en robes séga, Nella Aglaé à gauche et Valérie Lamarre à droite et au centre de gauche à droite : Clency Gery à la ravanne d'accompagnement, Jiovanno Emile au saxophone, Isabelle Gery à la kabassa et aussi au micro, Georges Emile à la guitare, devant Jean-Sebastien Gery le fils à la ravanne solo.

> > Lena Goel & Gilles Berger

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**Mauritius News** 



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**Mauritius News** 

**UK Mauritian obtains** songwriters' award

Melanie Lam Cham Kee of Edgware, Middlesex, has obtained the semi-finalist award for her song THE TEARS in the Lyrics Category of the UK Songwriting Contest (UKSC) 2011 after careful examination by music expert judges.

The UKSC judges include many top industry names like producer Stuart Epps, BRIT Award winning producer, songwriter and musical director Simon Ellis, and the legendary producer, musical director and arranger Richard Niles.

Melanie says that it was her first participation in this competition, creative writing has always been a passion of hers. She is grateful to the UKSC for the opportunity to express herself and to her



parents for their support. An accountant in the UK, she is originally from Port Louis, Mauritius

The songwriting contest is held annually in association with the BRIT Trust and other music industry organisations, with support from some of the biggest names in the UK and international music communities.

# A subscriber's recollection

When our subscriber Benoit Chavrimootoo learned from the **Mauritius Government Audit** Report, as published in the Mauritius press, that a sum of nearly £115,000 had been spent on repair work at the offices of the Mauritius High Commission in London a certain souvenir flashed back in his memory as regards his own contribution towards the existence of the mission's present buildings in South-West London.

**UK Mauritian News** 

CI II

The offices of the Mauritius High Commission were until 1976 accommodated in Grand Building Trafalgar Square. Prime ın Sir Minister Seewoo-sagur Ramgoolam (SSR) had for a long time since independence in 1968 the that intimated High Commission should move to better premises in central London.

SSR always dreamed of the Bloomsbury area for the Mauritius mission. Unfor-tunately, all the buildings that became available in the area were swallowed by the University of London. Information on other premises for sale sent existing staff were very keen on new premises to cream off the 3%

negotiation fee (commissions) payable on the purchase of a building.



**Benoit Chavrimootoo, Merchant** Navy Electrical Engineer in a former career

Finally, according to Benoit two adjacent derelict buildings were purchased by the High Commission in west London, off





Ribbon cutting by PM Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam on the opening of the MHC the PM Office was never given to left to right:Lady Vinaya Teeluck, Benoit Chavrimootoo, Caroona Rangasamy, Navin the PM himself. The PS feared that Ramgoolam, Sir Abdool Razack Mohamed. SSP Viiov Journal (Figure 1997) Gian Nath (Deputy High Commissioner), and Sir Leckraz Teelock (HC)

Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, on a visit to the UK, saw the buildings his heart sank and he advised the High Commissioner, Sir Leckraz Teelock, to get rid of them immediately.

The buildings had previously been occupied by the US Government to provide accommodation to ex-servicemen in transit in London. The place, subsequently deserted, fell into disrepair.

Benoit Chavrimootoo, a former Merchant Navy Officer (see picture) from Mauritius who was in the construction trade in the UK, was asked by High Commissioner Sir Leckraz Teelock, whether a buyer could be found because the Mauritius Government would not make any funds available for the repair works and the refurbishment of the buildings.

In his wisdom, Benoit Chavrimootoo told the High Commissioner that if some money was spent to do the building up a purchaser could be more easily found, and at a better price too. External Affairs Minister Sir Harold Walter who, on a visit to a relative's place in London, saw the refurbishment works by Benoit recommended his services. When the Finance Minister in Mauritius was approached he would not make any fund

Cromwell Road. When Prime Minister Sir available. Benoit agreed that he would undertake the refurbishment by his team at his own expense subject to being refunded later. He told us he took a bank loan of £5,000 on his house to start the work. His team, especially the Mauritian ones, worked almost for free to enable the completion of the works. At some stage they were offered bottles of duty-free whisky as compensation, says Benoit

> When the buildings were inaugurated in 1976 Benoit Chavrimootoo was invited. So was Navin Ramgoolam who was still a student in the UK. (See Picture)

> For a long time since then, Benoit was responsible for the building mainte-nance on a retainerweekly fee, in accordance with a Mauritius Government contract, and for major repairs subject to quotations approval. But as personnel changes, newcomers were not aware of the sacrifice made by the compatriots for the two buildings at Elvaston Place to stand up as the Mauritius mission in London. Each one began to look for his own contractors that has resulted in the Mauritius Government Audit's exposure recently.

**P. C**.

laid an

Christ and in a Supreme Being, and stood up for their rights and dignity. To catechise and bring the faith to a whole section of the Mauritian community is no small achievement. For this alone, he

deserves a special place in the heart of the Mother Church. Father Laval was beatified by Pope John Paul II on April 29, 1979 a step towards sainthood that entitles him to be called Blessed (Bienheureux). Though he is yet to be canonised by the Vatican, to the Mauritian Catholics he is already a saint, with or without the blessing of the Holy See. A medical practitioner prior to entering the priesthood, he gave away all his personal wealth in his native Normandy before setting forth for Mauritius in 1841 at the call of Father Libermann's Holy Heart of Mary religious order.

**Blessed Jacques Désiré Laval Annual Mass in** London

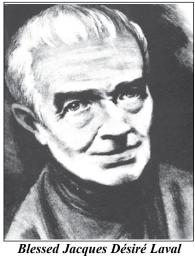


Bishop Paul Hendrix (right) and Father Terry Donnelly celebrating mass at St Mary's in Clapham

As in previous years the Annual Père (Father) Laval Mass was celebrated by the Père Laval Association (UK) and the Association Chrétienne des Mauriciens à Londres (ACML) in south London and north London respectively. It was good that this year the two associations held the religious ceremony on two separate Sundays that allowed them to attract a better attendance than usual, in spite of the North and South Divide that is a characteristic of the Mauritian community in London. In south London, the Mass took place at the St Mary's Catholic

Roman Church in Clapham Common on Sunday, September 11<sup>th</sup>, and was concelebrated in English by Bishop Paul Hendrix and Father Terry Donnelly. The choir was under the direction of Christiane Saide and the hymns were sung in English.

In north London the Eucharist at the St Paul's Roman Catholic Church in Wood Green was concelebrated by Father Jean Patrice Coulon and Father Paul Walsh in a mixture of English, French and Creole. The choir was guided by Odille de Villenaut of Notre Dame de France, Leicester Square, and the hymns were sung in French. In their homilies both Father Donnelly (of the Holy Ghost) and Father Jean Toulon Patrice (of heritage) Mauritian retraced the devotion of



1803 - 1864

19<sup>th</sup> century French priest, Father Jacques Désiré Laval, who dedicated his ministry in Mauritius from 1841 to 1864 to the uplift of the recently emancipated poor souls brought from the African continent, as forced labour, to work in the sugarcane fields of the island. The priest suffered humiliation from the White settlers who objected to his intervention. Even after

the abolition of slavery in 1835, the emancipated people's lot did

#### Father Jean Patrice Toulon (right) and Father Paul Walsh at St Paul's in Wood Green

not change immediately and the slave-owners' mentality still persisted.

Father Laval even endured deprivation himself for his Blacks (Mes Noirs), as he called his flock to the detriment of his own health. He never set foot in his native France and died in the country of his faithful.

Before the arrival of Father Laval in Mauritius the Church had already began the evangelisation of those labouring in slavery but it was not consistent.

Father Laval catechised the poor people and instilled in them the belief in the Christian Gospels of which they were unaware. He even appointed laymen to be his assistants. He showed heart-felt concern about the well-being of the people including the indentured Indian labourers brought to replace the freed slaves in the sugarcane fields.

To this day the Creole community of Mauritius feels indebted to Father Laval who planted in their forefathers the seed of faith in

Laval sailed on the Taniore that London Docks in the Borough of Southwark, a stone throw from us in south London. The Père Laval Benevolent Society which used to hold the annual mass at the St George's Cathedral in Southwark recalled on a few occasions the fact that the holy man spent the waiting preceding the departure of the Tanjore days walking along the River Thames, as he mentioned in one of his letters to friends left behind in France.

The tomb of the saint of Mauritius at Ste Croix, an eastern suburb Port Louis (the capital), attracts Mauritians of various faiths, even non-Christian, every day and more especially on the annual pilgrimage on September 9 (his death anniversary) when people converge on to this locality on foot from the four corners of the island. Pilgrims come even from the neighbouring French island of La Réunion.

The Father of the Nation cherished appellation was first given to Father Laval at a time when Mauritius was yet to achieve political emancipation. Today, this honour is bestowed on the first Prime Minster of Mauritius, Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR), who laboured for the uplift and the recognition of the rights of the working class of Mauritius and brought the country to sovereignty and nationhood. Père Laval was born on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1803. SSR was to be born on the 18<sup>th</sup> day of September 1900 (nearly one hundred years later). Both men have left their indelible mark on the destiny of the country

#### September 2011 **P.** C.

Mauritius News

By Devinia Sookia (USA)\*

# **Beware of Diet Soda**



People tend to drink diet soda such as diet pepsi, coke and sprite thinking that it is a good way to cut down on calories and thus lose weight. They would be surprised to learn that in fact diet sodas makes people put on weight.

Recent studies show that diet soda can be worse than regular soda.Instead of helping you to lose weight, it can in fact make you put on weight.In advanced countries many people tend to drink diet coke or pepsi on a regular basis thinking that they will help them to control their not weight. The studies have revealed that those who drink diet soda

weigh more than those who do not. According to Darwin Deen, MD and Social Medicine in the Bronx, New York,

been linked to drinker's developing metabolic syndrome. Metabolic syndrome is a group of conditions that include expanding waist size, increased blood elevated pressure, triglycerides, lower of levels good cholesterol, and high fasting blood sugar levels. Having three or more of these findings increases your risk of and heart diabetes disease.

The statement that drinking diet soda can be a health risk is based on several studies and researches. According to the San Antonio Heart Study, the more diet sodas

you drink, the greater the chance that you will be overweight or obese. For each diet soda you drink there is a 65 percent increase in your risk of becoming overweight. According to the Framingham Heart Study, if you drink diet soda you are at risk for weight gain and metabolic syndrome. According to research done at Purdue University, rats that were fed artificial sweeteners gained more weight than rats fed normal sugar. Findings from the Atherosclerosis Risk in Communities Study sponsored by the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute, show that meat, fried food, and diet soda are all significantly associated with metabolic syndrome.

Although researchers cannot say for sure why diet soda sets the stage for weight gain, they point out that there are several possible reasons. Even though they have no calories, diet sodas are created to simulate the sweetness of a regular soda. This leaves the milk should be consumed.

completely

overwhelmed. According to Dr Deen if you take a sip of water and then bite into your favourite fruit, the fruit tastes really good.But if you try the same experiment with diet soda, the real food tastes flat after drinking the diet soda. The distortion of taste may cause the diet soda drinker to seek higher calorie foods thus causing the weight He also explains that another gain possibility is that people just eat more because they think they are saving calories from drinking a diet soda. A direct link between artificial sweeteners and a craving for high calorie foods may exist. There is also the possibility that the link is related to unknown factors involving diet, exercise, or other personal characteristics.

buds

taste

Despite containing fewer calories than regular soda, the caffeine content may be greater. According to the Center for Science in the Public Interest, a 12 ounce regular coke contains 35 milligrams of caffeine and a diet coke contains 47 mg. At low levels, caffeine can stimulate energy, make you more alert and may be beneficial for weight loss. In higher amounts it can cause nervousness, increased heart rate and difficulty concentrating. You may also get withdrawal symptoms such as headache, irritability or depression if you stop taking caffeine suddenly. Although caffeine can be helpful for weight loss, Dr Deen recommends getting your caffeine from coffee. A half spoonful of coffee can go a long way.If you need to add sugar, add as little as possible for taste . A light milky coffee can be very satisfactory.

The exact relationship of diet soda to weight gain and metabolic syndrome is not clear, but it is obvious that diet soda should not be considered a healthy alternative to regular soda.

When drinking a soda, it should not be considered as a healthy alternative. For healthier options, water, natural juices or

Devinia Sookia is a barrister-at-law, journalist, writer and attorney

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National Lottery Results September 2011

	Lotto Draws: Twice weekly	
28 Sep	15 - 19 - 25 - 36 - 44 - 45	43
24 Sep	10 - 16 - 29 - 34 - 37 - 47	31
21 Sep	11 - 15 - 32 - 33 - 37 - 39	28
14 Sep	23 - 28 - 29 - 37 - 38 - 42	49
10 Sep	5 - 7 - 9 - 10 - 22 - 47	37
07 Sep	4 - 29 - 31 - 36 - 38 - 48	35
03 Sep	4 - 17 - 20 - 26 - 29 - 36	31
31 Aug	5 - 26 - 43 - 46 - 47 - 49	28

hese results were obtained from the National Lottery. Mauritius News accepts n ability for any misprints or discrepancies in the results published in this column

#### www.apsainternational.net



# Thought for the

#### senior attending physician at Montefiore Medical Center's Department of Family and people should not drink diet soda whether they have weight problems or not. Diet soda can cause serious health problems. It has

#### Help Diabeates - campaign takes new approach to diabetes research

'Help Diabeates', a groundbreaking The research that patients could take new campaign to encourage people with diabetes to give permission to be approached about taking part in clinical research studies, has been launched today (Monday 26 September). The campaign, which is being support by People can express their interest in Diabetes UK, is from the Diabetes research by texting 'research' and their Research Network (DRN).

#### **Refreshing approach to recruitment**

Professor David Matthews, Co-Director of the DRN and Professor of Diabetes Medicine at The Oxford Centre for Diabetes said, "This is a refreshing database. approach to recruit patients to a consent for approach' database. It experienced NHS personnel with a means that diabetes patients are agreeing to be contacted in the future if their diabetes. a study becomes available which might

part in is approved by the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR), and aims to improve the treatment diabetes patients receive now and in the future.

name to \$1400, or through the Help Diabeates website. People are then contacted by an NHS call centre to discuss how they might be able to help with diabetes in the future. At this point individuals can decide if they want to be included on the 'consent for approach'

The call centre is staffed by background in helping people care for

The Help Diabeates campaign is suit them. It also means that clinical managed by the Diabetes Research for Heath Research (NIHR). The The campaign is taking place over the campaign is being promoted through relations activity and working with diabetes charities to help spread the word.



News Source: www.diabetes.org.uk

Diabetes UK is the Diabetes largest organisation UK in the UK working for people with diabetes,

funding research, campaigning and helping people live with the condition. We have over 150,000 members. We work for people with diabetes, their carers, family and friends. We represent the interests of all people with diabetes by lobbying the government for better standards of care and the best quality of life. *Ďiabetes UK aims to invest over £5.8* million in research in 2011 to improve the treatment of diabetes and search for a

trials can be set up much faster, which is Network, part of the National Institute ideal for diabetes research."

next 18 months in three areas of radio advertisements, Facebook, England: the North West, the South Twitter (@helpdiabeates), public West, and the North East area of London.

**Research approved by NIHR** 

Our mission is to improve the lives of people with diabetes and to work towards a future without diabetes.

# month

The man who has done his level best, and who is conscious that he has done his best, is a success, even though the world may write him down as a failure.

#### **BC** Forbes

# H M S Mauritius, Vacoas 1962-1975

#### **2011 Reunion - Portsmouth**

At the moment, approximately 100 former members of HMS Mauritius, Vacoas, will be holding their 4th annual reunion in Portsmouth, United Kingdom, on 8th October 2011. There is a website called 'Mautitian Veterans' (which is hidden behind another website) and any former service personnel and civilians who worked in HMS MAURITIUS are eligible to join. For further information on membership [which is free] send details of the years you were there rank and where you worked to roberthchase@btinternet.com and copy to micheal@pearce6575.freeserve.co.uk and put membership in the subject line. Also please mention you saw the advert in Mauritius News.

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\*Figures correct at the time of going to press

#### October 2011 Bollywood News

# AKSHAY KUMAR BRINGS THE 'FITTEST BODY' TO LONDON, IN 'DESI BOYZ'

The Entertainer of the Year is laid bare in Cinemas on 25th November 2011

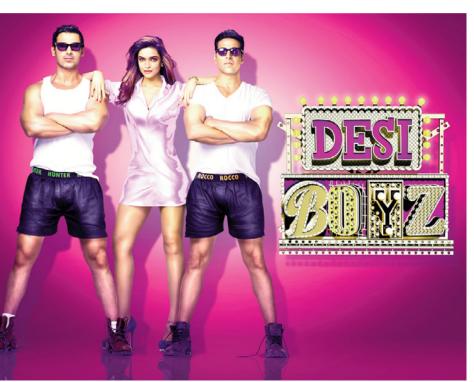
Prepare for a visual feast as 'the fittest body', as recognised by People magazine, belonging to Bollywood superstar and iconic fitness enthusiast, Akshay Kumar, will indulge audiences in his much anticipated, UK-based comedy, 'Desi Boyz', releasing in cinemas worldwide on 25th November 2011. The un-missable film will reunite Akshav with fellow screen hunk, John Abraham, following the global success of the 2005 entertainer, 'Garam Masala', as the screen duo play the irresistible 'Desi Boyz' in a coming of age entertainer that traces the lives of two young lads who refuse to grow up.

Jaws will drop as the most dashing leading men in Bollywood bare all as overseas students who turn their talents to male pole dancing in an attempt to raise some extra cash. And no Akshay Kumar

piece of movie magic would be complete without a healthy dose of screen action, so get ready for one of the most exciting stunt sequences in recent film history as the real life Action Man descends a moving chopper without safety harnesses, for the title track of the film.

A-List celebrity Akshay, who shares a close bond with the UK, spent several months filming for 'Desi Boyz' in locations such as the picturesque university town of Oxford, where filming actually took place on the world-famous academic institution's campus, as well as amid the bright lights of the capital city, London. Joining him on screen are Bollywood beauties, Deepika Padukone and Chitrangada Singh, who will

#### VIDYUT JAMWAL



charm audiences with their hypnotising looks, youthful energy and cheeky wit.

'Desi Boyz' marks the exciting directorial debut of Rohit Dhawan, son of one of Indian's cinema's most prized comedy directors, David Dhawan. Expect nothing less than one of the freshest, most innovative comedies to emerge from Indian cinema in recent times, with Master of Comedy, Akshay Kumar, giving 'Desi Boyz' his inimitable, Midas Touch in the laughter stakes. Synopsis: With huge aspirations and

Synopsis: With huge aspirations and dreams in mind, two innocent young friends, 'Rocco' (Akshay Kumar) and 'Hunter' (John Abraham) arrive in UK as overseas students at Oxford University, only to find themselves taking up work as male pole dancers in order to supplement their lack of student funds. Friendship soon turns to bitter rivalry as the fight to get to the number one pole position begins. To make things worse, Rocco makes the biggest academic faux pas by falling in love with a lecturer at Trinity College.

In addition to a laugh-a-minute, on-screen riot, cinemagoers can expect to be treated to an eyeful of Akshay's six-pack and perfectly toned abs. The girls will swoon and the boys will be inspired, as the 'Desi Boyz' expose their incredible torsos.

Get ready to welcome 'Desi Boyz' in cinemas across UK and worldwide in November 2011.

# **SPEARHEADING BOLLYWOOD'S NEW GENERATION OF VILLAIN WITH TOWERING PERFORMANCE IN 'FORCE'**



the form of supermodel turned actor Vidyut, who bagged this infamous role after beating off stiff competition from over 500 people who auditioned for the role of 'Vishnu'. Vidyut started his

Vidyut started his training in the Indian form of Martial Arts, 'Kalaeippayattu' at the tender age of three, and travelled across the globe for further training. He later excelled in Gymnastics and Kung Fu and managed to develop his own style of fight by amalgamating all forms he Hollywood movie review

#### **Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy**



Starring: Gary Oldman, Colin Firth, Tom Hardy, Benedict Cumberbatch, John Hurt, Mark Strong, Simon McBurney, Toby Jones

#### Director: Tomas Alfredson

#### Rating: 15

The immediate potential problem with Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy is evident before you even get to watch it: how on earth is it going to top the classic 1979 TV series? And how do you cram the wealth of information evident in both the TV series and Le Carre's classic cold-war spy novel into a 2 hour film adaptation without losing its essence?

However, director Tomas Alfredson has somehow pulled it off. While not all the aspects of the book have made it into the movie due to time constraints, thankfully, all the major plot-points remain. A 1973 MI6 mission in Budapest goes badly wrong thanks to the bungling of spy Jim Prideaux (Strong), forcing the resignation of its head, Control (John Hurt) and his right hand man, unassuming spy George Smiley, excellently played this time around by Gary Oldman. under a rock since the novel's 1974 debut, the premise is briefly this: Smiley and his young assistant Peter Guillam (Cumberbatch) are secretly hired to find the double-crosser at the top of MI6 who Control believes is giving state secrets to the Russians.

But who's the mole? With multitude of potential suspects to choose from ambitious but dour Scot Alleline (Jones), dashing Bill Haydon (Firth), grumpy Roy Bland (Ciaran Hinds) or Hungarian Tony Esterhase (Devid Denick) - Smiley keeps us on the edge of our seats trying to figure it all out.

This excellent adaptation has more of a modern-day feel about it than the original, but at its heart still lies a world of dusty old filing cabinets. You'll need to keep your wits about you to keep up with the plot, though - not once is it ever spoon fed to us. But as with any good spy story, it's all about the journey; the figuring-out, and great direction from Alfredson and tight performances from an excellent ensemble cast including Kathy Burke brilliantly taking on Beryl Reid's old role as George's colleague Connie Sachs - make it a journey worth taking.

For anyone who's been hiding it



Gone are the days of the larger than life Bollywood villain such as Gabbar Singh (Sholay) and Mogambo (Mr India) who became icons in their own right. A decade into the new millennium, Bollywood has re-vamped the antihero launching more sophisticated, suave and realistic villainous portrayals that have turned the tables. Films such as Dhoom 2, Ra.One and Dabangg have changed the perception of the archetypal Bollywood villain as the new baddie certainly isn't the quintessential rogue, but in most instances as important and, more interestingly, as desirable as the male lead.

FORCE is a high adrenalin action romance, where not just the hero and the heroine but the bad boy is as sexy. Debutant actor Vidyut Jamwal plays lead actor John Abraham's strong opponent. The makers of the film wanted someone to match up to John's physique in the film as the villain is as important as the lead actor. John finds his match in

learnt, which reflects in the fierce action sequences between John and him in the film. The eclectic combination of the fight forms also gave him the flexibility to manoeuvre thrilling hand-to-hand combat scenes which he daringly undertook without the need of a body double.

At a recent event for the film where FORCE's villain was launched, Vidyut interestingly gathered a team of young boys from the slums of Mumbai and gave them Martial Arts training to perform with him at the event. During this event, Vidyut performed the stunts similar to those in the film, effortlessly showcasing his Martial Art skills, leaving attendees awe-struck by him.

'Force' releases in cinemas in the UK and worldwide on 30th September 2011 through Twentieth Century Fox

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#### October 2011 **Community news**

#### Tamil celebration of Govinden in Mauritius



holiday public Christmas Christians, Shivaratee for Hindus, many holidays a year.

Eid for Muslim, Spring Festival for Chinese, The Govinden Festival Cavadee for Tamils, is a Tamil religious Ougadi for Telegus, plus event which is not a few non-religious and proclaimed a public national days.

are held in the country enlighten us on its for which no public meaning, though she holidays are granted. concludes her article Mauritius is is a multi- Even a public holiday saying it's her own cultural and multi-faith for Easter was abolished adaptation country made of people several years ago. interpretation. of various ancestries. A Mauritius enjoys 15 is public holidays a year, The actual date on observed for at least one reduced from 23. Even which the event falls religious festivity of now a lot of disruption this year is Saturday 15 every community, like is caused to business October, preceded by a for and Maha administration with so

and holiday, our contributor Sabrina Many religious events Cattaree has tried to and

public month of fasting.

Edit team

#### **Religious Events**

#### The beauty of Govinden



Seeing that my last two articles were rather impugning, I thought I'd dedicate this one to the Month of Govinden that is being observed in Mauritius and among UK Mauritian Tamils, and try to bring some love to the column.

I believe not many Mauritian Tamil (both young and old) know the exact reasons as to why we celebrate Govinden. It's merely a tradition we follow, and everyone seems to have their own explanations.

The Govinden Month this year started on Saturday, 17 September, and Tamil faithful will fast for the period up to Saturday, 15 October when the last day is celebrated in great pomp by the devotees gathered at the kovil (Tamil temple).

The celebration of Govinden on the final day, I have to say, is my favourite Tamil festival. The occasion offers an excuse to deck up in a lavish sari, make yourself up as if going to a wedding, meeting friends and family, eating vegetable briyani or the typical Tamil seven-dish curries, dancing around a lamp – what is there not to love?

I know many people see Govinden in the same



By Sabrina Cattaree

is observed from the Saturday, 17 September to Saturday, 15 October. In between, special prayers are said every Saturday at the kovil (Tamil temple).

Purattasi is a Tamil translation of the word 'month' and Shani is Tamil for Saturn. According to Tamil scriptures, planet Saturn is less dominant on Saturdays. Due to this circumstance, during the Govinden month Saturday is dedicated to special prayer session, with the aim of obtaining protection from the malefic effect of the planet for the rest of the year. We sing, dance and pray to Lord Vishnu, Lord Krishna and Venkateswara (all being the manifestation of the same deity) to seek their protective intervention.

Mauritians tend to worship Lord Krishna more during this period. The celebration of Govinden on the final day of fasting is an explosion of joy, lights, colours, devotional songs and dance. The incarnation of Lord Krishna is felt among the assistance.

A huge lamp (known as the kutu villaku) is positioned in the middle of the kovil (temple) and must be kept lit till the early morning. During that time, girls dance around the lamp (kummi and kollatam) and bhajanams (devotional prayer songs) are sung through the night until daybreak. Lord Krishna is believed to be born at midnight.

#### Midnight prayers

Although Govinden is not dedicated to celebrate the birthday of Lord Krishna (something I believed to be the case whilst growing up), a representation of baby Krishna is rocked gently to sleep by devotees at the time of his birth (midnight). After that ceremony, the singing and dancing continue until 6am. Many devotees stay while some leave soon after the midnight prayers.

At 5.30 - 5.45 am, the final prayer is sung and the devotees gather round the kutu villaku (huge lamp), singing and throwing flowers with the aim of burning out the flame. With that lamp out the final prayers are said.

So in a nutshell, the reason why we celebrate Govinden is because during Purattasi month (the month dedicated to Lord Vishnu/Lord Krishna), Saturday is the day the planet Saturn is less dominant, so everyone-feeling secure-gathers together to pray (with devotional songs and dance) for enduring protection during the whole (Tamil) year. I have always found that the celebration of Govinden is a great way for Mauritian Tamils to come together. Food and sweets are served throughout the night and a sense of unity and solidarity is felt. More importantly, Govinden always reminds me of my mother. It reminds me of how she would never fail to wear a beautiful sari, how she knew everyone at the temple, how we both used to dance kummi around the huge lamp (or when she would give me "the look" when I didn't want to get up and dance with her), but most importantly, how I used to sleep on her lap as a child. I would like to clarify that this article is my adaptation and interpretation of the Govinden festival, and as stated, I am aware that many others believe it to be celebrated for other reasons

#### Internationally Acclaimed Humanitarian and Spiritual Leader to draw Thousands in London's prestigious Alexandra Palace

Sri Amritanandamayi her life to the poor. Her (Amma) is due to meet commitment to serving thousands of people as humanity has inspired part of her twentyfourth annual trip to London on November environment. 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> international includes the ? 2011.

Amma travels throughout the year with a message of peace, and unconditional love compassion, and is famous for having hugged more than 29 million people around the world. Her free programmes include inspiring talks, meditation, concerts and the opportunity to receive a personal blessing in the form of an embrace, a symbol of her message that Love transcends all boundaries. The programs are supported by volunteers and proceeds go to the NGO 'Embracing the World' (www.embracingtheworld.org) which has been accredited with Special Consultative Status by the UN.

Earlier this year Amma was welcomed to Mauritius by thousands of people from all religions and backgrounds, in addition to several dignitaries, including the President of Mauritius, Anerud Jugnauth, Mr. Anil Bachoo, Minister for Public Infrastructure and Shipping, Mr. Madhusudan Ganapthy, the Indian High Commissioner, and Mr. Alan Ganoo, Member of Parliament. President Jugnath said of Amma "She is an envoy of peace and an ambassador of love to the whole world. The love that Amma radiates is key to her phenomenal success that she has achieved. Due to this love and the purity of her purpose, she has been able to inspire so many thousands to take up the path of selfless service and has kept this beautiful country in her embrace."

In India and Mauritius, Amma is revered as a Mahatma (Great Soul). She left school at just nine

Mata years old to look after her thousands to volunteer for projects for those in need and the protection of the Her acclaim includes the 2002 Gandhi-King Award for Nonviolence and the 2006 James Parks Morton Interfaith Award, alongside Mohamed ElBaradei and Richard Gere, and she has

addressed the UN many times - including the Millennium World Peace Summit. In 2010 the State University of New York bestowed an Honorary Doctorate in Humane Letters to Amma in recognition of her tireless efforts on behalf of global peace, for her commitment to education and for the far-reaching impact of her charitable organizations in relieving poverty and human suffering in India and around the world.

The huge network of her NGO offers free education, free medical care for over 1.2 million patients, job training, pensions for 80,000 women, 36,000 houses for the homeless many of whom were affected by the 2005Tsunami and many other emergency and long term relief aid projects.

Amir Dossal, Executive Director of the UN Office for Partnerships, recently said about her 'Amma, it is such an honor and a privileged to be here. You are so special-not just for people here and people around the world, but also you are special for the United Nations. What you do to bring happiness to people—you are truly a saint.'

Early this year a donation of one million US dollars towards the relief and rehabilitation of Japanese disaster victims was announced - particularly for the education of children who lost both their parents in the



10

devastating March 11th tsunami. Amma's volunteers have been actively participating in the relief work from just two days after the earthquake and tsunami. Their activities have included cleaning rubble and debris from houses and agricultural land, assisting the elderly and children at relief camps, distribution of food, household utensils, medicine and other daily necessities. In addition to providing the essentials, Embracing The World volunteers provided spiritual and psychological counselling to the local people in the tsunami affected areas.

In the global economic and environmental crisis Amma stresses our responsibility to the suffering: 'What the world needs are servants, not leaders. Everyone's wish is to become a leader. We have enough leaders who are not real leaders. Let us become a real servant instead."

The November event at London's Alexandra Palace will consist of free meditation sessions, Darshan and spiritual talks. Please contact Ŝhalini Ajoodha at info@amma.org.uk for more information or visit the e b s i t e w http://www.amma.org.uk updates and latest news. We look forward to welcoming you there to share in this extraordinary experience of service, love and unending compassion.

# **GANESH UTSAV**

way. For the boys, minus the sari and makeup, it's the opportunity to go and look at the decked-up girls (don't deny it, you all know it's true), and for the aunties – it's an occasion to look for potential marital girls (and to pray of course). With this in mind, I thought I'd do a little research and contact wiser people, to help to gain a better insight.

The root of the festival is in fact debatable. Having said that Mauritians celebrate Govinden in their own way, with the result that the origin of the festival is passed on within the community like the Chinese whispers game.

#### Fasting

The gist of my search, as gathered from the faithful, is that every year, between mid-September and mid-October, Mauritian Tamils fast during this period for Govinden, an observance dedicated to Lord Vishnu - Lord Krishna in another form. This period is known in the Tamil calendar as the Purattasi Shani. During their fast, meat, alcohol and anything considered impure to body and mind should be denied.

The devotees fast in different ways: some only eat one meal a day (taken at noon) where others eat but only vegetable dishes. For 2011, Govinden

By Sabrina Cattaree

#### MMS members celebrate Ganesh Utsav in North london in September

utsav, which is usually celebrated over ten days, is an occasion for the devotees to offer their prayers, pay their salutations, make their offerings and rejoice that Ganpati is in their midst.

The Mauritian Marathi Society (MMS) celebrated Ganesh Utsav in North London on 1st and 2nd of September. The diaspora of the Hindu community converged on North London for the occasion.

A few days before the festival. an auspicious day is chosen to start building the Ganesh moorti (statue).

According to the scriptures Parvati created Ganpati with the dirt from her neck and mud from River Ganga. So, as per the scriptures, members of M.M.S built the statue with clay. An

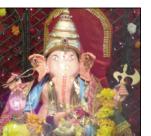
brought joy to the people—His ornate podium (ghadi) is devotees. So Ganesh prepared and Lord Ganesh is ceremoniously made welcomed at the Astapan(Stapnah in Marati) pooja.

The festival is also a social occasion. It very often brings together relatives and friends who have not seen each other for a long time. The atmosphere is both devoutly religious and jovial

The devotees demonstrates their selflessness by bringing food and sweets to share.

The immersion(visharjan) of the statue concludes the festival.It is a very emotional moment. Lord Ganpati is given a fond farewell and beseeched to return to us the following year.

> Suresh Gunputrao, Chairman M.M.S



In early September, Hindus around the world celebrated Ganesh utsav(festival). Every year the festival starts on the fourth day (Chaturti) of the Hindu calendar month of Badrapad.

This year Ganesh Chaturti was on the 1st of September. On the fourth day of Badrapad Parvati, the wife of Lord Shiva, was saying her final prayers for a dead Ganpati when He resurrected. His resurrection

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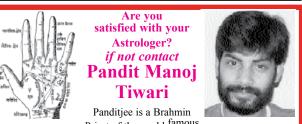
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October 2011											13			
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Lamb cutlets	Ingredients:	u fish curry					5			2	3			
Ingredients:	• 4 slices fresh tuna or any o		© Lovatts Publications Pty Ltd - www.lovattspuzzles.com											
• 1kg lamb chops ( use a knife to bring meat together and leave bone )	<ul> <li>4 tbls curry powder</li> <li>1 tbl garlic powder or 6 ga</li> </ul>	arlic cloves	Win a meal for Two at Mauritius											
<ul><li> 2 tsp cumin powder</li><li> 1 tbl ground ginger and garlic</li></ul>	<ul> <li>2 medium size red onions</li> <li>half tsp methi seeds</li> <li>1 tbl tamarind (soaked in</li> </ul>				Bai	r &	Res	taur	ant					
<ul><li> 3 tbls fresh mint (chopped)</li><li> 3 tbls coriander (chopped)</li></ul>	use tamarind paste in currie • few curry leaves		Mauritius News is offering a meal for two (Worth								Worth			
<ul><li> 1 tsp crushed blackpepper</li><li> 2 eggs (beaten)</li></ul>	<ul><li>salt to taste</li><li>4 fresh tomatoes(crushed)</li></ul>	<ul> <li>salt to taste</li> <li>4 fresh tomatoes(crushed) or 1 small tin tomatoes</li> </ul>						£25) free courtesy of Mauritius Bar & Restaurant. Mauristius Bar & Restaurant has been under new						
<ul><li>salt to taste</li><li>enough oil to fry the chops</li></ul>		• 4 tbls coriander(chopped)						management since June this year and new owner, Miss Désirée Low has brought some tasty dishes into						
Instructions:	Instructions:							her restaurant. For your chance to win a meal for two and taste some						
Marinate chop in a large bowl, adding sa	t, Keep fried fish in a dish,						exotic Mauritian cuisine at Mauritius Bar & Restaurant, simply answer the question below and							
cumin, blackpepper, ground ginger and garlic.	Use same oil for the curry.	then fry the aubergines and keep with the fish. Use same oil for the curry. Reduce the quantity of oil if needed					send it to us on a postcard.							
Then mix well and add the mint and coriander.	Fry methi seeds for 1 minu	Fry methi seeds for 1 minute, adding sliced onions and curry leaves					Mauritius Bar & Restaurant is situated in:							
Mix well until all chops are covered with spices and herbs.	then tomatoes and garlic. Stir and add curry powder						<ul><li>a) Edmonton</li><li>b) Tooting</li></ul>							
Cover and keep in the fridge for half an hour. Heat oil on a medium fire,	Stir constantly then add sal	only. Stir constantly then add salt and leave on low heat until boiled(for about 10-												
then dip each chop into the beaten egg and fry 3 or 4 at a time for 5-10 minutes.	15 mins). Add little water if required				d you						your			
Remove and place on a serving dish and few coriander leaves to garnish.	aubergines Then add 1 grated onion.				ress, te	-		iber &	emai.	1 to:				
Serve with hot chilli sauce	Leave to cook for 3-5 minuthen sprinkle coriander and		583,	Wand	meal sworth	Road	, Lond	lon, S	W8 3J	D				
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#### October 2011

#### **Mauritian reminiscences**

# 110<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi's unique visit to Mauritius: a chronological survey



Henry Bertin, Attorney-at-law, who introduced M.K. Gandhi with the members of the Supreme Court of Mauritius on 5<sup>th</sup> November, 1901

Well-analysed documentary evidence proves that Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, the future Mahatma, sojourned in Mauritius from 29<sup>th</sup> October to 15<sup>th</sup> November 1901. (1) The documentary evidence in question has been gathered essentially

from the written press of the early 20<sup>th</sup> century. One of the written press sources published the following entry on Gandhi's arrival in Mauritius: "A bord du vapeur Nowshera se trouve le célèbre avocat Indien Gandhi qui se rend de Natal à Bombay. Comme il passera quelques jours à Maurice, la communauté indienne s'apprête à le fêter. L'avocat Gandhi est celui qui a défendu les causes des Indiens que l'on voulait empêcher de débarquer."(2) As a matter of fact, Gandhi's arrival in Mauritius dates back to the last days of October as revealed in another press source which indicates that the Nowshera had already cast anchor on 29 October: "The Steamer Nowshera has arrived this morning from *Natal on ballast.* "(3) Furthermore, a press communiqué published by Agents Scott & Co. dated 29 October 1901 (4) tends to confirm the preceding press information about the arrival of the Nowshera on 29 October, which implies that M.K. Gandhi's sojourn starts effectively on 29 October 1901.

#### <u>A visit forgotten for several decades</u>

It has been observed that subsequent to the 1901 press reports, Gandhi's visit to Mauritius had gone into complete oblivion for decades: "Mahatma Gandhi stayed for 18 days in Mauritius in 1901 and a dozen entries were made in the local newspapers but after that, his arrival was forgotten for half a century in Mauritius. subsequent writers Manilal Doctor stayed in Mauritius from 1907 to 1911 and worked on the issue. For for the betterment of a lot of Indians. During that period, he wrote many articles concerning the Indian immigrants, he brought out the Hindustani paper, but neither in his articles nor in Hindustani is there any mention of Mahatma Gandhi's arrival in Mauritius.

At the request of Manilal Doctor, Pandit Atmaram Vishwanath came to Mauritius from Bombay. He edited the Hindustani, Mauritius Arya Patrika, Jagriti and Aryoday respectively. Apart from that, he wrote the History of Mauritius and Hindu Mauritius. Although Gandhi's name has been mentioned several times in these works, yet no mention of Mahatma Gandhi's stay in Mauritius has been made. In the same way, Swami Magalanand Puri came to Mauritius in 1912 and Swami Swatantranand in 1914. Both Swamis wrote their books on Mauritius, yet neither of them mentioned Gandhiji's arrival in Mauritius. In 1924 Kunwar Maharaj Singh spent a month in Mauritius during which eulogising speeches were made. After reaching India, Maharajsingh brought out his historic report following which the Indenture system was discontinued in Mauritius. After him Mehta Jaimini, the Vedic Preacher, came from India to participate in the Birth Centenary of Swami Dayanand. He also wrote a book on Mauritius. But neither book has any mention of Gandhiji's arrival in Mauritius."(1) However, the above assertion stating that "his (Gandhi's) arrival was forgotten for half a century" is not completely true. As a matter of fact "in 1934, The Arya Vir published an article based on a note of Le Cernéen, which stated: "Gandhi arrived in the colony on October 29 1901..." (Idem) Aunauth Beejadhur did mention Gandhi's visit in Mauritius in his book "Les Indiens à l'Ile Maurice" published in 1935, although he wrongly mentioned 1902 as the year of the visit.

sojourn on the island, there is Gandhi's own confirmation of his Mauritius from 30 October to 19 November 1901, for a period of 21 letter addressed to Gandhi by K. Hazeereesingh:

Letter to K. Hazareesingh(6)

(As At) Wardha May 26, 1936

#### Bhai Hazareesingh,

I was about to leave for Nandi Durg when your letter reached me. I had already received your book which however has been left at Wardha. I have your letter before me.

I stayed in Mauritius for about ten days, while my boat was lying at anchor. There was no other purpose in my visit and this is why only a few people may have been aware of my presence there. I stayed in the house of some Muslim friends and that gave me an opportunity of meeting other people. I also met the Governor at a social function. Please convey my greetings to all my fellow countrymen. Vandemataram.

> Yours sincerely, M.K. Gandhi

Gandhi also alludes to the Mauritian visit in his autobiography: "So I called for home. Mauritius was one of the port of call, and as the boat made a long halt there, I went ashore and acquainted myself fairly well with the local conditions. For one night I was the guest of Sir Charles Bruce, the Governor of the Colony."(7) It is remarkable that Gandhi's autobiography first appeared in Gujarati in 1926 (1), that is, some twentyfive years after his visit to Mauritius.

#### Confusions about the year and the dates of the visit

It will be noted that Gandhi did not mention the year and dates of his visit to Mauritius either in his autobiography or his letter to Hazareesingh. The reason for this oblivion may lie in the fact that he was writing more than two or three decades after the event, and he would not venture to quote a fictitious

year, which has been Ajum Goolam Hossen, who presided the banquet given with by Indian traders in honour of M.K. Gandhi on 13<sup>th</sup> case November, 1901

example, well-known Mauritians as R.K. Boodhun and Aunauth Beejadhur quoted respectively and wrongly - 1897 and 1902 as being the year Gandhi sojourned in Mauritius. The first named, barrister Boodhun, wrote: "I may inform the Mauritian public that we can just claim the honour and privilege of the visit of Gandhi to the island in the neighbourhood of 1897."(8) Even prominent Mauritian historians like Dr K. Hazareesingh (9) and Jay Narain Roy (10) equally quoted 1902 as the year when Gandhi visited

passing visit to Mauritius. This confirmation appears in a reply to a days. It is on the basis of an announcement which appeared in 'The Standard' of 31st October 1901 that Pandit Basdeo Bissoondoyal concluded that Gandhi reached Mauritius on 30 October: "A bord du 'Nowshera' arrivé hier de Natal se trouve le grand avocat indien Gandy qui se rend de Natal à Bombay." (6). This is confirmed in another newspaper, 'Le Vrai Progrès Colonial' of 30 October 1901: *"Le vapeur Nowshera arrivé ce matin de Natal...".*(Idem) So, as regards the date of arrival of Gandhi, both B. Bissoondoyal and P. Ramsurrun are more or less in agreement. But they do radically differ regarding the date of departure. On this issue, P. Ramsurrun, who has meticulously investigated related press reports and

who has includiously investigated related press reports and communiqués, has definitely an edge: "It had been pointed out earlier that the date of departure of **Nowshera** was at first fixed for 8 November. Advertisement of this purport had appeared from 24 October until 5 November. Moreover, in those days, the destination of **Nowshera** was for Colombo Put according to the advertisements of the seme daily Colombo. But,according to the advertisements of the same daily newspaper of 7th, 8th. 11th November stated that Nowshera would depart on 12 November for Bombay. But Nowshera did not leave the harbour even on the 12th and the advertisement on the 12th and 13th of November stated that Nowshera would leave on the 14th. But Nowshera did not leave Mauritius even on the 14th and on the 14th, its departure date was said to be on the 15th of November. In fact, Nowshera left Port Louis harbour on the 15th of November 1901 at 5 p.m."(**1**)

The daily referred to in the above extract is Le Cernéen.

#### Warm welcome in Port Louis and Réduit



The imaginary sketch showing M.K. Gandhi drawn by horses *Lord Roberts* and *Gulnar* under the guidance of coachman Sheikhossen Khodabaccus.

The fifteen days or so of Gandhi's sojourn (although, in his mind, the ship Nowshera was due to leave on 8<sup>th</sup> November) on the island have him the opportunity to participate in a few activities organized in Port Louis where he was staying at "the residence of Goolam Hossen Ajam at the corner of Bourbon and Desforges Street." (6) Of the three main events in which he participated, two were in Port Louis and one at Le Réduit. "He paid a visit to the Supreme Court of Mauritius on the 5 November. On the 9 November the Governor of Mauritius gave a banquet to celebrate the sixtieth anniversary of the reigning king of England, Edward Seventh, at his residence in Réduit and M. K. Gandhi was invited to participate in it. On the 13 November, the traders of Port Louis gave a banquet in honour of M. K. Gandhi and some captains of steamers and some municipal councillors also were present and a detailed account was published in nearly all the dailies of those days."(1)

The various press reports and communiqués and Gandhi's own writings constitute the main sources of information about the events in which Gandhi participated. The events were concentrated on the Port Louis - Réduit axis. Now, based on eyewitness accounts, Pandit Basdeo Bissoondoyal, quoting, for instance, reminiscences of well-known Mauritian politician G.M.D. Atchia about Gandhi's passage in Curepipe (11) and Deolal Thacoor (12) irmed t at Gandhi participated in mass gatherings in rural areas. Pahlad Ramsurrun has produced several writings to contradict these accounts as well as "an imaginary photograph of Mahatma Gandhi's visit to Mauritius in 1901"(13) This imaginary photograph is "a photo-sketch drawn in black and white showing Gandhi in European dress seated in a coach pulled by two horses."(14)

#### Gandhi's own confirmation of his visit to Mauritius

In addition to the 1901 press articles and communiqués evoking Gandhi's presence on board the Nowshera and his subsequent

Mauritius.

the

Moreover, confusions have cropped up as regards the duration of Gandhi's stay in Mauritius. Thus, Pandit Basdeo Bissoondoyal has asserted that Gandhi "came to Mauritius on 30 October and left on the 19 November 1901"(1) whereas historian D. Napal stated that the famous Indian lawyer "stayed in Mauritius for a fortnight"(Idem). Even Gandhi was not that accurate when he wrote in his letter to Hazareesingh that he "stayed in Mauritius for about 10 days."(6) Pahlad Ramsurrun has attempted an explanation for this statement of Gandhi, whose stay in Mauritius lasted for more than 15 days (18 days according to Pahlad Ramsurrun and 21 days according to Pandit Basdeo Bissoondoyal): "Gandhiji has said that his stay in Mauritius was for about ten days. Why so? According to the advertisements of Le Cerneen, Gandhiji's steamer was at first to leave on the 8th of November 1901. (And that was the very reason for the Indian community to organise a reception in his honour; the communiqué first appeared on the 6th of November). For this reason ten days was no doubt engraved in the mind of Gandhiji."(1)

#### A sojourn of more than 15 days and not 10 days

However, it is confirmed, on the basis of press reports and communiqués, that Gandhi's stay in Mauritius in 1901 lasted for more than 15 days. Pahlad Ramsurrun supports the idea that the visit lasted for 18 days, from 29 October to 15 November, whereas Pandit Basdeo Bissoondoyal has stated that Gandhi sojourned in

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October 2011

#### **Pere Laval** Association UK

Wishes to thank Bishop Pau Hendrix, Fr Terry Donelly ad all those who helped to make the Pere Laval day Sunday, September 18, enjoyable.

We would also like to thank all the sponsors for their donation for the raffle: Air Mauritius, Mauritiuritus Bar London, Mauritius News, Port Louis

The Lucky winners were:

Ticket No 0383 – 1<sup>st</sup> prize -George Theodore – Air Mauritius ticket to Mauritius

Ticket No 0331 – 2<sup>nd</sup> prize – Erwin Adaken - three course dinner for two

Ticket No 0054 – 3<sup>rd</sup> prize – Peter Enahoro – one year's subscription to Mauritius News

Ticket **No 0501** – 4<sup>th</sup> prize – Jenny Ramsamy - tickets to see Vishnu Carombayeni 01/10/2011

Ticket No 0832 - Jessica Jackson – Tickets to see Vishnu to see Vishnu Carombyeni 01/10/2011

Ticket No 0569 - Sabrina Cafane – Bottle of champagne

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Ticket No 0014 – Karen Lewis - One Mauritius News T-shirt

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#### In Memory of 'Arjune Dosieah'

Sunset: 11th November 1940 Sunrise: 23rd August 2011

If love could have saved you, you would have lived forever. No farewell words were spoken, no time to say goodbye, you were gone before we knew it and only god knows why. When you meet a special, warm and kind hearted person that has touched the lives of so many people in so many wonderful ways and leaves an

imprint in their lives, a young man snatched away too soon from his loved ones and friends. Very rarely does a being come into your lives and make a huge impact, but you were an exception to the rule, a great man whose presence will be greatly missed forever. Death leaves a heartache that no one can heal and leaves memories that no one can steal. May you always find comfort in the arms of an angel. We will never forget your handsome face, your beautiful and cheeky smile. You will live forever in our hearts. Beyond the world is a place where we will meet again ..... and will never have to say goodbye.

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Sarah who studied at Whigift School in Croydon, achieved 8\*'s and 2 A's in her GCSE's.

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She will now be going to

Cambridge University at the college of Murray Edwards to

Her family and friends

A\*

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Goodnight for now, sleep well 'DAD' .

Congratulations to Sarah Zainab Owadally, 18 years old from Croydon, who recently passed her A level

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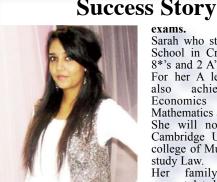
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