

SHIMA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

MAURITIUS

JUNE 2025



** Main Points **

Politics: PM Ramgoolam presented the national budget for year 2025/26

Diplomacy: UK–Mauritius agreement on sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago: UN experts call for suspension; Chagossian community in Mauritius welcomes the agreement

Economy: Mauritius is participating in the EXPO 2025 Osaka–Kansai

Sports: Cyclist Kimberly Le Court's historic win at Tour of Britain Women

POLITICS

[INTERNAL / DOMESTIC]

● DR THE HONOURABLE NAVINCHANDRA RAMGOOLAM, PRIME MINISTER PRESENTED THE NATIONAL BUDGET FOR YEAR 2025/26



(Photo: GIS)

On 5 June, Dr the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam, Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, Home Affairs and External Communications, Minister of Finance, and Minister for Rodrigues and Outer Islands presented the National Budget for the year 2025/26 under the theme “From Abyss to Prosperity:

Rebuilding the Bridge to the Future”. The Budget consists of three main pillars: Economic Renewal, New Social Order, and Fiscal Consolidation with an aim of boosting the growth rate, achieving a budget surplus and decreasing the public debt. A particular attention is given to Artificial Intelligence, an emerging sector which is expected to drive innovation. The main highlight of the budget was the reform to the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP), the allowance for which will be progressively raised from age 60 to 65.

● FORMER PRIME MINISTER PRAVIND JUGNAUTH HELD A PRESS CONFERENCE TO COMMENT ON THE NATIONAL BUDGET

On 11 June, former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth held a press conference at the Sun Trust Building to comment on the Budget 2025/26. He strongly criticised the measures announced. He notably took aim at raising the eligibility age for the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) from 60 to 65. In response, he pledged to restore the age of eligibility back to 60 if he were to be elected Prime Minister again. He also criticised the fact that the social allowances

introduced by his government are being phased out at the expense of the population. He urged the population to make resistance and show opposition to these announcements.

● PROTESTS IN ROSE HILL AND PORT LOUIS AGAINST RETIREMENT PENSION REFORM

To protest the Government's decision to raise the eligibility age for the Basic Retirement Pension (BRP) from 60 to 65, announced in the Budget 2025/26, large-scale and peaceful demonstrations organized by workers' unions and associations were held on Saturday 21 June in Rose Hill and Port Louis. Several high profile MSM members, allies and supporters, including former PM Pravind Jugnauth, former Minister of Finance Renganaden Padayachy, as well as Alan Ganoo, Steven Obeegadoo and Kavi Ramano amongst others, joined the crowd.

● DEMISE OF FORMER PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC, H.E. MR. KAILASH PURRYAG



(Photo: ionnews.mu)

H.E. Mr. Kailash Purryag, a Mauritian politician who served as the fifth President of the Republic from July 2012 to May 2015, passed away on Saturday 21 June 2025 at the age of 77. He was a major figure of the Labour Party (PTr) as from 1973, having worked closely alongside both Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and Dr Navin Ramgoolam. His funeral was held at his residence in Castel, Camp Fouquereaux. Numerous members of the political class from both Government and opposition sides have paid their tributes.

● MASS LAYOFFS OF EMPLOYEES OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT SERVICE COMMISSION (LGSC)

On the 15–16 May 2025, the Local Government Service Commission (LGSC) sent dismissal letters to up to 1,765 employees recruited in 2024. According to the current government, the recruitment was carried out under the previous government in violation of LGSC regulations. The mass layoffs were criticized by the opposition, as well as public opinion. It led to high profile court cases during the month of June to reverse those dismissals, with many lawyers associated with the previous government representing the employees. In one such case, on Friday 13 June, the Supreme Court approved the legal review of their appeal to proceed, paving the way for the dismissed employees to resume work.

● ARRESTS OF FORMER CEO OF SBM AND FORMER MANAGING DIRECTOR OF STC

On 18 June, Premchand Mungur, former CEO of the State Bank of Mauritius (SBM), was arrested by the Financial Crimes Commission (FCC). He is accused of "fraud by abuse of position" by unlawfully misleading the Board of Directors of SBM to approve a Rs 470 million loan to Dhyanaavartam Ltd, owner of the Maradiva Villas Resort & Spa, and headed by Kobita Jugnauth, spouse of the former Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth.

Separately, Rajiv Servansingh, the former Managing Director of the State Trading Corporation (STC), was arrested on 13 June by the FCC. He is accused of having ensured that an oil supply contract was awarded to Mercantile & Maritime Investments Pte Ltd for a total amount of approximatively USD 700 million.

Both were released as investigations into each case continue.

● **PM RAMGOOLAM VISITS NICE FOR THE THIRD UNITED NATIONS OCEAN CONFERENCE**



(Photo: DefiMedia)

On 9 June, the Third United Nations Ocean Conference (UNOC3), co-hosted by France and Costa Rica, opened at Nice with more than 50 Heads of State and Government, as well as over 1,500 delegates from around the world in attendance. PM Navin Ramgoolam led the Mauritian delegation alongside Fabrice David, Junior Minister for Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy, and Fisheries. PM Ramgoolam issued a strong call for international and regional cooperation to preserve the oceans, which are particularly threatened by global warming. He highlighted the vulnerability of Small Island Developing States (SIDS) to rising sea levels, ocean acidification, and the loss of marine biodiversity. To strengthen the scientific and political response, he proposed the creation of an Institute dedicated to ocean studies. This would serve as a platform for research, coordination, and innovation to better protect marine ecosystems.

On 12 June, French President Emmanuel Macron received PM Ramgoolam at the Palais de l'Élysée in Paris. President Macron praised PM Ramgoolam as a trusted partner who took action. He highlighted the importance of Ramgoolam's presence at the UNOC3 in Nice, noting that Mauritius was among the first countries worldwide to ratify a key treaty to protect the high seas. Namely, President Macron also announced he will visit Mauritius in the coming months, expressing enthusiasm for the trip.

● **UK-MAURITIUS AGREEMENT ON SOVEREIGNTY OVER THE CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO**



(Photo: Top FM)

On 22 May 2025, Mauritian Prime Minister Dr Navin Ramgoolam and British Prime Minister Keir Starmer signed a formal agreement concluding the transfer of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago from the UK back to Mauritius. In addition, the largest island of Diego Garcia will be leased back to the UK to enable the continued operation of the highly strategic joint UK/US military base on the island for the next 99 years, with an additional 40-year extension. For the latter provision, Mauritius will receive an annual rent of £165 million from the UK for the first three years, followed by £120 million annually for the subsequent ten years. Thereafter, the £120 million annual payment will be adjusted for inflation. Under the agreement, the British government has agreed to provide £40 million to establish a trust fund to support Chagossian communities and their future resettlement on the Archipelago.

In the UK, the Agreement is being met with intense criticism mainly from the Opposition led by the right-wing Conservative Party, as well as from the far-right Reform UK party led by Nigel Farage. Press outlets linked to the Conservative Party have also regularly published articles critical of the agreement, which they deem a 'political capitulation'. They have also raised issue on the future of the military base and its security, emphasizing Mauritius' ties with such countries as China, Russia and Iran.

While representatives of the Chagossian community in Mauritius, namely the Chagos Refugees Group led by Olivier Bancoult, welcome the agreement, the

Chagossian community in the UK are strongly critical of it. They oppose Mauritian administration over the islands and condemn a total absence of consultation with the Chagossian community, as well as the exclusion of Chagossians from UK–Mauritius negotiations on the future of the Archipelago. Additionally, they express uncertainty over the future acquisition of British citizenship for Chagossians, their ability to return to the islands, and the management of the trust fund by the British and Mauritian governments.

British Chagossians have initiated numerous legal actions to stop the ratification of the agreement, including a legal submission to the United Nations Human Rights Committee (UNHRC), arguing the agreement was negotiated without their consent and perpetuates historical injustices. On 10 June, UN experts called for the suspension of the agreement, warning that it failed to protect the rights of the displaced Chagossian people.

The agreement is expected to be ratified in the near future pending further parliamentary debates at the House of Lords and House of Commons in London.

● CONFLICT INVOLVING IRAN, ISRAEL AND THE USA: IMPLICATIONS FOR MAURITIUS

On 23–24 June, the Republic of Mauritius expressed its extreme concern about the high level of belligerence observed in the Middle East, with reference to warfare between Israel and Iran, US strikes on Iran, as well as Iran’s counterstrike on a US military base in Qatar. Mauritius called on the international community to use all its influence with all parties concerned to give diplomacy a chance and enable a peaceful resolution of the disputes.

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs activated a special unit to assist Mauritian citizens in Middle Eastern countries. Helplines were made available at the Mauritian diplomatic missions in Islamabad, Cairo, Dubai, and Riyadh.

During a meeting chaired by the Junior Minister of Foreign Affairs, Rajen Narsinghen, discussions were held on priority areas likely to be impacted by the conflict, including oil supply, energy, food security, the

security of maritime routes and air connectivity, the fluidity of trade, the evolution of freight costs, and the resilience of the tourism sector.

● MAURITIUS STATEMENT ON PALESTINE AT THE UNITED NATIONS

On 17 June, during the Tenth Emergency Special Session (ESS) of the UN General Assembly on Palestine, Ambassador Milan Meetaarban, Mauritius’ Permanent Representative to the United Nations in New York, reiterated Mauritius’ strong condemnation of the Israeli–Palestinian conflict and called for an immediate ceasefire. Furthermore, Mauritius reaffirmed its support for the creation of two states, with a seat granted to Palestine at the United Nations.

● CHINA–MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS



(Photo: MCCI)

On 13 June, the Governor of the Bank of Mauritius, Rama Sithanen, and the Chairman of Bank of China Limited, Ge Huijiao, launched the RMB Clearing Bank in Mauritius. This follows the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Bank of Mauritius and the People’s Bank of China, under which the Bank of China (Mauritius) Limited was designated as the official RMB Clearing Bank in Mauritius. This will facilitate the seamless settlement of RMB–denominated trades, investments, and cross–border transactions for businesses and financial institutions.

On 26 June, the Chinese Ambassador to Mauritius, H.E. Huang Shifang, welcomed the press for a reception at the Embassy and presented the main orientations of Chinese policies. According to Ambassador Shifang, China and Mauritius strengthened their strategic partnership at the FOCAC summit in Beijing, with the signing of a 2 billion

yuan currency swap agreement and Beijing's commitment to import Mauritian agricultural products. She listed ongoing projects including the introduction of electric buses, the training of doctors, and the opening of a RMB clearing bank. Furthermore, China invites Mauritius to intensify its participation in the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI), welcomes its support for the one-China principle, advocates for fair trade, and encourages its membership in the International Organization for Mediation.

● SOUTH KOREA IN THE INDIAN OCEAN

During the meeting of the Council of Ministers of the Indian Ocean Rim Association (IORA) on 21 May, the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs for Political Affairs of the Republic of Korea (ROK), Chung Byung-won, pledged more support for the peace and prosperity of the Indian Ocean Rim region through the newly launched Korea-Indian Ocean Cooperation Fund. He further states: "We will work closely with IORA to find and promote joint projects such as sustainable harbor development and use of marine resources."

Furthermore, the First Korean Taekwondo Poomsae Ambassador's Cup 2025 was held at the Pandit Sahadeo Gymnasium in Vacoas on 15 June. The event was attended by the Ambassador of the Republic of Korea to Madagascar (accredited to Mauritius and the Comoros), H.E. Park Ji Hyun.

● VIETNAM-MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS

On 6 June, H.E. Tran Thi Thu Thin, the newly appointed Ambassador of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam to Mozambique and accredited to Mauritius, presented her credentials to President Dharam Gokhool. They discussed avenues for future cooperation, including trade relations between ASEAN and the African continent, as well as in fields such as pharmaceuticals, information technology, tourism, education, and agriculture. President Gokhool also expressed gratitude for Vietnam's support to Mauritius in the Chagos case.

ECONOMY

● THE PARTICIPATION OF MAURITIUS IN THE EXPO 2025 OSAKA, KANSAI, JAPAN



(Photo: Mauritian Pavilion)

Mauritius is participating in the Expo 2025 Osaka-Kansai, which runs from April 13 to October 13, 2025. Its pavilion is located in the Commons A "Empowering Lives" zone, alongside 28 other nations, showcasing the nation's dedication to sustainable living and the future of tourism.

At the heart of the pavilion is a stunning **coral reef-inspired aquarium**, supported by Mitsui O.S.K. Lines. It displays live specimens of coral and marine life endemic to Mauritius, underscoring the country's commitment to ocean conservation and biodiversity. Alongside this visual draw, visitors can immerse themselves in Mauritius's cultural richness through **VR experiences** designed by the Mauritius Emerging Technologies Council and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These VR setups transport users to Mauritian landscapes and communities, offering a sensory tour of the island's natural beauty and cultural tapestry.

On another note, **Mauritius's spotlight moment arrives on its National Day at the Expo, slated for July 14, 2025**, when special events and ceremonies will prominently feature the island nation.

● EXCHANGE RATE: THE MAURITIAN RUPEE FALLS BY 8% AGAINST THE EURO IN FOUR MONTHS

Since the beginning of 2025, the Mauritian rupee has recorded a gradual but sustained decline against the

euro, recently crossing the Rs 53/Euro threshold.

● MONKEY EXPORT TAX INTRODUCED IN BUDGET 2025/26



(Photo: Google)

In the 2025/26 Budget, the Mauritian government announced the introduction of a new tax on the export of monkeys. This measure is part of an amendment to the Native Terrestrial Biodiversity and National Parks Act and is aimed at strengthening conservation efforts and environmental protection on the island. Under the new provision, each monkey exported will be subject to a tax of 400 US dollars.

The collected revenue will be strategically allocated: 300 dollars will go into the government's Consolidated Fund, and the remaining 100 dollars will be directed to the National Parks and Conservation Fund. This initiative reflects the government's intent to align economic activity with environmental responsibility.

● THE EUROPEAN UNION SEES MAURITIUS AS A STRATEGIC HUB FOR AFRICA

A meeting was held on 30 May 2025 under the banner of economic cooperation and regional integration, according to the Economic Development Board (EDB), following the meeting between its Chief Executive Officer, Mahen Kundasamy, and the EU Ambassador to Mauritius, Oskar Benedikt. In an international context marked by trade fragmentation and the reconfiguration of global value chains, the European Union (EU) continues to consider Mauritius as an ideal platform for European companies seeking

diversification. Its political stability, secure legal environment, modern infrastructure and extensive network of trade agreements, particularly with Africa.

● RISING PUBLIC DEBT AND GOVERNMENT STRATEGY

Since December 2024, the government of Mauritius has borrowed Rs 33.74 billion, increasing public debt from Rs 608.25 billion (87.6% of GDP) to Rs 641.99 billion (90% of GDP) by June 2025. Local debt rose by Rs 35.76 billion during this period, while external debt saw a slight decrease. The government projects further borrowing of Rs 68.87 billion between June 2025 and June 2028, with debt expected to reach Rs 710.86 billion, or 79.7% of GDP. The administration plans to use these funds to refinance existing loans and support strategic development projects.

● MOODY'S CAUTIONS ON FISCAL RISKS DESPITE GOVERNMENT REFORMS

Following the presentation of Mauritius' 2025/26 Budget, Moody's issued a briefing note analyzing the fiscal consolidation plan proposed by the government. The credit rating agency acknowledged the bold steps being taken to restore fiscal stability, including reforms to the pension system, a phased increase in the retirement age to 65, and significant changes to tax and social transfer policies. These measures are designed to reduce the fiscal deficit from 9.8% to 4.9% of GDP by 2026 and to lower public debt by 2028.

While the plan appears comprehensive, Moody's warned of several implementation risks. The agency pointed out that fiscal tightening, reduced social benefits, and expanded VAT could impact household purchasing power and slow domestic demand. Furthermore, any slowdown in economic growth—whether from domestic constraints or weaker external demand—could jeopardize the government's revenue targets and delay the debt reduction process. Moody's emphasized that while the government's goals are fiscally sound and could ultimately support a stronger credit profile, success depends heavily on

the country's economic performance and the effective execution of politically sensitive reforms. If the planned adjustments are carried out as projected, Mauritius' debt burden would become more aligned with peers in the Baa credit category.

● LEATHER SECTOR: MAURITIUS PROPOSES TO INVEST IN VALUE-ADDED INDUSTRIES

On June 11, the Ministry of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, in partnership with COMESA, hosted a validation workshop for the Draft Report on Technical Assistance to develop the leather value chain in Mauritius. The event took place at the Ravenala Attitude Hotel in Balaclava.

In his keynote address, Minister Sayed Muhammad Aadil Ameer Meea emphasized Mauritius' commitment to investing in value-added industries such as leather to strengthen economic diversification and reduce dependency on imports. Despite current challenges, the leather sector presents an opportunity to transform local raw materials into high-value products.

● NEW TOURIST TAX IN MAURITIUS FROM OCTOBER 1

Starting October 1, 2025, all tourists staying in Mauritius will be required to pay a "Tourist Fee" of €3 per night, as introduced in the 2025/26 Budget. This fee will apply to hotels, guesthouses, tourist residences, and private domains.

All visitors aged over 12 years staying in these accommodations will be subject to the fee. The payment will be collected directly by the lodging establishments, who will then be responsible for transferring the funds monthly to the Mauritius Revenue Authority (MRA).

● TOURISM SEES STRONG GROWTH IN MAY 2025

In May 2025, Mauritius recorded a significant increase in tourist arrivals, welcoming 115,090 visitors, compared to 104,952 in May 2024. This represents a 9.7% increase, or 10,138 more tourists. From January to May, total arrivals reached 561,636, slightly higher than the 557,133 for the same period last year. Cruise tourism also experienced a surge, with cruise

passenger arrivals increasing from 255 to 3,950, supported by more cruise ship stopovers.

Tourism revenue also improved considerably. In April 2025, Mauritius generated Rs 8.613 billion in tourism income, up from Rs 7.833 billion in April 2024. For the first four months of 2025, total tourism revenues reached Rs 32.195 billion, surpassing the Rs 31.814 billion collected during the same period in the previous year. This rebound has helped the sector recover from early-year delays and reaffirms tourism as a vital pillar of the Mauritian economy.

● BUDGET 2025-2026: LODGING ACCOMMODATION PERMIT, OCCUPATION PERMIT REFORM AND NEW EDB REGIMES TO IMPROVE THE BUSINESS CLIMATE.

The 2025-2026 Budget introduced key reforms to improve the ease of doing business and attract investment. In the accommodation sector, a new Lodging Accommodation Permit allows operators to house foreign workers from different employers on the same site. Additionally, the Tourist Accommodation Certificate and Tourist Enterprise Licence will now be valid for three years, reducing administrative burden.

The Economic Development Board (EDB) will oversee several new strategic schemes, including the Innovative Mauritius Scheme, Diaspora Scheme, and Women Entrepreneur Loan Scheme. A digital platform will be launched to simplify Occupation Permit applications. The permits will be categorized by profession and investment type, with revised salary thresholds and eligibility criteria to modernize the system.

Major amendments are also planned for immigration and labour laws. The validity of Residence and Occupation Permits will be reduced from 10 to 5 years. An age limit of 24 years old will apply for dependent children, and non-citizen retirees will be required to stay in Mauritius for a minimum of 180 days per year. A combined work and residence permit with a unique ID number will be introduced, with applications processed through the National Electronic Licensing System (NELS).

● INDIA-MAURITIUS TRADE RELATIONS DEEPEN

The Comprehensive Economic Cooperation and Partnership Agreement (CECPA) between India and Mauritius is India's first trade pact with an African nation.

This ambitious agreement provides a diversified trading platform. From agri-food products to textiles, metals, and electronics, the CECPA opens up new prospects for mutually beneficial growth and collaboration. It demonstrates India's commitment to strengthening its ties with the African continent and positions Mauritius as a key partner in this dynamic.

The Indian Prime Minister's Office welcomed the benefits of this agreement, which it deemed fruitful for both countries. Signed on February 22, 2021, after nearly 15 years of negotiations, the CECPA agreement between Mauritius and India has borne fruit. Touted as the first-ever free trade agreement concluded by India with an African country, this comprehensive economic cooperation strengthens trade between the two countries. In three years, investments have tripled in terms of imports and exports between the two countries:

- The agreement facilitates preferential access to the Indian market for more than 600 Mauritian products, including textiles, agricultural products, and pharmaceuticals.
- In return, India benefits from improved access to the financial and educational services sectors, as well as the development of the medical and pharmaceutical industries.
- In three years, Indian exports to Mauritius increased from \$1.1 million in 2021 to \$4 million in 2024, mainly including textile products, quartz slabs, and plastic products.
- On the Mauritian side, exports to India reached \$7 million in 2024, dominated by medical devices.
- The CECPA strengthens investment, employment, and technology transfer, and positions Mauritius as a strategic gateway to Africa for India. This represents a concrete lever for economic recovery and regional integration.

● INFLATION UPDATE – MAY 2025

According to Statistics Mauritius, annual inflation rate rose to 4.2% in May 2025, up from 2.9% a year earlier, driven mainly by rising food and restaurant prices. The Consumer Price Index (CPI) increased slightly from 107.1 points in April to 107.2 points in May.

● THE EDB AT THE CORE OF ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION

The 2025–2026 Budget, presented by PM Navin Ramgoolam, marks a strategic shift for Mauritius. The Economic Development Board (EDB), under CEO Mahen Kundasamy and President Sanjay Bhunjun, positions itself as a key driver in transitioning Mauritius toward the Innovation-driven growth, High-value investment attraction and startup, and digital ecosystem development.

SECURITY

● THIRD AFRICA MARITIME FORCES SUMMIT (AMFS) IN MAURITIUS

From 23 to 26 June 2025, Mauritius and the United States of America co-hosted the Africa Maritime Forces Summit (AMFS) at Le Méridien Hotel with the aim of addressing security matters and reinforcing regional collaboration in enhancing maritime security. Some 150 senior leaders from African maritime forces, naval infantries, and militaries, alongside international partners participated in the summit in the presence of the Commissioner of Police, Mr Rampersad Soorojebally; the Ambassador of the US to Mauritius, H.E. Mr Henry Victor Jardine; the Commander of the US Marine Corps Forces, General Robert Sofge; and the Rear Admiral, Michael Mattis. Ambassador Jardine highlighted Mauritius' role as a trusted partner of the United States. He noted that this partnership has been strengthened since the historic agreement between the United Kingdom and Mauritius on the sovereignty of the Chagos Archipelago.

● CONFLICT IN THE MIDDLE EAST: IMPACT ON AIR CONNECTIVITY

As tensions rose in the Middle East region, amidst escalating conflict involving Iran, Israel and the United States, the United Arab Emirates temporarily closed its airspace at 10:00 p.m. on Monday 23 June, before reopening it around 11:00 p.m., delaying Emirates Flight EK704 from Mauritius to Dubai.

Several international airlines, including carriers operating to Mauritius (Saudia, Emirates and Turkish Airlines), have announced adjustments of their services to or from Middle Eastern countries such as Saudi Arabia, Iraq, Qatar, and the United Arab Emirates. Aviation authorities closely monitor the conflict and its impact on commercial flight safety.

SOCIETY, CULTURE AND SPORTS

● RESEARCH PAPER BY JOINT AFRICAN AND MAURITIAN YOUNG SCIENTISTS PROPOSES TO BUILD 10 RESERVOIRS

A joint research by African and Mauritian young scientists recommends that the government build 10 reservoirs in places where they can harness natural water flows. These could store a total of 500,000 cubic metres of water which would supply people during dry times. The paper has been presented by Jay Doorga, Lecturer at the Université Des Mascareignes, Natalie Sum Yue Chung, PhD Candidate at the Center for Policy Research on Energy and the Environment, Princeton University, Ryan Tannoo from the École nationale supérieure d'architecture de Versailles and Anthony Odongo of the African Institute of Environmental Research and Geospatial Technology, Kenya.

● MAURITIUS LAUNCHES UNESCO CULTURE 2030 INDICATORS



(Photo: GIS Mauritius)

Mauritius is on track to implement the United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization's (UNESCO) Culture 2030 Indicators for sustainable development goals at national level and for the city of Port Louis. A workshop was organised with the technical assistance of the UNESCO, by the Ministry of Arts and Culture and the City Council of Port Louis. It aimed at strengthening evidence-based cultural policies across national and local levels.

In his speech, the Minister of Arts and Culture, Hon. Mr. Mahendra Gondeea, extended gratitude to the UNESCO for its support in promoting culture as a pillar of sustainable development. He further pointed out that the workshop will explore the intricate framework of the UNESCO Culture 2030 Indicators comprising four leading themes and twenty-two indicators, covering topics such as environment, knowledge and skills, and social inclusion. It will also offer a comprehensive outlook to better understand culture's multifaceted contributions to development.

● KIMBERLEY LE COURT WINS STAGE ONE OF TOUR OF BRITAIN FOR WOMEN



(Photo: Shutterstock)

On 5 June, Kimberley le Court won the first stage of the Tour of Britain for Women. The 29-year-old Mauritian professional racing cyclist outlasted the American Olympic road race champion, Kristen Faulkner, to the line. Earlier in April 2025, Le Court made history as the first Mauritian professional racing cyclist to win a stage at the Liège-Bastogne-Liège Femmes, one of the most important events of the European professional road cycling calendar. A cash prize of Rs 500,000 was remitted to the professional cyclist by the Government of Mauritius, at a ceremony held in Port Louis on 24 June in recognition of her historic victories.

● MAURITIUS HOSTED PRESTIGIOUS RUGBY TOURNAMENT



(Photo: L'express)

The Mauritius Rugby Sevens Tournament was held on 21 and 22 June 2025 at the Labourdonnais Sports Club in Mapou. The prestigious rugby tournament brings together top teams from across the continent competing for the title. This edition saw the participation of the following national teams from the African continent: Burkina Faso, Ivory Coast, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Nigeria, South Africa, Tunisia, Ghana, Uganda, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The tournament kicked off on 21 June with Zimbabwe facing Tunisia. The South Africans won the tournament with a 26-12 victory over Madagascar in the final.

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