

# SHIMA MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

## MAURITIUS

DECEMBER 2025



### \*\* Main Points \*\*

Politics: Government Launches Call for Proposals to Advance Electoral Reform

Diplomacy: OHCHR Calls on British government to not Ratify Treaty on the Chagos Archipelago

Japan in Mauritius: Signing Ceremony of Grant Contract for GGP/Kusanone

Economy: Mauritius Expected to Record 3.2% GDP Growth in 2025

Security: Rahul Rasgotra appointed new National Security Advisor

Culture: Mauritian Champion of Geet Gawai Visits Kolkata

## POLITICS

### [DOMESTIC]

#### ● ELECTORAL REFORM



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

As part of the 2025–2029 Government Programme, the Government has decided to launch a call for proposals to advance electoral reform. This was announced in a press release from the Prime Minister's Office on Tuesday 2 December. All stakeholders, including political parties, academia, the Mauritian diaspora, trade unions, NGOs and civil society organizations, as well as the general public,

are invited to submit their proposals and suggestions to the Prime Minister's Office, no later than Friday 30 January 2026.

The electoral reform aims to bring about an evolution in the electoral system, 57 years after independence: abolishing the requirement for candidates in parliamentary elections to declare their ethnic affiliation; some are already talking about ending the "Best Losers" system, replacing it with a proportional representation component; more female representation in Parliament; and proposing a law on the financing of political parties. The Government has an absolute majority in Parliament to amend the Constitution and pass this reform.

### [FOREIGN AFFAIRS / DIPLOMACY]

#### ● CHAGOS ARCHIPELAGO

On 10 December, the UN's Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination's (CERD) has called on the British government not to ratify the treaty on the future of the Chagos Islands, warning that it will "perpetuate long-standing violations of the

rights of the Chagossian people.” The UN body has criticized the treaty, as it does not allow the Chagossians to return to their ancestral lands on Diego Garcia. The committee also believes that the text prevents the Chagossians “from exercising their cultural rights and preserving their heritage,” which would constitute a further violation of the UN resolution. The group further criticizes the lack of consultation with the Chagossians, which, it argues, limits the exercise of their right to self-determination. It also criticizes the treaty for failing to provide for full reparations or recognition of “past injustices.” The committee has called on the United Kingdom and Mauritius to suspend ratification of the treaty, resume negotiations with the Chagossians, and guarantee full reparations.



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

The Government of Mauritius believes that this decision contravenes the fundamental principles of natural justice, equity, and the rule of law. Therefore, the Mauritian Government has sent a letter to the Chairman of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to reiterate its intention to proceed with the ratification, considering the CERD’s decision to be non-binding. For his part, Olivier Bancoult, leader of the Chagos Refugees Group in Mauritius, also rejected the UN Committee’s appeal. According to him, the Chagossian community is fully engaged in the discussions and is questioning the reasons for this request for suspension, as well as the Committee’s concrete proposals. Olivier Bancoult reiterated that the Chagos issue falls under a decision of the International Court of Justice, which he believes must be respected.



(Photo Credit: Le Mauricien)

Meanwhile, the Mauritian Government is establishing a special Trust Fund for the Chagossians, in accordance with the agreement between Mauritius and the United Kingdom. The Trust Fund for the Benefit of Chagossians, endowed with £40 million from the UK, will finance social and economic projects for the community. It will be administered by a 12-member board, including seven Chagossians. Five of them will be appointed on the recommendation of the Chagos Refugees Group in Mauritius. Another seat will go to a representative appointed by the Chagossians Committee Seychelles. The final Chagossian member will be chosen from among those residing in the United Kingdom.

### ● MAURITIUS AT THE 120TH SESSION OF COUNCIL OF MINISTERS OF OACPS



(Photo Credit: Top FM Mauritius)

The Minister of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade, Hon. Ritesh Ramful, led the Mauritian delegation to the 120th session of the Council of Ministers of the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS), held in

Brussels from 12 to 14 December. Discussions focused on the organisation's reform agenda, preparations for the 11th Summit of Heads of State and Government, scheduled for March 2026 in Malabo, and the implementation of the Samoa Agreement, which governs the partnership between OACPS and the European Union (EU). On the sidelines of the proceedings, the Minister held several bilateral meetings with officials from the organisation and member states.

### ● MINISTERIAL ROUNDTABLE ON BUILDING REGIONAL PARTNERSHIPS IN INDIAN OCEAN TO RESPOND TO COMMON CHALLENGES

A Ministerial Roundtable focusing on the theme 'Building Partnerships for decent work, climate resilience, digital transformation and Artificial Intelligence in the Indian Ocean subregion', kickstarted on Wednesday 17 December, in the presence of the Minister of Labour and Industrial Relations, Hon. Reza Uteem, at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation in Côte-d'Or Technopole. In his keynote address, Minister Uteem underpinned the importance of holding such regional dialogues to generate partnerships so as to better respond to common challenges. He welcomed the sharing of experience, expertise and perspectives on the common goals of ensuring decent work, strengthening climate resilience and tapping into Artificial Intelligence and digital transformation, which he said will translate into concrete actions.

### ● REUNION-MAURITIUS RELATIONS

A technical exchange mission between Mauritius and Réunion Island, organised by mru2025, a non-governmental organisation (NGO) and the French public agency, Conservatoire du Littoral, was held in Mauritius from 8 up to 12 December. In his keynote address, the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Hon. Rajesh Bhagwan, expressed appreciation of the initiative, which brings together stakeholders sharing the common ambition of protecting the coastline. He praised the core purpose of this exchange mission of comparing Mauritius' and Réunion's respective experiences and co-develop realistic solutions that

take into account the expectations of the communities.

### ● INDIA-MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS

Mauritius has received 30 additional electric buses from India, part of a total shipment of 100 buses to be delivered under India's Development Assistance program. This initiative supports the country's transition to cleaner public transport. Minister of Land Transport, Hon. Osman Mahomed, and First Secretary of the Indian High Commission, Shubham Kumar, oversaw the unloading of the buses in Port Louis.

The Indian Navy ship INS Sunayna visited Quay E in Port Louis between Wednesday 17 and Saturday 20 December. The INS Sunayna is the Indian Navy's second Saryu-class patrol vessel. Its primary mission is to monitor the Exclusive Economic Zone. During its port call in Mauritius, the ship will participate in various activities, including cross-training and port exercises, while also providing specialized professional training to NCG personnel. Dongche Bapu, representing the Indian Army, stated that this visit to Mauritius was a friendly gesture aimed at strengthening cordial relations. He added that the objective was to further develop this valuable relationship with Mauritius, considered one of the friendliest countries in Africa.

### ● CHINA-MAURITIUS BILATERAL RELATIONS



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

A delegation from the Communist Party of China (CPC), led by Li Mingxiang, Vice Minister of the International Department of the CPC Central Committee, was on an official visit to Mauritius. As part of this visit, the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Mauritius organized a seminar on Tuesday

9 December, to provide Mauritian representatives with an opportunity to engage directly with the delegation. Discussions focused on the state of bilateral relations, the sharing of experiences in national governance, and several issues considered strategic for both countries. The Minister of Energy and Public Utilities, Hon. Patrick Assirvaden, also participated in the seminar.

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## JAPAN IN MAURITIUS

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### ● SIGNING CEREMONY OF GRANT CONTRACT FOR GGP/KUSANONE



On Friday 5 December, a signing ceremony of the grant contract for the Grant Assistance for Grassroots Human Security Projects (GGP) was held at the Fraternité Mauricienne Des Malades et Handicapés in Grand River North West. The grant contract was signed by H.E. Ambassador KAN Masahiro and Mr. Jean-Francois Favory, President of Fraternité Mauricienne Des Malades et Handicapés. Through “The Project for the Provision of a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle in GRNO”, with financial support amounting to €40,549, a wheelchair accessible vehicle will be provided with a capacity of 6 persons and accommodating 4 wheelchairs. This will enable persons with disabilities to access safe transportation as well as training, education, and other forms of support aimed at promotion their autonomy. Furthermore, the transportation service is expected to contribute to enhancing the independence and social participation of persons with disabilities in the community.

### ● COURTESY CALL ON MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT



(Photo Credit: GIS Mauritius)

On Tuesday 16 December, H.E. Ambassador KAN Masahiro paid a courtesy call on the Hon. Rajesh Bhagwan, Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change. Ambassador KAN expressed gratitude to the Ministry's contribution in implementing “The Project for Enhancement of Institutional Capacity on Oil Spill Response”, the technical cooperation project by the Government of Japan. They exchanged views on various issues including future cooperation in environment and climate change sector.

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## ECONOMY

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### ● MAURITIUS EXPECTED TO RECORD 3.2% GDP GROWTH IN 2025

According to data published by Statistics Mauritius on the 19 December, the expected economic growth for 2025 takes place in a context marked by the increase in tourist arrivals, the continuation of public and private investments, and the directions set out in the 2025–2026 budget. GDP at market prices is projected to rise by 3.2% in 2025, after 4.9% in 2024

### ● PRIME MINISTER LAUNCHES NATIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON VISION 2050

On 18 December, The Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, launched at the Paul Octave Wiehe Auditorium in Reduit, the national

consultations on Vision 2050. These consultations, spanning over four months, are a long-term strategic planning exercise in line with Government Programme 2025–2029 to lay the foundations for uplifting the country from an upper-middle-income to a high-income country with an inclusive and sustainable agenda.

Three key pillars of national development and overarching themes for consultations are: prosperity, sustainability and inclusion. Dr Ramgoolam indicated that Vision 2050 will focus on expanding the economy while ensuring the well-being of every citizen.

According to Dr Ramgoolam, Vision 2050 must, amongst others: invest in growth such as AI, digital services, blue economy, renewable energy, the creative industry, advanced manufacturing, green and sustainable finance and high value tourism; redesign education and lifelong learning; strengthen climate resilience; accelerate the shift to renewable energy; promote sustainable and circular agriculture; ensure the protection of the lagoon and marine ecosystems; commit to robust and accessible healthcare; reaffirm the shared values of respect, justice, meritocracy and tolerance; promote active citizenship; deepen democracy; and modernise public administration.

### ● PREPARATION OF THE PAY RESEARCH BUREAU (PRB) REPORT UNDERWAY

The preparation of the forthcoming Pay Research Bureau Report (PRB) is at an advanced stage. On the 2 of December, The Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam, made the following statement in the National Assembly in reply to a Private Notice Question pertaining to the publication of the Pay Research Bureau report.

He recalled that the State of the Economy Report of December 2024 revealed a significantly higher deficit, unsustainable public debt levels, and weakened macroeconomic indicators, necessitating the adoption of stringent fiscal measures in the 2025–2026 Budget. ' 'The PRB exercise is being finalized within this framework of fiscal consolidation' ' he said.

The PRB has historically conducted its general review of the pay and grading structures and conditions in

the public service sector every five years, with the current Report having begun in March 2023. The exercise covers Ministries, Government Departments, Local Authorities, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly and some 125 Parastatal Bodies. Over 675 meetings have been held, 1,710 interviews conducted, and 17 site visits completed to date.

Dr Ramgoolam further recalled that Mauritius currently has the lowest investment-grade sovereign rating (Baa3 – Moody's), emphasizing the need for continued financial prudence.

### ● GOVERNMENT REAFFIRMS COMMITMENT TO SUSTAINABLE SOLUTIONS TO PLASTIC POLLUTION

On the 4 December, the Government remains committed to finding practical, long-term solutions to the plastic pollution crisis, while ensuring that the viability of the economy and the well-being of the citizens are not compromised.

This statement was made, by the Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mr Rajesh Anand Bhagwan, during a press conference in Port Louis. Mr Bhagwan also stated that a Roadmap for a Plastic Pollution-Free Mauritius is currently being developed, and emphasized the importance of evidence and science-based solutions. The Junior Minister of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change, Mrs Joanna Marie Bérenger, and officials from the Ministry were also present at the event.

### ECONOMIC COOPERATION

### ● MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS RELYING ON COMESA TO MITIGATE IMPACT OF AGOA EXPIRATION

Textile exports saw a significant decline in 2025 following the expiration of AGOA. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade is now relying on the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA) to mitigate the impact and stabilize the situation. Minister Hon. Ritesh Ramful stated that negotiations are underway and expressed hope for a swift conclusion to revive

Mauritian exports. COMESA will offer Mauritius access to a vast regional market with reduced tariffs, which will boost exports and the competitiveness of Mauritian businesses.

### ● 2026 US–AFRICA BUSINESS SUMMIT

The Mauritian Government and the Corporate Council on Africa (CCA) have formally announced that the 2026 U.S.–Africa Business Summit will be held on 26–29 July 2026 in Mauritius. The official dates were revealed on Thursday 4 December at a joint press conference organized by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the CCA in Port Louis. Organized for the first time in Mauritius, the Summit is expected to bring together more than 3,000 participants, including U.S. and African government officials, private sector leaders, investors, and representatives of multilateral organizations. For four days, the event will offer plenary sessions, high-level dialogues, sectoral sessions, B2B and B2G meetings, as well as networking activities designed to catalyze new partnerships and deepen business ties, strengthening trade relations, investment, and economic partnerships between the United States and Africa.

## SECURITY

### ● CHIKUNGUNYA CASES IN MAURITIUS



(Photo Credit: DefiMedia)

Five cases of chikungunya have been recorded in Mauritius during the last few days of 2025: two in Roches–Brunes, two in La Cure, and one in Plaisance, Rose–Hill. Dr Fazil Khodaboccus, Acting Director of Health Services, reminds the public to be particularly vigilant, especially given the frequent rains that encourage mosquito breeding. Fogging operations

have already been carried out in the affected areas to limit any risk of the virus spreading, which is transmitted by the Aedes mosquito.

### ● RAHUL RASGOTRA APPOINTED NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISOR



(Photo Credit: ION News)

Rahul Rasgotra has been appointed Mauritius's new National Security Advisor (NSA). A former Director General of the Indo–Tibetan Border Police and a member of the 1989–batch Indian Police Service (IPS) officer, Rasgotra will be the new National Security Advisor attached to the Mauritian Prime Minister's Office. Historically, Mauritius has entrusted its strategic security to India, especially since the 1974 defense agreement. Since 1983, around 20 Indian officers have occupied the position of NSA, as Mauritius relies on Delhi's expertise, resources, and protection. Legally, Mauritius remains sovereign, but on the ground, security is integrated into the Indian system. As such, the head of the National Coast Guard (NCG) is also an officer from India.

### ● RUSSIA, CANADA, UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN COUNTRIES ISSUE TRAVEL ADVISORY REGARDING MAURITIUS

On 29 December 2025, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade issued a communiqué regarding recent travel advisories issued by Canada, the United States, the Russian Federation and European countries (such as the UK, France, Belgium) on security measures to be observed by tourists travelling to Mauritius. The Ministry sought to reassure that Mauritius remained a safe destination for tourists, that only a negligible number of cases of theft reported involved foreign nationals, that such instances are isolated, non-violent and opportunistic

in nature and do not constitute organised and systemic threats on foreign visitors. The communique also stated that Mauritius enjoys a high reputation for safety and tranquillity, and that the Government of Mauritius attaches the highest priority to ensure the security of Mauritians and foreigners.

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## CULTURE

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### ● MAURITIAN CHAMPION OF GEET GAWAI VISITS KOLKATA



(Source: Times of India)

Kolkata: Sarita Boodhoo, a cultural scholar and thought leader from Mauritius, was in Kolkata on Wednesday to participate in a programme celebrating "Geet Gawai", a traditional Bhojpuri pre-wedding

ritual recognized by UNESCO as an intangible cultural heritage. Boodhoo was instrumental in getting the UNESCO honour.

Sarita Boodhoo has been an influential voice in the preservation of languages and culture in Mauritius and wife of former Deputy Prime Minister, Harish Boodhoo. In Mauritius she founded the Mauritius Bhojpuri Institute in 1982 with the aim of keeping the language alive in the Indian diaspora. "I promote Bhojpuri as a pulsating language with its lore, verbal art, proverbs, metaphors, folk songs".

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## **<Announcement from Cultural PR Section>**

We have started the application process for JET Programme 2026, which is an excellent opportunity to live and work in Japan.

### **\*WHAT IS JAPAN EXCHANGE AND TEACHING (JET) PROGRAMME?**

The JET Programme seeks to enhance internationalization in Japan by encouraging mutual understanding between the people of Japan and those of other nations including Mauritius through the enrichment of foreign language education and promotion of international exchange at the local level. The Programme achieves its objectives by offering JET Programme participants the opportunity to serve in public and private elementary, junior high, and senior high schools in Japan as Assistant Language Teachers (ALT). The Embassy has dispatched one Mauritian national every year as ALT since 2021.

For the first time in Mauritius, there are 4 ALT slots available for Mauritian nationals in three cities of Japan at once, namely:

- Akita City, Akita Prefecture
- Shizuoka City, Shizuoka Prefecture
- Kobe City, Hyogo Prefecture (2 slots)

For more details, please see below more information – the deadline for the submission of application documents to the Embassy is Friday 13th March 2026:

[https://www.mu.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr\\_ja/11\\_000001\\_00659.html](https://www.mu.emb-japan.go.jp/itpr_ja/11_000001_00659.html)

You can check JET Participant's experience from our Facebook page from below.

We will post a series of introduction of the above three cities and another participant's experience soon.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/16qqApYiPx/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1CUzVsdBYi/>

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1K9fEtV7m/>

If you have any questions on JET Programme, please send an email to [japanembassy@mx.mofa.go.jp](mailto:japanembassy@mx.mofa.go.jp).

We are looking forward to receiving your application.

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