

The lightning visit of French President Emmanuel Macron

French President Emmanuel Macron set foot in Mauritius on Thursday, 20 November 2025 at 2pm and by 2pm on Friday, 21 November 2025, his plane had left Mauritius taking him to South Africa for the G20 Summit.

During those 24 hours, the French President had been racing from functions to functions. On his way from the airport he stopped over at Le Réduit to pay a visit to the President of the Republic of Mauritius, Dharam Gokhool. From Réduit he was rushed to the Caudan Waterfront for a visit to the Arts Centre. This visit turned out to be a big brouhaha with the Mauritian journalists and photographers kept at a distance.

After a short rest, the President was expected at the banquet in his honour at the Meridien Hotel in Pointe aux Piments . By 8pm guests were beginning to arrive and the lot was there by 9pm, and were milling around. Some had already seated by he time the chief guest arrived at 9.30pm. From the big table, Dr Navin Ramgoolam and M. Emmanuel Macron were invited to deliver their addresses which centred around the cooperation between the two countries. Dr Ramgoolam spelled out the purpose of the French presidential visit while Mr Macron confirms the statement of the Mauritian Prime Minister. They both talked of cooperation in the field of eduction, energy, water supply, and security. The President was

careful to lay stress on the Tromelin issue (Chagos for the British) which should not divide the two countries while we have so much in common through our cultural relationships.

The presidential mission was almost all done in one single afternoon, and the visit could have ended there and then after banquet. But President Macron had three more assignments the following day, i.e. on 21 November. A visit aboard the French Navy Patrol Vessel 'Champlain', anchored at Mer Rouge in Port Louis harbour, to talk about maritime security; A homage to the memory of Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam and Sir Anerood Jugnauth, two former Mauritian PMs, who fashioned the destiny of Mauritius; and a trip to Telfair, Moka, to inaugurate the new French Embassy, which is moving from St George's Street in Port Louis.

Mr Macron wil have taken with him the souvenir of a corner of France in the Indian Ocean next to the French Department of Reunion Island. He will have been impressed by the fact that a British Commonwealth country where the French language is '*monnaie courante*' and where it is spoken without any particular accent. All other francophone countries have their own accents, a fact that makes one aware that one is listening to a Mauritian, because he betrays no accent. Or perhaps with a bit of Creole in it.



A warm welcome from Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam to President Emmanuel Macron

As for the Mauritian people who have seen him ar watched on television, Mr Emmanuel Macron appears as a very down-to-earth person with no special aura of a great international statesman around him. This is our souvenir of him in addition to of the goodies his country will bring to Mauritius.

P.C.

Tribute to former Prime Ministers

Wreaths were laid on 21 November, by the President of the Republic of France, Mr Emmanuel Macron, to pay tribute to late Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam (SSR) and late Sir Anerood Jugnauth (SAJ) during a ceremony held at their respective samadhis at the SSR Botanic Garden in Pamplemousses.

The Prime Minister, Dr Navinchandra Ramgoolam; the Deputy Prime Minister, Mr Paul Raymond Bérenger; the Minister of Agro-Industry, Food Security, Blue Economy and Fisheries, Dr Arvin Boolell; and other distinguished personalities were present on this solemn occasion.

As part of the ceremony, a Poupartia bor-

bonica (Bois de Poupart) was planted by President Macron and Prime Minister Ramgoolam, symbolising unity, remembrance and the shared commitment to preserving historical heritage.

President Macron also signed the visitor's book at the Château de Mon Plaisir following the wreath-laying ceremony.

To mark the occasion, Dr Arvin Boolell presented President Macron with a copy of a book - Histoire du Jardin des Pamplemousses & Suggestions pour une visite documentée, a gesture that reflects the longstanding friendship and cultural links between Mauritius and France.

GIS



Tribute to former Prime Ministers SSR & SAJ



History of the Pamplemousses Garden presented to President Macron Minister Dr Arvin Boolell

BRUSHSTROKE BASH!

Borderless Art Support Hokkaido (BASH) is an initiative that champions the creative work of artists with disabilities.

BASH aims to create a community through art where everyone feels welcomed, included and valued.



From Mylene, Japan



I attended the special project exhibition titled, Northern Borderless Art Exhibition 2025 - which took place from November 7, 2025 to November 21, 2025, in collaboration with Sapporo Stream Hotel. This contemporary hotel provided a perfect setting to exhibit the works of local artist Shun, from Atelier Pengu, Sapporo, an art studio which is associated with BASH.

Hokkaido, is Japan's northernmost island and well-known for its beautiful and diverse landscape with Sapporo city as its capital.

Most of Shun's work draws attention to the region's landscape and culture. Using a vibrant range of colours, he mixes the paints on his own and has the ability to choose the water-colour pen he likes best from the numerous options available.

BASH understands that art serves as a therapeutic outlet, that not every emotion can be put into words; thus art speaks to us through colours, shapes, patterns, lines, themes and symbols. Each element contributes to how we perceive the artwork, igniting ideas and emotions within us.

Furthermore, a painting provides a glimpse into the world of the artist, in that way, a connection is made, a bridge is built.

BASH promotes inclusion, empowerment, visibility and sustainability by creating spaces for artists to express themselves freely, and bringing that work to the public to help talent that's often overlooked, find its rightful place in the world of art.

They provide support through events, such as, Northern Borderless Art Exhibition 2025, that enables artists to gain confidence, identity and a sense of belonging.

Art works are frequently exhibited in public spaces, which brings the creators into the everyday lives of others.

Atelier Pengu Art (Peng Art) which is affiliated with BASH, is a day service in Sapporo for those with developmental differences.

Pengu graduates can continue working as artists in Atelier Pengu, producing work, participating in exhibitions and selling art.

BASH not only offers ongoing support, promoting art work and protecting the rights of the artist. It is helping reshape what an inclusive artistic society can look like.

All paintings by the artist, Shun
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The artist Shun of Atelier Pengu,



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