

Information Technology

Mauritius-META Engagement

Government and Meta address emerging online safety and digital security challenges



Dr Avinash Ramtohul, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation

This is at the core of a full-day workshop which kicked off 7 October in Ebene in presence of the Acting Prime Minister and Minister of Gender Equality and Family Welfare, Mrs Marie Arianne Navarre-Marie; the Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Minister of Information Technology, Communication and Innovation, Dr Avinash Ramtohul;; several Ministers, Members of Parliament and other dignitaries. Meta's Director of Public Policy for Sub-Saharan Africa, Mrs Balkissa Ide Siddo, participated via videoconference.

A Meta delegation was in Mauritius on 6 and 7 October 2026 at the initiative of the Ministry of Technology, Communication and Innovation for a series of working sessions with governmental institutions and other stakeholders. Meta representatives, Mrs Sylvia Musalagani and Mr Thabo Makenete, are facilitating discussions and sharing their expertise on the various issues.

The workshop brings together representatives of Government institutions and Meta to explore practical measures to tackle a range of online challenges, including content moderation, child online safety, misinformation and disinformation, impersonation, as well as the growing risks associated with artificial intelligence-generated content and deepfakes.

In her keynote address, Acting Prime Minister Navarre-Marie described the workshop as the beginning of a stronger working relationship between the Government and Meta. She called for enhanced cooperation, including clear escalation procedures, effective reporting channels and timely intervention when harmful content is identified.

She also stressed the need for content moderation systems to better recognise abusive material in local languages and language varieties.

Mrs Navarre-Marie recalled that online violence is increasingly becoming a societal challenge, with consequences extending beyond individual victims to families and the wider community.

She referred to figures published by the Mauritius Digital Promotion Agency, based on data from the Information and Communication Technologies Authority and CERT-MU, showing that reported security incidents increased from 5,221 in 2024 to 6,073 in 2025. Over the same period, reported cases of online harassment rose from 1,324 to 1,636, while cybercrime cases increased from 491 to 702. Reported incidents of sextortion also climbed from 178 to 223.

The Acting Prime Minister noted that behind every reported incident is an individual whose privacy may have been violated, whose reputation damaged, whose security threatened or whose peace of mind seriously affected.

Digital platforms, therefore she mentioned should remain spaces for opportunity and connection rather than environments where abuse, intimidation and exploitation can take place.

She further underlined that child online safety must remain a priority, with technology companies expected to play an active role in designing safer services, identifying potential risks and responding promptly when children are exposed to harm.

"We have a responsibility to act collectively, decisively and with a clear sense of urgency. Let us build a digital environment that serves the people, protects children, empowers women and upholds the dignity of every citizen," she stated.

For his part, Minister Ramtohul highlighted the extensive reach of Meta platforms in Mauritius. He noted that internet penetration stands at approximately 82.5 per cent, while around 85 per cent of the population uses Meta products.

He called for responsible use of digital platforms while emphasising the importance of balancing freedom of expression with respect for privacy, dignity and the rights of others.

Dr Ramtohul pointed out that discussions with Meta will seek to establish clearer protocols for reporting harmful content and processing takedown requests, including stronger cooperation with the Police, CERT-MU and other law-enforcement agencies.

He underscored the growing challenge posed by AI-generated content, including manipulated images and deepfakes. He also spoke of reviewing existing cyber-crime legislative framework while considering emerging legal and regulatory issues linked to AI.

Addressing participants virtually, Mrs Siddo reaffirmed Meta's commitment to transparency and follow-up and expressed the company's intention to establish a long-term partnership with Mauritius while providing practical solutions.

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Airport Innovations

Soon, Your Face Will be Your Passport And Other New Travel Measures

From Mylene



The UK government has announced several significant aviation changes and proposals in 2026 that could affect passengers. Here's a look at what's being proposed and what's already happening.

eGates at airports

On 6 October, the UK began introducing contactless eGates at airports. In effect, your face is becoming your passport.

Eligible British citizens can use the new facial-recognition eGates when entering the UK.



Here's how it works. Before arrival, the airline sends relevant passenger information, including passport photographs to Border Force.

At the eGate, the passenger stands in front of a camera that captures their face. The system compares the image with the relevant records.

If everything matches, the gate opens without the passenger having to show or scan their passport.

Airlines to seat children with an accompanying adult for free

Under new government proposals, airlines would be banned from charging parents or guardians extra to sit beside their children under 14. Although most airlines already offer this for free, Ryanair has faced criticism for requiring parents to pay.

Free correction of minor booking mistakes

The government plans to require airlines to let passengers correct simple spelling errors on bookings without an extra charge.

A new system to identify disruptive passengers

The government, the airlines and trade unions are working on a system to share information about persistently disruptive passengers. The aim is to help airlines identify repeat offenders and decide whether they should be allowed to fly.

Stronger enforcement of passenger rights

The proposed Civil Aviation Bill would give the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) greater powers to act against airlines and airports that fail to meet their obligations, including helping passengers during disruption and assisting disabled travellers.

Plans for more connected digital air-traffic information

The UK Civil Aviation Authority has opened a consultation on sharing aviation information digitally. The aim is to help airlines, air-traffic services and other organisations share information more reliably, supporting

future airspace management.

Government support for cleaner aircraft

In July, the government announced £7.3 million in funding for airport infrastructure to support zero-emission aviation, including the development of electric and hydrogen-powered aircraft.

Are transport links to airports getting better?

Getting to the airport is also part of the travel experience. A report published on 9 October found that in 2025, 38% of passengers at eight major English airports used public transport, while 62% arrived by taxi or car.

Is it really a matter of preference, or does price play a part?

The last time I took a minicab from Heathrow Airport to London, I reckon I could have bought a return flight to Madrid for less.

And if you book in advance, parking your car at Heathrow for 14 days can still cost a couple of hundred pounds.

Perhaps, in the long run, it's no bad thing

If everyone drove or took a taxi to the airport, we'd have a whole new set of problems to deal with.

In short, the government wants to use technology to make flying more efficient while introducing measures to reduce extra charges and the everyday frustrations passengers face.



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Economic Development Board (EDB) Mauritius expert driving economic growth in the Republic of Mauritius.
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Mauritius ranked Africa's most stable country in 2025, with the lowest political and economic risk

Mauritius has once again distinguished itself on the African continent, securing the top position as the most stable and least risky country in Africa for 2025, according to the Africa Country Instability Risk Index (ACIRI) published by SBM Intelligence, in November 2025.

With the lowest risk score of 17, Mauritius ranks as the safest country in Africa, reflecting strong governance, economic stability and minimal geopolitical threats. Mauritius stands in the "Safe" category, defined as countries scoring below 30, based on their aggregate risk scores.

Christa Pike

Death Row Torture in America



Pics from Net

“I want to die”

She is reconciled to her fate after 31 years behind bars

“I am Happy Now,”

she said before the failed poison applications to her body.

Where am I? Am I in Hell?

Following the second botched lethal injection execution, Christa Pike lost consciousness for 5 to 6 days. She was taken to hospital for medical attention.

On opening her eyes, seeing the pictures of American officials hanging on the wall and the faces of the executioners looking down at her, *she exclaimed where Am I, Am I in Hell!*

No, you are still with us, they told her. **Not much difference, though!**



Hell, Portrayed by AI

Should Christa Pike's death sentence be converted, after two failed executions?

On 12 January 1995, Christa Pike (18 yrs), with the help of her boyfriend, Tadaryl Shipp (17 yrs), lured Colleen Slemmer (17 yrs) to the wood in Tennessee (USA) where they atrociously murdered her. The murder was witnessed by a third young girl, Shadolla Peterson (17 years)

Being over 18 when the murder was committed, Christa Pike received the death sentence; Considered under age, Shipp was sentenced to life, with provision for parole. Shadolla became witness for the prosecution.

It has taken the American justice system 31 years

(1995 to 2026) to decide to implement the death sentence on 30 September 2026.

To be humane, the US Justice Department wishes the death sentence to be carried out by way of Lethal Injection. Firing Squad, Hanging, Gas Chamber, Electric Chair are methods considered as too barbaric for the US Justice Department.

But now, it has been proven that the poison injection is not safe because Christ-a has resisted to two such attempts to finish her off.

As young Americans, Christa Pike, Tadaryl Shipp, Colleen Slemmer and Shadolla Peterson were disciples of the

practice of satanism. Meeting in the wood was part of the rituals. Was the killing part of the rituals that went terribly wrong? In any case, it was no justification for the atrocities that took place on that 12 January 1995.

One may wonder in what state of torture is Christ-a Pike living her present final days in Civilised America!

Having already spent 31 years behind bars, having been subjected to two harsh failed execution attempts, is it possible for the authorities to let her spend the rest of her days in jail? If so, It is to be hoped that she will not be satanic again.

Surprising no American do-gooder has raised a voice yet.

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Mauritius Burning

Sugarcane Field in Flame

The unrest in Mauritius boils over on Tuesday, 13 October and 14 Wednesday.

Why the unrest took place? The whole country has been trying to understand the reason for this turmoil.

Some people believe that it is a ‘*coup-monté*’ by the dealers in narcotics to create a chaotic situation in Mauritius

Even the PM endorses the point of view that the drug mafias were responsible for the riot. He asserted it as a fact in his numerous addresses to the Nation during the past few days.

However, a panelist on a local radio debate, forcefully said that he could not understand how the instigation of the public disturbances in Mauritius can help the drug barons in their illicit commerce.

Even MPs sitting on government parliamentary benches have publicly declared that such a theory does not hold water. MP Kushal Lobine, a lawyer by profession, whose Nouveaux Démocrates Party is a constituent of the coalition government, **Alliance du Changement**, taking part in the debate, declared that the reason for the discontent among the people is to be found elsewhere.

A former Junior Minister, Hon Sidney Pierre has resigned from the coalition government and from the Labour Party because he is in disagreement with the ruling coalition on various issues. He was revoked as a Junior Minister because, a few months ago, he voted against the government's new legislation to reform the retirement age and to introduce new pension schemes. He publicly asserted that the declaration of the State of Emergency and the curfew imposed by the PM were not justified.

If this is the feeling among some of those close to the government, one may have an idea of the feeling prevailing among the population at large.

Brewing Dissatisfaction

It is generally believed that the prevailing dissatisfaction in the country has been brewing for the past two years since the present government took office in November 2024.

During the election campaign, the Opposition alliance, attacking the government in office, made promises to improve the economy of the country if they gain power. They promised that they would bring down the price of

fuel on the very first day they assume power. Among their promises, was that Old Age Pensioners would no longer pay Income Tax on the grounds that the pensioners have done so all their working life. A promise was also made that a new government would provide free airfare to old age pensioners to visit sister-island of La Reunion.

Once in office in November 2024, the new government “*trouve pailon trop chaud*” to handle. Overnight a report on the state of the economy of the country was produced to prove that ***la caisse du gouvernement est vide. All public funds had been squandered during the past 10 years that the previous government was in office***, the new administration told the nation. The new government was therefore not be capable of fulfilling the promises made during the electoral campaign because there was no money.

Coalition Opposition

But the coalition opposition party, Alliance du Changement, made no mention of the ***changement*** that would be introduced as regards Old Age Pension legislation and the retirement age. The new proposed legislation intended to bring OAP qualification up to 65 years. The outrage was immense because there has been no public consultation about the new legislation. To this day, this issue had not been properly settled.

This pension issue may be considered as the **root** of the discontent that would envelope Mauritius globally.

Numerous other domestic problems would gradually increase tension in the country. Consumers have more and more been finding it hard to make both ends meet. Many people are living in extreme poverty and in very poor housing. The government is being, rightly or wrongly, blamed for failing to control the price of domestic energy and of not reducing VAT at source to stabilise prices.

But all the *mécontentements* came to head with the domestic water supply crisis affecting the whole island.



Prime Minister Navin Ramgoolam addressing the nation

The various water reservoirs of the country are more than half empty with very serious supply interruptions affecting many parts of the island several hours a day.

Water, water. everywhere water

For an island surrounded by water, it is felt inconceivable that Mauritius could run out of water for domestic use. The Minister for Energy and Public Utilities, Patrick Assirvaden, is being taken to task. In many localities consumers are living without water supply for up to four days. This situation gives rise to violent protests here and there. Police intervention is required to maintain law and order.

It was during such a police intervention at Camp Levieux, a suburb off Rose Hill, that a young mother, Elodie Thomas, was seriously wounded by a police gunman when she was returning from work. She had a bullet lodged at the back of her neck. The government brought several medical specialists from India to remove the bullet and provide the necessary medical care.

It was the Camp Levieux incident that set the island ablaze following rumours circulating on the social media. Can we blame the social media platforms for the propagation of the riot? There have been in the past serious riots in Mauritius without the existence of the social media

It was an opportunity for onlookers, the trouble-makers, looters, drug addicts, gangsters and young hooligans to join the fracas without any invitation. Was this affray planned by the drugs barons or any organised groups? Some people connected with the drug cartel have tried to take credit by asserting that the island-wide trouble had been planned by the narcotics mafia. True or not?

All Quiet now on the Mauritius Front. But the PM is taking no chances. State of Emergency is prolonged for a few more nights.

Suresh B. Coonjeebeeharry

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Director

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Mobile: (230) 5729 8006
mauritus@pamgolding.mu
peter.llewellyn@pamgolding.mu

C4, Tamarin Commercial Centre,
Jacaranda Road, Tamarin,
Mauritius

Porveen Emrith
Director

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E: info@redvelvetrealty.com
W: www.redvelvetrealty.com

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Member of International Council of Holistic Therapists
Member of International Federation of Health and
Beauty Therapists

11, Cascaisville Business Park,
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F: (230) 442 90 20
maria@medine.com
medine.com | medineproperty.com

Chloé Langlois (Tyack)
Leasing Executive

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Beau Plan 21001
Republic of Mauritius
T: (230) 204 0800
M: (230) 5429 8210
clanglois@novaterra.mu

www.novaterra.mu

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finance

Jeon Aimin Wong
Marketing Manager

Victoria Building, C/o: Quay & Coedre Sts,
Port Louis, Mauritius
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Fax: +230 213 2626
Cell: +230 259 3408
shibani.wong@shibani.mu
www.shibanifinance.com

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Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund
Mr. Satyendra Peerthum,
Historian

Approved Ghat Trust Fund & Coordinator (RUC) of the RUC,
Member of the International Scientific Committee of the
Indo-European Language Project
Center, Leiden, & Collector of Antiquities

Aapravasi Ghat Trust Fund, Documentation Unit
16th Floor Hemmery Court, Port Louis, Republic of Mauritius
Mobile: 3489988/Office: 214 5793/Home: 424 1580
Email Address: satyendrapearthum@gmail.com
Satyendrapearthum@yahoo.com

Sol

Fabrice Lefebvre
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A.R. Ghanty
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W: www.imbeltravel.com

Mauritian Overseas Gazette

Editor: Peter Chellin
Website: www.mauritianoverseasgazette.com
email: mauritianoverseasgazette@outlook.com

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Abdoollah EARALLY
Head of News

9th Floor, Ex-Bremer House,
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F: +230 5 252 2794
E: oodith@neutralprinting.com
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The Nobel Prize Winner 2026, Mrs Navi Pillay, Praised and Chastised for calling a Spade a Spade

Pictures as diffused on the Net



This is the way the Nobel Prize Winner is seen by the
Italian Media Outlet DRM



Donald Trump believes he, himself, deserves the award more than the never-heard of South African.



Israel Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says that Pillay was awarded the 2026 Nobel Prize Winner for her anti-jewish attitude.



Anti-Jewish Attitude! Why?

Nobel Peace Laureate 2026 *Why Dr Navanethem Pillay?*

The following extracts from the Press Release of the Nobel Prize Committee say it all

The Nobel Peace Prize for 2026 goes to a person who with exceptional courage and integrity has led the way towards a more comprehensive global legal order. This year's laureate has been instrumental in ensuring that war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide are prosecuted.

The Norwegian Nobel Committee has decided to award the Nobel Peace Prize for 2026 to Navanethem "Navi" Pillay for her efforts to promote peace and international law.

Navi Pillay's commitment to universal legal principles and her firm moral compass are constants in a long career. Born into a family of Indian Tamil origin under apartheid in Durban,

South Africa, Pillay became a lawyer and legal pioneer, confronting deep structural discrimination, segregation and exclusion. A common thread runs from her early work defending Nelson Mandela and others who stood up against apartheid to her service as a judge in some of the key international court cases of our time.

This year's laureate has significantly enlarged the scope and impact of international law. She has served as a judge on the High Court in South Africa, the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda and the International Criminal Court. She was the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

and, until recently, she chaired the UN Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Today Navi Pillay is a judge on the International Court of Justice in the case where Myanmar stands accused of genocide.

In historic international court cases, she has shown that legal measures can help prevent acts of war and violence. Navi Pillay has also contributed to strengthen the institutions of international law. Her independence, expertise and steadfastness have made her one of the most respected international jurists of our time.

What's in a name?

When the name of the Nobel Peace Laureate for 2026 was announced by the Prize Committee, the family name of the winner was pronounced Pillaye for Pillay. When we saw the text of the announcement, we became aware that the name was actually Pillay.

There are a few thousands of families in

Mauritius bearing the surname of Pillay without having any relationship. Why? It's simply because Pillay itself is not a family name. Pillay is a caste within the Tamil community.

It is believed the Pillays are of the highest social class within the Tamil community. You know them at school as *Cassilingen and what-not!*, but when they qualify for some high position, they opt for **Pillay** as surname. My own cousin was V. Mootoosamy at school/college. But

once he became a medical practitioner, he was known, and referred to, as Dr Pillay to the pride of the parents.

To get back to the South African Nobel laureate, her family name is not Pillay. It should be Navanethem. This name also was probably wrongly written by the Civil Status Office when her grandfather came to South Africa as a sugarcane labourer some two hundred years ago without proper birth certificates. The name could be

Navanathan.

In Madras (Now Tamil Nadu), the name may certainly be Navanathan. Names ending in Nathan are very familiar in South India and Sri Lanka. In Mauritius, Nathan has been turned into Naden. Ragoonathan has become Ragoonaden and so forth.

And so what's in a name, the lady is still a Nobel Prize Winner to the great distress of Trump and Netanyahu!

P.C.