

Foreign Affairs, Bilateral cooperation

Mauritius–EU partnership focuses on sustainable development and shared priorities

Mauritius and the European Union (EU) are looking to expand trade, attract investment and advance cooperation in key sectors. These priorities were outlined at the opening of the Second Mauritius – EU Partnership Dialogue held, this morning, at the Maritim Resort and Spa in BalACLava.

The opening ceremony was attended by the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr Janmajaising Bissoondoyal; the Ambassador of the EU to the Republic of Mauritius, Mr Oskar Benedikt; Ambassadors and representatives of EU Member States; and other personalities.

In his address, Mr Bissoondoyal emphasised the need to strengthen economic ties with the EU by improving access to European markets, diversifying investment opportunities and positioning Mauritius as a gateway for investment into Africa. He also highlighted the potential of the EU's Global Gateway Strategy to support sustainable infrastructure, connectivity, digital transformation, renewable energy and the blue economy.

Turning to the challenges facing Small Island Developing States, Mr Bissoondoyal called for



Mr Janmajaising Bissoondoyal shaking hands with the EU Ambassador Mr Oskar Benedikt

accessible, predictable and affordable climate finance to strengthen climate resilience and adaptation. He also pointed out the importance of closer cooperation in ocean governance, maritime security and the sustainable management of marine resources, including efforts to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing.

Moreover, Mr Bissoondoyal underscored the value of regional integration and multilateral cooperation, alongside exchanges in education, research, innovation and skills development. He stressed that the dialogue should

translate shared priorities into coordinated action and concrete outcomes that deliver lasting benefits for Mauritius and the EU.

For his part, Ambassador Benedikt reaffirmed the EU's commitment to Mauritius and highlighted democracy, the rule of law and social cohesion as foundations of the relationship. Referring to the recent unrest, he commended the Mauritian authorities for their handling of the situation and stressed the importance of dialogue and compromise in preserving peace and stability.

Ambassador Benedikt also outlined areas of practical EU support, including planned assistance with France to renew water infrastructure, developing renewable energy and addressing coastal erosion. He cited ongoing cooperation on the circular economy and efforts to expand financing opportunities, including through Blue Bonds. He further announced the conclusion of negotiations on a strengthened Economic Partnership Agreement, which would extend cooperation to services, and a new fisheries protocol expected to take effect soon.

Human Rights

Mauritius strengthens national capacity to combat trafficking in persons



A two-day Capacity-Building workshop focusing on Trafficking in Persons (TIP), organised by the International Organisation for Migration (IOM) Mauritius and Seychelles was held in Port Louis on 22 October.

Office.

In her opening remarks, the IOM Chief of Mission for Mauritius and Seychelles, Ms Alia Hirji, underscored the importance of translating the national legal framework into effective action through

The workshop forms part of the Enhancing the 4ps Approach to Counter-Trafficking in Mauritius project and the proposed Three-Year national TIP Capacity Development Programme, which is under the custodianship of the Prime Minister's

stronger institutional capacity, clearly defined responsibilities and improved coordination among stakeholders. According to her, an effective response to human trafficking must move beyond simply recognising the problem to actively identifying potential victims, reporting concerns, making referrals, and ensuring they receive protection and assistance

Ms Alia Hirji noted that the workshop draws on findings from a Training Needs Assessment conducted under the national capacity development programme. The assessment revealed that 41 per cent of respondents had never heard of the National Referral and Reporting Mechanism before completing the questionnaire, highlighting the need to strengthen awareness of the procedures and respon-

sibilities essential to an effective national response, she pointed out.

Moreover, Ms Hirji reaffirmed IOM's commitment to supporting Mauritius in combating trafficking in persons through capacity development and enhanced coordination among relevant stakeholders. The workshop, she recalled, is a pilot Training of Trainers initiative which will equip nominated participants with the knowledge and skills to conduct further training within their respective institutions.

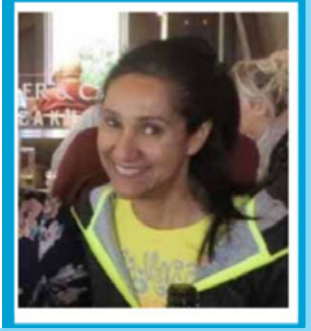
She encouraged participants to engage actively in the sessions, share practical experiences and apply the knowledge acquired to strengthen inter-institutional collaboration, ensuring that potential victims are identified and referred to appropriate protection and assistance services.

The Autumn Season in Japan

Nature's Palette

Pictures: Mylene

From Mylene



When autumn arrives in Hokkaido, the landscape becomes a patchwork of amber, gold, orange, brown, green and deep red.

The crisp air and clear blue skies bring a refreshing change and hint at the winter soon to come.

Autumn isn't just a feast for the eyes, it's a feast for the taste buds, too. Hokkaido's seasonal bounty includes an abundance of fresh seafood, salmon and salmon roe. Sweet vegetables, potatoes, pumpkin and mushrooms as well as chestnuts, apples and grapes.



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A Poem for all Seasons

We thank Ackhtar Gopaul of Paris, France, for this poem written by his late father Abdur Raheem GOPAUL in 1999. The poem was written in English and French, and we are pleased to publish both versions.

We have titled the contribution "A Poem for all Seasons" because the savagery witnessed by Mr Abdur Raheem Gopaul in 1999 is still taking place in 2026. The killings still go on among the creatures known as HUMANS. The bloodshed in Palestine and Ukraine begs the question: How can these murders be tolerated?

TEMPS SAUVAGE

Des enfants et des femmes
Par certaines, par milliers
Des vieilles et des vieux
Et quelques hommes encore forts
Perdus dans les forêts,
Traqués, Ne sachant où aller,
Se font massacrer
Et brûler ou enterrer.

Entretiens,
Dans le monde des grands On se frotte les mains
En pensant aux gains -
Or, émeraude et diamants,
Ruses, richesses et argent.

Même, On leur vendra des armes
Et ils pourront mieux s'entretenir
Afin que d'autres vivent mieux -
Ou croiront mieux vivre.
Et après ?...

Conférences et séminaires extravagants Pour
parler des droits de l'Homme,
de la Femme et des enfants ;
Et pour trouver des coupables. Et les coupables,
c'est qui ?!
C'est toi, c'est moi, c'est lui
Et tous ceux et celles qui restent tranquilles
Pendant que le massacre se fait vil et inutile.

Abdur Raheem GOPAUL / 1999.
(1946 – 2026)

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Mahebourg, Ile Maurice

SAVAGE TIMES

Children and women
In certain places, by the thousands
Old women and old men
And a few men still strong
Lost in the forests,
Hunted,
Not knowing where to go,
Are massacred
And burned or buried.

Meanwhile,
In the world of the powerful
They rub their hands
Thinking of the profits -
Gold, emerald and diamonds,
Schemes, riches and money.

Even,
They will sell them weapons
And they can kill each other better
So that others may live better -
Or believe they live better.
And then what?...

Extravagant conferences and seminars
To talk about the rights of Man,
of Woman and children;
And to find culprits.
And the culprits, who are they?!
It's you, it's me, it's him
And all those men and women who remain
While the massacre is committed, vile and

Abdur Raheem GOPAUL / 1999.

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Head Officer, Entomology, Candos
RAFAL, Social Politics
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1946 – 2026

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From your Digest

Courtesy Quora

Iran Today · Follow
Posted by Navid · 4y

22 years old Iranian girl named Mahsa (Zhin) Amini was arrested by Morality Sharia Police of the Iran's Islamic regime for "bad hijab". She was tortured in detention which has resulted to both heart and brain stroke and led to her brain death.



**A 22-year-old Iranian girl was beaten
and fell into a coma in Tehran police
custody**

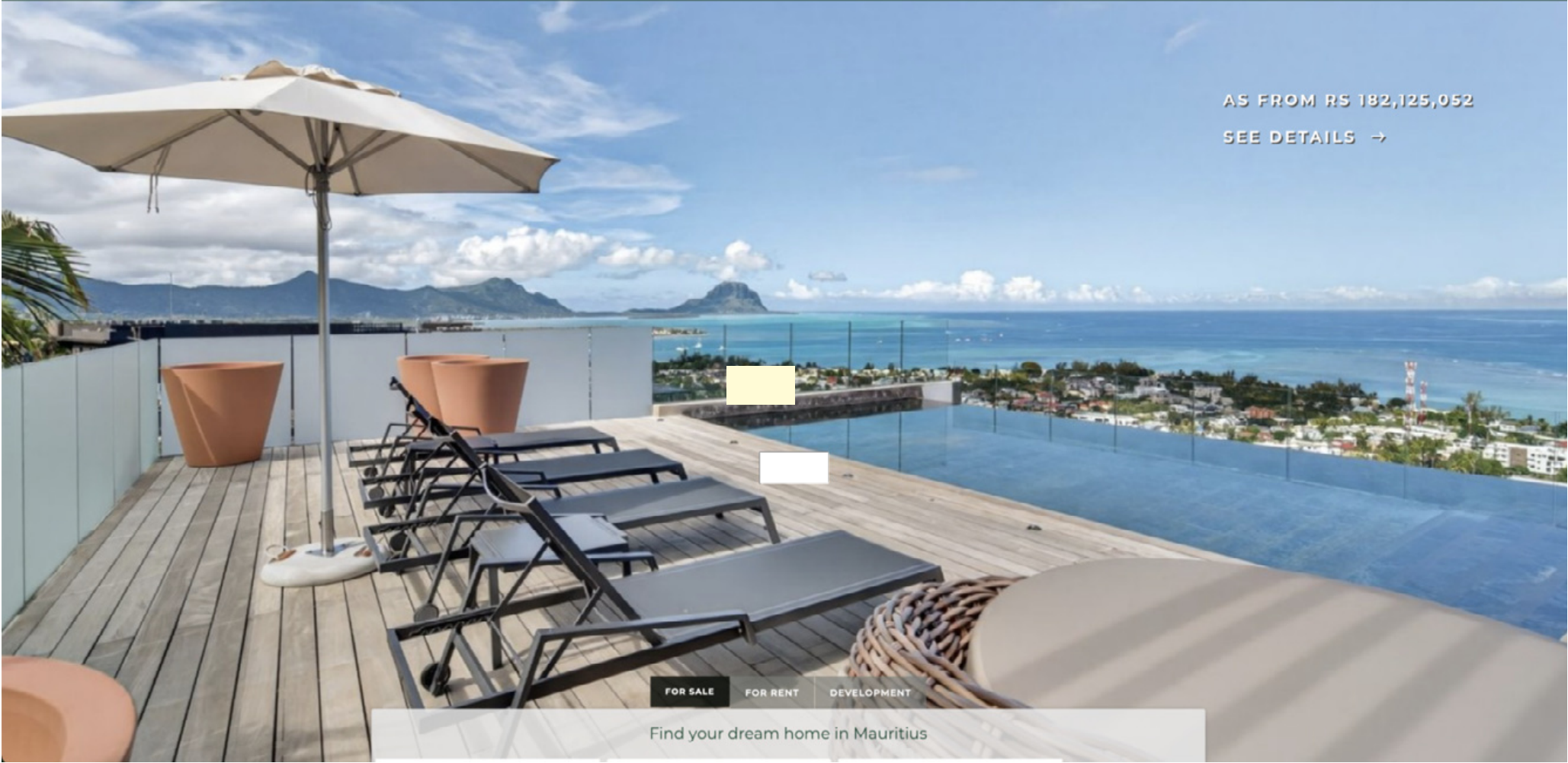
Mahsa Amini is the 4th victim of Moral patrol in last 2 year who got killed with dire condition. Mahsa is in Coma and the doctors told her family they cannot save her life.

This is the brutality of Islamic Republic of Iran that has a seat at UN to monitor women's rights globally!

• Source: IranWire



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Journey of an artist: Yousuf Ibrahim Manjoo

A legacy of the stage, cinema, audiovisual, and Mauritian culture

Mr Yousuf Ibrahim MANJOO is a Mauritian artist whose life has been deeply dedicated to theatre, cinema, audiovisual production and the promotion of Mauritian cultural expression. For more than three decades, he has remained actively involved in the artistic field, demonstrating remarkable perseverance, versatility and passion for the performing arts.

His artistic journey began at the remarkably young age of 11, in 1984, with the Municipality of Port Louis.

What began as a childhood passion gradually developed into a lifelong commitment to the arts.

From those early beginnings, he continued to develop his skills and experience, becoming involved in theatre productions, national drama activities, cinema, short films, television, radio, advertising and other audiovisual projects.

Throughout his career, Mr Manjoo has taken part in numerous theatrical productions and has played a wide variety of roles, demonstrating his versatility as a performer. His theatrical experience includes participation in productions such as *Carmen*, *Le Roi Lion*, *Pêcheurs de Perles*, *Baraz* and *Bernadette de Lourdes*, among many others.



His contribution to theatre has also extended beyond acting. He has been involved in directing and production and has participated in National Drama Festival activities. His dedication to the theatrical arts has been recognised through various awards and distinctions during his career, including recognition at the National Drama Youth Festival and National Drama Festival.

Mr Manjoo subsequently extended his artistic career into cinema. In 1994, he received acting training for cinema under the late Ramesh Tekoit, and in 1995 he appeared in his first film, *Hidden Feelings*. Since then, he has continued to participate in a substantial number of Mauritian films and audiovisual productions, building a body of work of approximately 60 films and productions, with some projects reaching audiences beyond Mauritius.

His filmography and audiovisual work reflect the diversity of his contribution. He has participated in feature films, short films, television productions, radio dubbing and commercial advertising. His work has included local and international projects and has allowed him to contribute to the growth

and visibility of Mauritian cinema.

His contribution to the local film industry received formal recognition in 2016, when he was presented with a Special Award for Contribution to the Local Film Industry by the Mauritius Film Development Corporation (MFDC). This recognition is particularly significant as it reflects his sustained involvement in the development of local cinema.

International Recognition and Artistic Journey

An important milestone in Mr Manjoo's international artistic journey came with the film **Merci**, written by Dr Vinaye (Kumarduth) Goodary. The film was selected for the Jaipur Film Festival in India in 2016, giving a Mauritian production and its participating artists exposure beyond the shores of Mauritius.

Another significant milestone in his international journey was his participation in the Mauritian documentary feature **Three Wise Men – Parallel Lives**. The film went on to achieve considerable international exposure and recognition, with recent profiles recording more than 40 international awards.

The film's international journey included recognition in the United States and other countries, providing visibility for Mauritian filmmaking and for the artists who participated in the production. The award material associated with the film, including the May 2021 Awards of Merit – Documentary Feature recognition, further demonstrates the international reception of the production. The promotional and award imagery was also displayed internationally, including on a billboard in the United States, as evidenced by photographic supporting material retained with this nomination.

Three Wise Men – Parallel Lives is particularly meaningful in the context of Mauritian cinema because it connects the stories of Nikola Tesla, Major Amode Ibrahim Atchia and Deane Thomas, bringing together international history and an important chapter of Mauritius' own heritage. Through his participation in such productions, Mr Manjoo has helped carry Mauritian artistic talent and Mauritian stories onto the international stage.

Selected Local Film and Advertising Work

Throughout his extensive career in Mauritian cinema, Mr Manjoo has participated in a wide range of local productions, demonstrating his versatility across different genres and roles.

Among the films in which he has appeared is **Kass Yen**, written by Rezza Preroo, which formed part of his continuing work in Mauritian cinema.

He also participated in **Batmen**, written by Wassim Sookia, a production associated with the Mauritius



Film Development Corporation's 7-Day Challenge. The production received several distinctions in the MFDC competition, including recognition for Best Sound, Best Actor and Third Best Production.

His film career also includes productions such as **Separation**, **La Potence**, **Horizon d'Amour**, **Julie**, **Grate Gratos**, **Keeper**, **Tino** and other local films and short films. His participation in numerous Mauritian productions reflects the breadth and longevity of his contribution to local cinema.

His contribution to the audiovisual industry has extended beyond cinema into television commercials, radio advertising and billboard campaigns. His face became familiar to the Mauritian public through advertising campaigns for well-known brands, including Hisense, Mine d'Or, Mr Bricolage, Pizza Hut and Coca-Cola.



These commercial appearances demonstrate another dimension of Mr Manjoo's artistic versatility. He has been able to adapt his acting and expressive abilities not only to theatre and film but also to television, radio and outdoor advertising, reaching audiences across different generations and sections of Mauritian society.

From Page 5

His extensive involvement in local films, short films, theatre, advertising and audiovisual productions illustrates a career that has consistently evolved with Mauritius' entertainment and creative industries. From the stage to the cinema screen, television, radio and public advertising, Mr Manjoo has remained a recognisable and versatile contributor to Mauritian artistic life for more than three decades.

A Contribution to National Identity:

Nu L'île Maurice

In 2016, Mr Manjoo participated in the 15-minute short film *Nu L'île Maurice*, a production presented in connection with the National Day of Mauritius.

The film was publicly screened on 12 March 2016, when Mauritius celebrated the 48th anniversary of Independence. It explored themes of multiculturalism, coexistence and the way different communities live together in Mauritius. Mr Manjoo played the role of the chauffeur in the film.

Its presentation on National Day made its message particularly relevant to the celebration of the Mauritian nation, its diversity and its shared identity.

His involvement in *Nu L'île Maurice* is therefore particularly relevant to a National Day nomination, as it connects his artistic contribution with themes of unity, diversity, coexistence and Mauritian identity.



An appreciation from own partner

His career has further included participation in award-winning and internationally recognised projects, including **Three Wise Men – Parallel Lives**, as well as numerous other local productions and short films. Through these projects, he has continued to promote Mauritian stories, talent and creative expression.

Another important aspect of his contribution is his willingness to share his experience with others. Over the years, he has encouraged younger artists and performers and has made himself available to assist those who are beginning their own artistic journeys. His experience in acting, directing, production and adjudication has enabled him to contribute not only through his own performances but also through the development of others.

Mr Manjoo has served as an adjudicator in French and English theatre competitions and has participated in judging activities connected with national

drama and cultural programmes. He also underwent official adjudicator training, further demonstrating his commitment to contributing to the artistic community beyond his own performances. His work has included radio and television advertising, as well as billboard and other advertising campaigns, allowing him to reach a broad Mauritian audience.

One of the most remarkable aspects of his journey is the length and consistency of his commitment. Beginning at only 11 years of age, he has continued to remain connected to the arts through different generations, different forms of media and significant changes within the Mauritian entertainment industry.

His contribution should therefore be viewed not simply in terms of the number of productions in which he has participated, but in terms of the continuity of his service to Mauritian arts. For more than 30 years, he has contributed his talent, time, knowledge and experience to theatre, cinema and audiovisual production.

Mr Manjoo's professional life also demonstrates his ability to combine artistic passion with discipline and continuous personal development. His achievement as a Chartered Member of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport (CMILT) is a further reflection of his professionalism, commitment to learning and ability to excel in different areas of responsibility.

The Support Behind the Journey

Behind every successful man, there is often a woman whose contribution is not always visible to the public — a woman who stands beside him through the sacrifices, uncertainties, responsibilities and challenges that accompany a lifelong journey.

The woman behind the successful man



Mr Yousuf and Mrs Razia Nana Manjoo



An award for Cinema contribution presented by Lady Sorojini Jugnauth

In Yousuf's journey, that woman is his wife, **Razia NANA MANJOO**. For more than three decades, she has stood beside him and supported his artistic journey. She has witnessed the years of dedication, the long hours, the rehearsals, productions, filming, commitments and sacrifices that are part of a career in the arts. Her support has provided him with encouragement and stability while he pursued his passion. Behind the public recognition of an artist is often a private world of patience, understanding and family support. Razia Nana Manjoo has been an important part of that foundation throughout Yousuf's journey.

The success of an artist is rarely achieved entirely alone. The encouragement of family and, particularly, the support of a life partner can make it possible for an artist to continue through difficult periods and remain committed to his calling. In this respect, the contribution of his wife deserves acknowledgement alongside his professional achievements.

Overall Contribution

Mr Yousuf Ibrahim Manjoo represents a generation of Mauritian artists who have dedicated a significant portion of their lives to developing local theatre and cinema. His career demonstrates longevity, versatility, perseverance and an enduring commitment to Mauritian culture.

From an 11-year-old boy beginning his artistic journey with the Municipality of Port Louis in 1984, he has progressed through theatre, national drama activities, cinema, television, radio, advertising, directing, production and adjudication.

His work has helped preserve and promote Mauritian artistic expression while giving audiences the opportunity to see local stories and local talent represented through theatre and screen.

His participation in productions such as **Merci**, selected for the Jaipur Film Festival, and **Three Wise Men – Parallel Lives**, which achieved extensive international recognition, demonstrates that his artistic journey has extended well beyond Mauritius.

After more than three decades of continuous involvement, his contribution constitutes a significant part of his life's work and represents a sustained commitment to the cultural life of Mauritius.

This article is published in view of his long-standing dedication, artistic achievements, contribution to local theatre and cinema, support for younger artists, involvement in audiovisual production, international exposure and continued service to Mauritian cultural expression.

A fan of the Youth Drama Festival of the very old days



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