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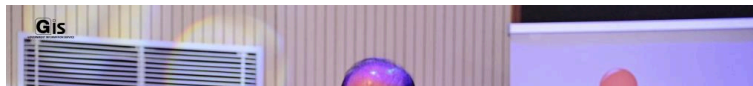


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Published 8/18/2026

Minister Ameer Meea calls for Innovation to be nurtured from an early age





[Skip to main content](#)



GIS – 18 August 2026: “Mauritius needs people who are prepared to think differently because the world around us is changing very quickly,” stated the Minister of Industry, SME and Cooperatives, Mr Aadil Ameer Meea, today, as he called for a culture of innovation, productivity and problem-solving to be nurtured among young people from an early age.

He was speaking at the InnovEd 2026 Award Ceremony held at the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Public Service and Innovation in Réduit. The Minister of Education and Human Resource, Dr Mahend Gungapersad; the Chairperson of the National Productivity and Competitiveness Council (NPCC), Mr Arshad Duymun; the Executive Director of the NPCC, Dr Vinaye Ancharaz; educators; students; and other stakeholders also attended the event.

Minister Ameer Meea highlighted that initiatives such as InnovEd provide a glimpse of the Mauritius of tomorrow by encouraging young people to come forward with ideas, identify problems and think differently about possible solutions. Innovation, he pointed out, can begin with a simple idea and the determination to address an existing problem.

He emphasised that productivity goes beyond producing more and also involves improving the way people work, using technology intelligently, reducing waste and making better use of skills and resources. Through InnovEd, students thus develop practical skills by identifying problems, working collaboratively and devising solutions, he observed.

Moreover, Minister Ameer Meea dwelt on Government’s investment in Artificial Intelligence (AI), including a National AI Learning Platform aimed at training 50,000 Mauritians in practical AI skills. He further informed that Government will soon introduce a new Industry Bill to support industrialisation and reposition Mauritius as a stronger manufacturing and export platform, with emphasis on higher-value activities.

For his part, Minister Gungapersad commended the creativity, teamwork and vision demonstrated by students. He expressed satisfaction that young people were identifying problems around them and working together to devise solutions, before outlining the importance of developing a

[Skip to main content](#)

He also seized the opportunity to commend parents, teachers and rectors who have accompanied the participants through this journey.

As for NPCC's Chairperson, he remarked that innovation opens new markets, creates new jobs and gives students the power to shape the future they want for themselves. He commended all participants for having demonstrated that, with an innovative mindset and hard work, their ideas can make a difference in our society.

NPCC's Executive Director, for his part, stated that InnovEd 2026 was launched in February this year, with 81 teams from 50 schools competing in the first assessment in June, out of which 32 were chosen for the final assessment. In addition, he dwelt on the NPCC's mandate and reflected on the importance of building a culture of productivity a young age.

Participants had the opportunity to present projects around six themes, namely: Interactive Media; Cultural Heritage; Languages and Publishing; Performing Arts; Visual Arts and Crafts; and Design. Winners and runners-up received cash prizes of Rs 20,000 and Rs 10,000, respectively.

Winners and runners-up are as follows:

Interactive Media

Winner: London College

Title of project: Lorizon – Bringing Light to Your Every Day Life

Runner-up: Queen Elizabeth College

Title of project: CareerPath Mauritius

Cultural Heritage

Winner: Ramsoondar Prayag SSS

Title of project: ECO Ravanne

Runner-up: Quatre Bornes SSS

Title of project: RassinNouPei: The smart Heritage flour

Languages and Publishing

Winner: Ramsoondar Prayag SSS

Title of project: Vindaye 2.0

Runner-up: Patten College Girls

Title of project: Healing Ourselves: A Poem for Wellness

Performing Arts

Winner: France Boyer de la Giroday SSS

Title of project: Be a light and spread the light

Runner-up: Muslim Girls College

Title of project: Healthy Stage: Perform, Learn, Eat Better

Visual Arts and Crafts

Winner: Muslim Girls College

Title of project: ECO-DECO

Runner-up: Droopnath Ramphul State College

Title of project: Verdant Steel

Design

Winner: Ebene SSS (Boys)

Title of project: Upcycled Coffee Table

Runner-up: Anaïas Andre Le Chou College

Title of project: Furniture from waste Paper

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