



SPEECH

**His Excellency Mr Dharambeer Gokhool G.C.S.K.,
President of the Republic of Mauritius**

EVENT: Deck Reception, INS SARVEKSHAK

VENUE: Quay A, Port Louis

TIME: 19 00 HOURS

Honourable Mr Shakeel Mohamed, Minister of Housing and Lands,
Honourable Ministers and Junior ministers,
Mr Rampersad Sooroojally, Commissioner of Police,
H.E. Mr Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India to Mauritius
Captain Tribhuvan Singh, Commanding Officer - INS Sarvekshak
Distinguished guests,
All Protocols Observed.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is an immense honour to join you aboard the INS - Sarvekshak this evening.

At the outset, allow me, on my behalf and on behalf of my wife, to extend sincere gratitude to the High Commissioner of India for this opportunity.

I would also like to thank and congratulate the personnel aboard INS Sarvekshak, particularly Captain Tribhuvan Singh, Commanding Officer, for their unwavering dedication throughout their deployment to Mauritius while undertaking the present hydrographic survey.

As the President of the Republic of Mauritius, I remain steadfast in advancing our nation's vision of sustainable development and inclusive progress.

MoU

For the past 27 days, INS Sarvekshak has been undertaking a joint hydrographic survey of our waters under the time-honored Memorandum of Understanding on Hydrography, first signed between the governments of Mauritius and India in 2005, during the visit to India of Prime Minister, Dr the Honourable Navinchandra Ramgoolam.

This MoU has since been a cornerstone of our hydrographic cooperation, facilitating the establishment of the Mauritius Hydrographic Service at the Ministry of Housing and Lands in 2013; the systematic charting of our expansive Exclusive Economic Zone and the development of modern navigational products to enhance maritime safety.

In retrospect, we recall an era when Mauritian waters were once surveyed within the constraints of limited methodology, leaving critical gaps in terms of accuracy of data, thus our safety.

Today, through our longstanding partnership with the Indian Navy and the Indian National Hydrographic Office, we have successfully transformed this scenario into one that ensures smart, safe and sustainable navigation within our waters.

This MoU has paved way for 16 prior deployments of Indian Naval Survey Ships to Mauritius, enabling the publication of 12 navigational paper charts and 14 electronic navigational charts, among others.

During its deployment to Mauritius, INS- Sarvekshak has not only gathered precise data over significant areas like the Soudan Bank, but also engaged in capacity-building efforts.

Training sessions on hydrographic techniques, firefighting and damage control will enable Mauritian personnel to enhance their competence in this fast evolving scientific discipline.

First Woman Hydrographer

It is equally a matter of great pride to note the current enrolment of one lady surveyor from the Ministry of Housing and Lands in the Basic Hydrography Course at the National Institute of Hydrography in Goa.

Upon her successful completion of the course next month, Mauritius will hopefully have the distinction of welcoming its first woman hydrographer.

The initiative “Ship Open to Visitors” will be instrumental in sparking curiosity among youngsters and allow them to explore career opportunities in hydrography.

Ladies and Gentlemen, our partnership with India reflects broader principles that ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for generations to come.

I had the opportunity to welcome the new Indian High Commissioner at the State House on Tuesday 17th December, 2024.

It is a matter of sheer joy to share with you that both Excellency Mr Anurag Srivastava and I, are alumni of the Faculty of Management Studies at the University of Delhi.

As the President of Mauritius, I will continue to work to strengthen our collaboration.

In closing, allow me to express deep gratitude to the Government of India for being a strong pillar of support, and the Indian Navy for their remarkable service.

I wish them continued success in all future endeavours.

Thank you.