



## **SPEECH**

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

**EVENT: 24TH EDITION OF MAURITIUS SHOPPING  
FESTIVAL / INTERNATIONAL EXPO 2025**

**VENUE: SWAMI VIVEKANANDA INTERNATIONAL  
CONVENTION CENTRE (SVICC), PAILLLES**

**DATE: 05 AUGUST 2025**

**TIME: 18:30 HOURS**

## **Protocol (TBC)**

Honourable Ministers and MPs

His Excellency Shri Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India

Mr. Aslam Hossenally, Lord Mayor of the city of Port Louis

Mr. Dhaneshwar Bissonauth, Mayor of Curepipe

Xxxxx, Grand Port District Council

Mr. Narendra Kumar Jain, Chairman of Rajasthan Works Ltd, and Mr. Anupam Jain

Respected sponsors and organisers of the Shopping Festival

Esteemed Participants, Entrepreneurs, and Artists from Mauritius and Abroad

Distinguished Guests

All Protocol Observed.

## **Introduction**

Namaskaar, Bonsoir and Good evening to all of you.

I am very happy to join you, together with my wife Brinda, this evening for the official opening of the 24th International edition of the Mauritius Shopping Festival.

I understand that this is the biggest International Home and Garden expo being held in the country. A showcase of economic vitality, international partnership, cultural celebration, and a deep commitment to inclusive and sustainable development.

So, on behalf of my wife and I, allow me to begin by expressing sincere appreciation and gratitude to the organisers, particularly Rajasthan Works Ltd – its Chairman Mr. Narendra Kumar Jain, his son Mr.

Anupam Jain, and all organisers- for their continued efforts in driving this significant platform successfully since 2012.

I met Mr Narendra Kumar Jain some time ago, a friend and a well-wisher of Mauritius and he informed me about his project to build a unique Jain Temple in Mauritius which will be iconic and an architectural marvel. I wish him success in his noble initiative.

I warmly welcome our 150 participants for this Expo – both local and international - who have gathered here this evening from diverse nations like La Reunion; Madagascar, Egypt, China, and of course, our Mother India-an excellent opportunities for business deals and opportunities.

Allow me to also extend a special word of welcome and appreciation to our musical artists from India: the Swarang Rajashthani Musical Group and the Jaipur Beats Folk Band, who I am sure will provide us with a cultural glimpse of Rajasthan –the land of splendid fortresses, palaces and legendary hills, and its world renowned pink city Jaipur.

This evening's event is also an invitation to explore Rajasthan as a tourist destination.

**Khamma Ghani, Padharo Mhare Desh.**

(Traditional greeting of Rajasthan – Hello, Welcome to my Land)

I invite our overseas visitors you will be able to take full advantage of our Mauritian hospitality, which I must say, reflects the same spirit of universal warmth, love and hospitality that Mauritians witness in the beautiful State of Rajasthan.

### **Significance of the Expo**

The Expo offers a unique opportunity for consumers to discover high-quality local and international products at attractive prices, especially at a time when we are facing some economic hardships and for us to

reaffirm our commitment towards regional and international partnership.

### **Launchpad for SMEs**

Ladies and Gentlemen, this event is also aligned to our nation's vision to reconstruct our economy and society.

The Government Programme 2025-2029 which I had the honour to present on 24th January 2025, already outlines our Plan for Socio-Economic Reconstruction, with time-bound targets and goals, and an impetus given to the SME sector to enhance its contribution to the economy.

The Programme also outlines major strategies to leverage our regional and economic cooperation and relations with our partners in Africa and Asia in order to move away from the mainly consumption-driven economic growth model to one that is investment-driven.

And platforms like this International Home and Garden Expo can bridge economies, create cross-border opportunities, promote regional integration, and celebrate global connectivity.

And most importantly, they can serve as a launchpad for our local businesses, including our Small and Medium Enterprises, many of which are the backbone of our economic resilience.

### **Women Entrepreneurs**

In particular, I would like to highlight the notable importance of our women entrepreneurs, whose passion, innovation, and resilience have added immeasurable value to our commercial landscape, particularly during and post Covid-19.

Their participation in this Expo affirms our collective commitment to gender equity in economic development, and I commend their entrepreneurial spirit.

Remember this saying: There is no force more powerful than a woman's determination to rise.

### **Enduring Mauritius- India ties**

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This evening celebration also marks yet another symbolic and significant collaboration for which India is once again our prominent partner.

The relationship between our two nations, rooted in shared history and deep cultural affinity, continues to evolve through our robust cooperation across key sectors — from trade and education to healthcare, defence, and technology.

This evening and this platform must also therefore serve as yet another opportunity to reaffirm our historic and strategic partnership and celebrate the shared values that unite us.

### **Laudable upcoming activities**

Dear Friends,

I recall that during a reception held recently at the Indian High Commission for the 50th Alumni reunion of the Faculty of Management Sciences of Delhi University- of which both High Commissioner Anurag Srivastava and I are alumni – Shri Anurag ji rightly shared that the relationship between Mauritius and India flows from our hearts and runs as deeply as blood through our veins.

### **“Dil ka Rishta and Khoon ka Rishta.”**

Speaking of blood relations, it is particularly commendable that this year's Shopping Festival will have a Mega Blood Donation Camp, in collaboration with the Indian Business Council and the National Blood Transfusion Service, on the 8th and 9th of August.

A laudable initiative which exemplifies the spirit of social responsibility that underpins successful enterprise, and our enduring blood and heart ties.

So, I encourage everybody to participate in this significant gesture and make this event symbolic of human solidarity and our shared generosity,

### **Conclusion**

With this optimism for what lies ahead, allow me to officially launch the 24th Edition of the Mauritius Shopping Festival.

I congratulate and thank Rajasthan Works Ltd, the Indian High Commission, all organisers, sponsors and participants once again.

I hope that these coming days will enable fruitful connections, vibrant cultural experiences, meaningful exchange, and shared joy for all of you and for our citizens.

I wish you a memorable evening ahead.

Thank you for your attention.