



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: KRISHNA JANMASHTAMI 2025-
SHRI KRISHNA LEELA**

**VENUE: CIVIL SERVICE COLLEGE AUDITORIUM,
REDUIT**

DATE: 17 AUGUST 2025

TIME: 14:00 HOURS

Protocol

Honourable Mahendra Gondeea, Minister of Arts and Culture

Mr. Balraj Narroo, President of Mauritius Marathi Mandali Federation

Mr. Danirow Bhiwajee, Chairperson of the Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust,

Esteemed Members of the Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust,

Distinguished Guests,

All Protocol Observed

Introduction

Namaskaar.

I am very happy to join you today, together with my wife Brinda, for this vibrant and meaningful celebration of **Shri Krishna Leela**, organized to mark the sacred occasion of **Krishna Janmashtami**.

I thank you for your kind invitation.

I extend my heartfelt congratulations to the **Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust** for its unwavering dedication to keeping alive the spiritual traditions, cultural expressions, and artistic heritage of the Marathi community, while at the same time enriching the wider cultural fabric of Mauritius.

Your work is not only for the present generation, but also for generations yet to come, ensuring that the values, wisdom, and beauty of our traditions remain a guiding light in our modern lives.

Significance of Krishna Janmashtami

As you are aware, Krishna Janmashtami is a festival that commemorates the divine appearance of Lord Krishna, an incarnation

who came into the world not only to restore dharma, but also to show humanity the eternal path of love, righteousness, and devotion.

It transcends time, geography and generations.

For millions around the world, this day is one of joy and celebration, an occasion when the air resounds with bhajans, temples glow with lamps, and hearts overflow with devotion.

In Mauritius, this devotion is equally vibrant. From our mandirs to our homes, from our Shivalas to our community halls, the sacred name of Lord Krishna echoes in unison.

Life Lessons from Lord Krishna

Lord Krishna's life is a living testimony filled with timeless lessons that guide us in every aspect of life:

- **In his childhood**, the leelas in Gokul and Vrindavan teach us the beauty of innocence, joy, and the power of friendship. The image of young Krishna stealing butter is not just a playful story, it symbolizes removing hardness in our hearts and replacing it with sweetness.
- **In his youth**, his courage in facing challenges and his compassion in protecting the innocent remind us of the importance of standing for justice, no matter the odds.
- **As a universal teacher**, Lord Krishna show us that spirituality is not separate from daily life. It is to be lived, through kindness, integrity, and unwavering moral courage.
- **As the divine guide in the Mahabharata**, Krishna's words to Arjuna in the Bhagavad Gita remain timeless, teaching us that duty, performed without selfishness, is the highest form of devotion.

Cultural Programme Appreciation

Today's cultural performance, "Shri Krishna Leela", is more than an artistic showcase. It brings alive the divine play of the Lord through dance, music, and drama: a medium that both entertains and enlightens.

With over **50 talented artists** from different age groups, this production stands as living testimony to the creativity, dedication, and unity of our people.

It is also a reminder that for our culture to thrive, we must actively participate in it, not only as spectators, but as contributors and preservers.

We must also share it with our friends, neighbours and other fellow citizens in a spirit of inter-cultural understanding, mutual respect and harmony so important for nation-building.

Mauritius' Cultural Harmony

Mauritius, as a nation, is blessed with a unique cultural mosaic.

We celebrate Eid, Diwali, Christmas, Chinese New Year, Cavadee, Maha Shivratri, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Krishna Janmashtami with equal joy and mutual respect.

This harmony is no accident.

It is the fruit of generations who valued coexistence, who saw diversity not as a division, but as a strength.

Festivals like Krishna Janmashtami allow us to share not only our faith but also our art, music, and heritage with the entire nation.

Message to the Youth

Today's celebration is also a bridge between generations.

To the young people present here tonight, I say this: festivals are not only celebrations; they are opportunities to understand who we are.

When you take part in the songs, dances, and stories of Lord Krishna, you are engaging in something much greater, the continuation of a centuries-old tradition that connects you to your ancestors and to millions around the world.

In a modern world filled with distractions, let us make a conscious effort to speak our languages at home, share our stories with our children, and use technology not just for entertainment but also for learning and preserving our heritage.

Commendation & Closing Blessings

On this auspicious occasion, I commend the Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust once again for its tireless commitment to cultural preservation, community unity, and youth empowerment.

You are playing a vital role in ensuring our traditions remain alive and relevant.

May the blessings of Lord Krishna inspire each of us to live with kindness in our hearts, truth in our words, and righteousness in our actions.

Let the peacock feather remind us of beauty in simplicity.

Let the flute remind us of the music of compassion.

Let the Gita remind us of our duty to serve selflessly.

Jai Shri Krishna.

Thank you.