



SPEECH

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

EVENT: GOLDEN JUBILEE – BRAHMA KUMARIS

VENUE: TRIANON CONVENTION CENTRE

DATE: 27 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME: 15:00 HOURS

Protocol

His Excellency Shri Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India
Esteemed members of the Brahma Kumaris World Spiritual University
Sister Gaitree, Chairperson of the Brahma Kumaris Mauritius
Members and volunteers,
Distinguished guests from Mauritius and abroad
Dear Brothers and Sisters

Introduction

Namaskaar. Om Shanti.

Good afternoon.

I am very happy to join you, together with my wife Brinda, to mark this historic and special occasion: the celebration of the Golden Jubilee of the Brahma Kumaris Movement in Mauritius - a movement which reflects fifty years of selfless service and silent revolutions in thought, values, and the awakening of the human spirit.

I extend my gratitude to the organisers for the kind invitation they have extended to me and the opportunity to make an address.

My heartfelt congratulations to the Chairperson, her whole team and well-wishers of the movement on this very special occasion.

I have listened with attention to the thoughtful words and reflections of previous eminent speakers.

I would like to share with you a few of my personal reflections.

Since assuming office as President of the Republic on 7th December 2024, my wife and I have had the privilege of welcoming brothers and sisters from the Brahma Kumaris at the State House.

We engaged in very thoughtful discussions on the mission and contributions of your movement in Mauritius and in many parts of the world.

We also shared our thoughts on the need for moral and spiritual awareness and awakening at a time when the world is facing multiple existential challenges.

On the occasion of Raksha Bandhan, we met again and you tied the Rakhi on our wrists.

A simple gesture yet one of profound symbolism which represents not only the bond of protection and fraternity, but also our unity of purpose in the service of peace, harmony and human dignity.

As you are aware, in the past, I have had some close connections with your movement and today, as President of the Republic, I am having the opportunity to renew these contacts.

So, I am particularly pleased to be here today to celebrate this continuing spirit of friendship, reflection, and shared commitment to the service of humanity.

I also extend a very warm welcome to all our distinguished guests from abroad and hope that you are enjoying our Mauritian traditional and warm hospitality.

Brahma Kumaris Movement

I am happy to note that since its founding in India in 1937, the Brahma Kumaris has grown into a truly global movement, present today in more than 110 countries, including here in Mauritius.

I would like to pay my tribute to the founder of the movement, Dada Lekhraj, also referred to as Brahma Baba, who left a life of ease and comfort to dedicate himself to the upliftment of humanity.

Over the past fifty years, this movement has echoed beyond meditation halls to reach schools, prisons, universities, hospitals, and communities of every kind.

While preparing my address for today, I had the opportunity to take cognisance of various activities conducted, especially courses that are offered on personality development, leadership, road safety, youth empowerment, and even coronary health, which lay emphasis on the power of individual awareness and conscience to make collective change.

These are remarkable contributions for inculcating a sense of civic responsibility and life skills, in a context where there is an increasing concern about erosion of societal values and discipline.

They also demonstrate that spirituality is not an escape from responsibility but a powerful resource to face it.

I would encourage you to continue in this noble path.

Women Spiritual Leaders

Perhaps one of the most inspiring aspects of the Brahma Kumaris is the central role of women as spiritual leaders, which continues to set this movement apart globally.

Our esteemed sisters such as Dadi Janki, Sister Jayanti, Sister Vedanti, Sister Sudesh, Sister Gaitree, and most recently the late Dadi Ratan Mohini who left us this year in April at the age of 101, have guided the organisation with courage and devotion, making decisions in partnership with men and exemplifying true leadership.

So, I would like to pay my tribute to all women spiritual leaders and especially honour the remarkable life of Dadi Ratan Mohini, who devoted herself to the service of humanity.

From representing the Brahma Kumaris at the World Peace Conference in Japan in 1954 to undertaking a 31,000-kilometre journey in 2006 to

spread the message of oneness, love, and peace, her legacy remains a testament to resilience, discipline, and selfless dedication.

Nation-Building

In Mauritius equally, the legacy of these women leaders continues to inspire the movement's work.

They remind us that true leadership transcends gender and is based on respect, equity, empowerment and co-creation.

So, the Brahma Kumaris have also been close companions in our shared journey and mission of nation-building and uplifting humanity.

Before becoming President, I have been an academic at the University of Mauritius and a former Minister of Education.

It is my conviction that knowledge and the quest for knowledge are the foundations not just of personal or professional success, but of nation-building, peace and harmony.

True education is not confined to the acquisition of knowledge or technical skills; it also encompasses cultivating values, character, and self-awareness.

And this is where the work of the Brahma Kumaris resonates profoundly with my philosophy of life and takes on even greater significance.

Reflections for the Way Forward

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

As we gather here today, we must not only celebrate past achievements but reflect on the way forward.

Today, we face new, complex challenges:

- Artificial Intelligence is reshaping our ethics and posing new dangers, especially with death games on Telegram that lure our youths towards bullying and suicide.
- Climate change is threatening our survival.
- The scourge of drugs is undermining our youth and our future.
- Conflicts and violence around the world are creating greater divides among ethnicities and nationalities and threatening global peace and stability.

These are not challenges which only government or the Presidency can solve by technology or legislation alone.

They demand our collective participation, responsibility, compassion, resilience, and above all, self-awareness and conscience— values that are universal and that transcend race, religion, ethnicity, gender, social status and borders, and speak to our souls and shared humanity.

Each one of us has the potential of contributing to bring a positive change in society through an act or word of kindness and compassion towards those we come across in our daily life.

As President of the Republic, I reaffirm my commitment to upholding all these values that are the bedrock of unity in diversity -reflecting the beauty of our rainbow nation- and to encouraging every citizen to embrace the responsibilities that come with freedom and opportunity.

Humanity is one big family.

The day we realise this indisputable truth; the day we recognise that we are all members of one family – humanity -; that we are all spiritual beings on a human journey – that day would be the beginning of a new dawn, a new “savera” for each and everyone of us.

So, we must always remember that what unites us is stronger than what divides us and we must move forward together towards a more peaceful, just, and harmonious society- As One People, As One Nation.

Conclusion

In closing, allow me to extend my heartfelt congratulations once again to all members and volunteers of the Brahma Kumaris movement, and to our sisters and brothers around the world on this Golden Jubilee celebration.

I hope that you will continue to inspire, uplift, and guide countless individuals in Mauritius and around the world.

May God bless our Republic.

Thank you. Om Shanti.