



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: DEEPAVALI AND RISHI NIRVAAN DIWAS –
GAHLOT RAJPUT MAHA SABHA**

VENUE: BLISS BANQUET HALL, ARSENAL

DATE: 17 OCTOBER 2025

TIME 19:15 HOURS

Protocol

Honourable Ministers and Junior Ministers,

Honourable MPs,

Mr. Vikram Munbodhe, President of Gahlot Rajput Maha Sabha,

Chairpersons of District Councils

Members of the Gahlot Rajput Maha Sabha and other religious and cultural organisations

Esteemed Artists and Performers

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media

All Protocol Observed.

Introduction

Namaskaar and good evening to you all.

Mei aur meri dharam patni, Brinda, ham aap logon ke prati bahut abhari hey ki aap ne hamein Diwali aur Rishi Nirman utsav mananey ke liyey amantrit kiya.

Iske liyey bahut bahut dhanyavad aur hamari shubhkamnayein aap sabhi ko, aap ke pariwar aur sabhi mitron aur rishteydaron ko.

Mujh se pehley, jo vak taon ney aap ko sumbhodit kiya, unhein mei dhanyvad dena chahounga aur kshama prastoute karna chahounga ki mei unhey na soon paya.

Phir bhi, mujhe yakeen hai ki unhone deepavali ke mahatva ke baare mein apana vichar aap ke samne rakhaa.

I would like to associate myself with our previous, eminent speakers in extending my warmest greetings and best wishes to you all for the two very auspicious occasions of Deepavali and Rishi Nirvaan Diwas.

I thank the Gahlot Rajput Maha Sabha for their enduring service to the cultural and spiritual life of our nation.

TWO SACRED CELEBRATIONS

Deepavali and Rishi Nirvaan Diwas are two sacred observances which are intertwined by time and through a shared spiritual essence.

As you are aware, Deepavali is very important celebration in the Hindu Calendar.

The ethos of these celebrations is captured in the Sanskrit saying:

Asato ma sadgamaya

Tamasoma jyotirgamaya

Mrityor ma amritam gamaya

Translation

Lead me from illusion to truth.

Lead me from darkness to light.

Lead me from death to immortality.

In very simple terms, it means that in all our prayers, we should invoke the following:

“Let good prevail over evil,

Light over darkness,

Knowledge over ignorance,

Peace over War,

Unity over discrimination

Let every human being live in peace and harmony.”

Therefore, Deepavali holds a timeless and universal message that transcends religion and culture.

It reminds us that the eternal virtues of knowledge, truth, and compassion always dispel the shadows of ignorance, fear, and division.

Each lamp we light is thus not only a ritual act, but a conscious reaffirmation of our inner resolve to kindle the goodness within ourselves and to radiate it to those around us.

Maharishi Swami Dayanand

Its coincidence with the demise of Maharshi Swami Dayanand Saraswati, the founder and reformer of the Arya Samaj, on the night of Deepavali in 1883, when he attained Nirvana, can only be divine.

His reformist vision and unwavering commitment to truth, social justice, and the revival of Vedic wisdom, have endured and continue to inspire generations.

I would encourage our younger generation to learn more about Maharishi Dayanand and his invaluable contributions in reforming the Hindu society.

So, together, these two observances call upon us to awaken, both inwardly and collectively: to cleanse our hearts of prejudice, to illuminate our minds with understanding, and to strengthen the bonds that unite us as One people.

Inter-culturalism and Nation-Building

Ladies and Gentlemen,

As President of the Republic, my main mission is nation-building, which requires everybody's participation in promoting unity, justice and peace.

We need to put more emphasis on Unity in Diversity - that is, we should move from multiculturalism to interculturalism.

But I believe that true nation-building requires us to go one step further, from multiculturalism to interculturalism: where we cease to simply co-exist and begin to live with genuine sharing, dialogue, and mutual understanding.

It is my conviction that the real strength of Mauritius lies not only in our diversity, but in our ability to connect, learn, and grow together.

We may have come in different ships, but we are now in the same boat, and we must row together.

In this spirit, I would like to commend the Gahlot Rajput Maha Sabha for celebrating Deepavali and Rishi Nirvaan Diwas as an inclusive and intercultural gathering, bringing together people from diverse cultures, religions and backgrounds this evening.

In fact, before coming here today, we had two small celebrations of Deepavali at State House, where all staff members, my team, and colleagues- representing various religions, cultures, and even countries- gathered to celebrate the light in a spirit of friendship, respect, and shared humanity.

A meaningful reminder that the true beauty of our Republic does not lie only in the richness of our individual traditions, but in the light that unites us and continues to shine through our everyday actions.

REFLECTIONS FOR THE WAY FORWARD

We must also remember and live by the principle of “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” - the whole world is one family.

In this context, the work of organisations like the Gahlot Rajput Maha Sabha takes on even greater significance.

I extend my best wishes to you, and I am confident that you will continue to nurture values that transcend generations, promote intercultural understanding, and help build a society where unity, and shared humanity remain our guiding lights.

CONCLUSION

With this spirit and optimism, I congratulate the Gahlot Rajput Maha Sabha once again, and I extend my best wishes and warmest greetings to all of you.

May the spirit of Deepavali and Rishi Nirvaan Diwas continue to illuminate our path and guide us towards true progress.

Aap sabhi ko Deepavali ka tyohar abheenandan.

May God bless our Republic.

Merci et bonne continuation.