



SPEECH

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

EVENT: GOPIO END OF YEAR 2025 DINNER

VENUE: EIGHTY-EIGHT RESTAURANT, BAGATELLE

DATE: 12 DECEMBER 2025

TIME: 18:15 HOURS

Protocol

Honourable Ministers and Junior Ministers

His Excellency Shri Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India

Honourable MPs

Mr. Mookhesswur Choonee, GOSK, President of GOPIO International (Mauritius)

Distinguished Guests

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Introduction

Namaskaar, Aadaab, Vanakkam, Bonsoir and Good Evening.

I am very happy, together with my wife Brinda, to join you tonight for this end-of-year dinner, to close the year in a spirit of gratitude and a shared sense of belonging.

I thank Mr. Mookhesswur Choonee, President of the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin (GOPIO) Mauritius, and his entire team, for their warm invitation.

I commend the GOPIO team for their tireless service to the global diaspora community.

GOPIO's Role and Purpose

Since its founding in 1989, GOPIO has remained an emblem of unity for People of Indian Origin around the world and has evolved into a global platform that brings together culture, talent, enterprise, and solidarity.

Through international conferences, business summits, cultural programmes, trade delegations, and scholarships, you continue to be a unique meeting ground for the diaspora and its aspirations.

I therefore commend and congratulate you for your purposeful initiatives.

Indo–Mauritian Ties

As we all know, the relationship between Mauritius and India is deeply personal, anchored in cultural memory, shared ancestry, intertwined destinies, and the timeless philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam: “The world is one family.”

This year, the relationship was transformed into a strategic partnership and reached new heights with the visit of Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji in March, during which new avenues of cooperation were opened across key sectors of mutual interest.

I express once again our deep gratitude for India’s steadfast support - whether in our struggle for the restoration of sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago, or in the development of Agalega.

My wife Brinda and I were deeply touched to be offered the OCI Card by Prime Minister Modi, a symbol of the enduring connection between our people.

As I often mention to High Commissioner Shri Anurag Srivastava, who is also an alumnus of Delhi University like me, the events that have unfolded this year are not mere coincidences but happy alignments reflecting the seamless flow of history and deep-rooted connections between our two nations.

And as he likes to remind us, we are bound not only by “Khoon ka Rishta” but also by “Dil ka Rishta” -enduring ties of blood and of the heart.

Personal Note

On a personal note, this year - my first year as President of the Republic- has been a period of profound encounters.

I have sought to remain close to all sections of our population, to listen, to understand, and to serve with dedication and passion.

Among these moments, two encounters were especially meaningful: welcoming, at State House, the Delhi University 1975 batch - my own friends from India- and later, Mauritian graduates of Indian institutions.

In every conversation, I sensed the same pride and gratitude for the education that India has offered us.

Education remains the most powerful dimension of our partnership. India has invested not in projects, but in people - In our capacity to dream, to grow, and to build.

This is why so many of us seated here today- including Mr Mookhesswur Choonee himself - trace our formative years back to India and are proud to have assumed offices of responsibility in our service to the nation.

Let us therefore reaffirm our responsibility to nurture this legacy by strengthening people-to-people ties, by honouring our shared historical and cultural heritage, and by opening new pathways of collaboration for greater innovation and enhanced human development for the benefit of all.

Conclusion

I am certain that GOPIO will continue to build bridges across borders, cultures, and the vast global Mauritian and Indian diaspora.

May the coming year strengthen our bonds, deepen our cooperation, and reaffirm our shared belief that progress is greatest when we walk forward together- as One People, as One Nation.

I wish you all a joyful festive season and a prosperous Year 2026.