



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: 3RD WORLD TELUGU CONFERENCE 2026 –
ANDHRA SARASWATHA PARISHATH**

VENUE: AMARAVATI-GUNTUR, ANDHRA PRADESH, INDIA

DATE: 04 JANUARY 2026

TIME: 11:45 HOURS IST / 10:15 HOURS MUT

Protocol (TBC in India)

Honourable Chandrababu Naidu, Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh,

Dr. Kesiraju Srinivas, Chairman of the Andhra Saraswatha Parishath,

Excellencies,

Honourable Ministers,

Honourable Judges of the Supreme Court and High Courts of India

Eminent personalities of Telegu language, culture, literature, art and global academia;

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

All Protocol Observed

Introduction

Namaskaaram.

Greetings and blessings to all.

It is both a profound honour and a personal privilege to address this august international assembly today, on this historic and landmark event- the 3rd World Telugu Conference.

To celebrate not only a language, but a living civilization; not only a culture, but a spiritual legacy.

At the outset, allow me - on behalf of the Government and the people of Mauritius, and in my own name - to express my heartfelt gratitude to the organisers, as well as to our facilitators and liaison officers, for their warm welcome and exemplary hospitality.

Their tireless efforts have ensured that our presence here unfolds in a spirit of shared fraternity, harmony, mutual respect, and shared purpose.

Meaningful Coincidence

- It is indeed a meaningful coincidence that we convene at the dawn of the year 2026 of the Gregorian calendar.
- A moment traditionally associated, across the world, with introspection, renewed endeavour, and hope.
- In the Telugu cultural tradition, this spirit finds its most eloquent and profound manifestation in Ugaadi - celebrated with equal reverence, splendour, and exuberance in Mauritius as a national holiday.
- While calendars may diverge across civilisations, the underlying ethos remain immutable: the promise of new beginnings, and our collective responsibility to shape them with wisdom, continuity, and foresight.

3rd World Telugu Conference

Distinguished Guests,

- This Conference is being convened at a pivotal juncture in global history - when the preservation, propagation, and celebration of language and culture have become not only responsibilities, but imperatives of international significance, intersecting with rapid advances in science, technology, education, and global connectivity.
- In this context, the holding of this conference is a highly commendable initiative of the vision and dedication of the Andhra Saraswatha Parishath and merit our highest appreciation.

You are worthy of our most sincere congratulations

- Through your unwavering commitment, you have elevated Telugu language and culture from a regional heritage to a global beacon.
- **From the 3rd most spoken language in India, it is now spoken in over 50 countries.**
- I am particularly pleased to note the presence of delegates from nearly fifty nations, reflecting the truly transnational reach and influence of the Telugu diaspora.
- I also extend a special and heartfelt welcome to our delegation from Mauritius, where Telegu language and culture forms an integral part of our cultural diversity, exemplifying the enduring people-to-people and cultural bonds that unite our two nations.
- This Conference reinforces the shared identity of the Telugu diaspora and fosters engagement across continents.
- I have no doubt that this Conference, therefore, will ensure the continued vitality and resonance of the Telugu language and culture around the world.
- I once again commend and congratulate the Andhra Saraswatha Parishath - its leadership, organisers, and members - for their unwavering dedication in this direction.
- I am confident that the deliberations and outcomes of this Conference will resonate far beyond these few days, strengthening

global Telugu identity and contributing meaningfully to cultural concord and intercultural understanding worldwide.

India-Mauritius Bilateral Ties

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The India-Mauritius relationship is distinguished by its shared history, values, resilience, and an extraordinary continuity of civilisational affinity.

Our ancestors came from Bharat Punya Bhumi, safeguarded their languages, upheld their traditions and values and transmitted them with reverence from one generation to the other.

- With the recent visit of Indian Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi to Mauritius in March 2025, and the reciprocal visit of our Prime Minister Dr. Navinchandra Ramgoolam to India - including to Tirupati in September - our partnership has evolved into a comprehensive strategic engagement, encompassing diplomacy, development, education, technology, and cultural exchange.
- Yet, beyond formal diplomacy, what renders our relationship truly exceptional is its solid, enduring foundation in our people-to-people connectivity.
- And perhaps, most remarkably, the role of language, heritage, and culture as living bridges linking our societies.
- India's embrace of linguistic plurality and cultural diversity as instruments of cohesion resonates profoundly with our own vibrant, Mauritian rainbow nation and multi-cultural, multi-religious tapestry.

- It is this very shared ethos that affirms that diversity, when cultivated with prudence and vision, fortifies true national unity and fosters mutual understanding.

Andhra Pradesh, Telugu, and Indo-Mauritian Tapestry

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- As President of the Republic of Mauritius, my foremost mission remains nation-building, requiring the active participation and involvement of all sections of the Mauritian society.
- The Telugu community in Mauritius constitutes a key part of our national fabric and continues to play a significant and transformative role in our socio-economic development, preserving language, literature, and cultural traditions with exceptional dedication across generations.
- Mauritius uniquely stands as a country where Telugu is taught at primary, secondary, and tertiary levels within the formal education system alongside other oriental languages- a remarkable reflection of our community's steadfast commitment and foresight in upholding the ethos of our national anthem - As One People, As One Nation.
- The celebration of Andhra Day - the formation of India's Andhra Pradesh State on November 1st- marks yet another significant

cultural event for the Telugu community in Mauritius, celebrated by the Mauritius Telugu Maha Sabha with garlanding of Shri Potti Sreeramulu's statue and cultural programs.

- Socio-cultural organisations like the Mauritius Telugu Maha Sabha, with its extensive island-wide network of 98 branches; as well as the Andhra Telangana Telugu Association, the Telugu Samskruthika Nilayam, and numerous other organisations, play an indispensable role in safeguarding, promoting, and nurturing Telugu as a living language of education, culture, and identity.
- And I understand that significant efforts are being made for the recognition of local Telegu language examinations being conducted by the Mauritius Telegu Maha Sabha.
- Similarly, institutions such as the Telugu Speaking Union, the Mauritius Telugu Cultural Centre Trust - operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Arts and Culture- and other institutions like the Mahatma Gandhi Institute, continue to promote Telugu language, dance, and cultural expression across generations.
- The spiritual life of the Telugu community in Mauritius remains equally vibrant and deeply anchored in our national fabric – from devotional Rama Bhajans and the sacred observance of Govinda Vratham - undertaken over forty days through fasting, discipline, and prayer.

- Our Mauritian nation is home to the majestic 108-foot Sri Venkateswara Swamy Murthy at Hari Hara Devasthanam-recognised as the tallest statue of Lord Venkateswara in the world.
- A monumental murthy which stands not only as a spiritual beacon, but as a testament to faith that transcends geography, borders, and generations - uniting devotees across faiths and continents.

Chief Minister Naidu's 2003 Visit to Mauritius

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- I wish to place on record my deep gratitude and sincere appreciation to Chief Minister Honourable Chandrababu Naidu, whose visionary initiatives in promoting Telugu, technology, and education have been instrumental in strengthening cultural and academic linkages with Mauritius and the broader world.
- We recall that during his visit to Mauritius in 2003, he engaged in fruitful discussions on governance, education, and development.
- His visit was also instrumental in facilitating the allotment of a plot of land for the construction of the Mauritius Telugu Cultural Centre Trust.

Reflections: Language, Technology, and Opportunity

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- Today, amid accelerating globalisation, rapid technological transformation, and evolving language policies favouring certain mainstream languages, other ancestral languages face unprecedented challenges.
- *For example, the increasing use of global languages like English, by our younger generation, can adversely impact on ancestral languages like Telugu.*

Recent studies such as the Ethnologue Guide warn that one language disappears every two weeks, and more than half of the world's languages could vanish by the end of this century - underscoring our urgent, collective responsibility to preserve, promote and sustain our ancestral languages.

- Both Mauritius and India confront similar challenges and opportunities in safeguarding linguistic heritage.
- Artificial Intelligence, digital platforms, and multilingual education offer extraordinary instruments to revive, protect, and disseminate languages.
- Yet, they also expose significant gaps in accessibility, engagement, and intergenerational transmission.
- In this context, I congratulate Chief Minister Honourable Chandrababu Naidu for the introduction of quantum technology courses in Andhra Pradesh, equipping the youth with next-generation skills, and for his initiatives to create AI awareness through digital platforms in Telugu, English, and Hindi.

- I invite the diaspora to take advantage of the experience and expertise of the Andhra Pradesh government in the promotion of Telugu language through AI.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

- The Government Programme 2025-2029, along with the National Digital Transformation Blueprint 2025-2029 of Mauritius, which I presented last year, already outline significant measures to transform the Republic of Mauritius into high-tech, intelligent islands.
- In this regard, safeguarding digital integrity and security, as well as preserving our shared linguistic and cultural heritage, should remain our key priorities.
- Mauritius stands ready to advance its digital transformation journey by learning from and collaborating with our international partners such as India, and expanding the scope of such collaboration to linguistic and cultural domains.
- We also look forward to exploring other avenues to strengthen existing cultural tourism and people-to-people connectivity with Andhra Pradesh -a partnership built on deep historical ties, that must be actively promoted and preserved.

Concluding Remarks

On this note, allow me to conclude by expressing my heartfelt gratitude and congratulations once again to all organisers for their kind invitation and warm hospitality.

I wish the participants fruitful deliberations and trust that this Conference will inspire greater collaborative and sustained efforts in

the promotion and preservation of Telugu language, culture, and identity worldwide.

Dhanyavaadam.

My good wishes for a very successful Conference.