



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: INAUGURATION – SCHOOL OF MEDICINE, JSS
ACADEMY OF HIGHER EDUCATION AND RESEARCH**

**VENUE: AVENUE DROOPNATH RAMPHUL, BONNE TERRE,
VACOAS**

DATE: 04 FEBRUARY 2026

TIME: 11:00 HOURS

Protocol

Honourable Anil Kumar Bachoo, Minister of Health and Wellness,

Dr the Honourable Kaviraj Sharma Sukon, Minister of Tertiary Education, Science and Research,

His Excellency Shri Anurag Srivastava, High Commissioner of India

His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswami Ji, Sri Suttur Math, and Chancellor, JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius,

Dr Praveen Mohadeb, C.E.O and Vice-Chancellor;

Dr. Suresh Bhojraj, Pro-Chancellor

Respected members of Senior Management,

Esteemed members of Faculty,

Esteemed delegates from India

Distinguished Guests,

Dear Students,

All Protocol Observed.

Introduction

Good morning and Namaskaar.

It gives me great pleasure to be with you this morning on this important and historic occasion for the inauguration of the School of Medicine of the JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research in Mauritius.

My warmest greetings and heartfelt congratulations to the leadership of JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, to the distinguished

members of the academic faculty, to our partners from India, to members of the medical profession and the wider healthcare community, and to all those who have worked tirelessly to bring this noble project to fruition.

I also wish to acknowledge the presence of Government officials, representatives of the health and education sectors, and all esteemed guests who have joined us to mark this significant milestone in our national journey.

I have listened with great interest to the previous speakers, and I acknowledge their thoughtful remarks about the project and its far-reaching significance to the Medical and Health sector and to our socio-economic development.

JSS Academy, established in 2018, is a living example of an institution that stands tall in terms of its philosophy of “quality education at affordable costs”, its enduring resilience, its sustained investment and improvements in its programmes; its human capital, its infrastructure and facilities, its network of collaboration with local, regional and international institutions and its community oriented outreach initiatives.

Act of confidence

Already firmly anchored in three key areas, Health Science, Life Sciences and Management Studies, with today’s ceremony, JSS Academy is not merely enabling the formal opening of a new academic programme.

It is a public declaration of confidence and trust in the future of Mauritius, a future anchored in knowledge, professionalism, institutional strength, and human dignity.

It is the laying of a strong and enduring foundation for medical education, healthcare excellence, and human capital development in our Republic.

Ever since we became independent, as an integral part of our Welfare State philosophy, **Mauritius has always placed education and health at the very heart of its national development agenda.**

As a small island developing state, we understand profoundly that our most valuable and sustainable resource is **our people**.

Investing in knowledge, skills, and professional excellence is therefore not a choice, but a national priority and responsibility.

The establishment of the School of Medicine at JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research (JSSAHER) resonates with this enduring national philosophy of ours.

Healthcare Professionals

Advancing the frontiers of knowledge in the Healthcare sector remains a **cornerstone** of social cohesion, national resilience, economic stability, and national prosperity and well-being.

The COVID-19 pandemic has reminded us, in the most compelling way, that no nation can afford complacency when it comes to health systems and medical preparedness.

It reaffirmed the central role of doctors, nurses, researchers, and healthcare workers; not only as professionals, but as guardians of national well-being and deeply committed to public service.

In this context, the School of Medicine at JSSAHER Mauritius will be called upon to play a **pivotal role** and make a decisive contribution to strengthening our healthcare system by training future generations of Mauritian doctors and healthcare professionals here at home.

It will be expected to **enhance national self-reliance, reduce vulnerability to external shocks, and ensure that medical training is firmly grounded in the realities of our society**, our communities, and our public health priorities.

International cooperation

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The presence of JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research in Mauritius also exemplifies the strength of international cooperation in higher education.

JSS AHER enjoys a well-established global reputation for academic rigour, innovation, and research excellence in the health sciences.

By bringing this expertise to Mauritius, the institution enriches our higher education ecosystem and contributes to positioning our country as a credible regional hub for quality medical education.

At this point, I wish to pay a **special tribute** to the Chancellor, His Holiness Jagadguru Sri Shivarathri Deshikendra Mahaswami ji.

A revered spiritual leader and an exemplary educationist, His Holiness embodies a rare synthesis of faith, service, and modern institutional leadership.

Under his guidance, the JSS Mahavidyapeetha - rooted in the centuries-old spiritual tradition of Sri Suttur Math - has grown from humble beginnings into one of the largest and most respected educational movements in the region, encompassing hundreds of institutions and serving learners from early childhood to advanced research.

Guided by a human-centred philosophy that places education, health, and social upliftment at the core of development, his vision has transcended geography, culture, and creed.

The presence of JSS in Mauritius stands as a testament to this inclusive vision; one that recognises education not merely as a pathway to employment, but as a powerful instrument for dignity, equity, and the betterment of society as a whole.

Programme

I understand that the School of Medicine will not only train doctors; it will cultivate a culture of inquiry, innovation, and evidence-based practice.

It will encourage research into public health challenges, non-communicable diseases, tropical medicine, mental health, and emerging health threats; areas that are central to our national health strategy and increasingly relevant to the wider African and Indian Ocean regions.

In line with Government ambition to transform Mauritius into a Hi-Tech Intelligent Island, **I make an appeal to the promoters of the School of Medicine to integrate latest technology and AI in their Teaching, Learning and Research strategies.**

I have no doubt that the MBBS programme will contribute directly to national development by creating high-value employment opportunities for academic staff, researchers, and healthcare professionals.

It will strengthen institutional capacity, promotes knowledge transfer, and reinforces the quality and credibility of our healthcare services.

I am particularly encouraged by the emphasis placed on **ethics, compassion, and professionalism.**

In medicine, technical expertise alone is never sufficient. **A good doctor must be guided by integrity, empathy, respect for human dignity, and a deep sense of responsibility towards society.**

I hope that the School of Medicine will reach out to the community through well-thought-out CSR interventions.

And uphold values that define not only the medical profession, but also the moral foundations of our Republic.

Message to Students and Faculty

To the students who embark on this demanding yet profoundly rewarding journey, I say this:

You have chosen a vocation of service.

Wearing the white coat is not merely a mark of academic achievement.

It is a lifelong pledge to serve humanity with humility, competence, and compassion in accordance with the core principles of the **Hippocratic**

oath, namely “to treat the sick to the best of your ability, preserve patient privacy, and avoid improper or corrupt acts.”

The nation places its trust in you, and that trust carries honour, responsibility and accountability.

To the faculty and administrators of JSS AHER Mauritius:

I commend your vision and commitment. Your role in shaping future doctors is both a privilege and a solemn responsibility.

The quality of your teaching, mentorship, and leadership will ultimately be reflected in the quality of care delivered to our people.

Embrace a lifelong learning culture and always be prepared to walk the extra mile in quest of knowledge.

Concluding Remarks

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The inauguration of the School of Medicine at JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius, marks an important landmark in our collective efforts to build a healthier, more resilient, and knowledge-driven nation.

It reflects our shared conviction that sustainable development begins with strong institutions, quality education, and equitable access to healthcare.

Always remember that service to humanity is service to God.

As President of the Republic of Mauritius, I reaffirm the full support of the State for initiatives that strengthen our education and health sectors and that contribute meaningfully to national progress.

I am confident that this School of Medicine will grow from strength to strength and will leave a lasting legacy for generations to come.

On this auspicious occasion, I extend my very best wishes for the success of the School of Medicine, for the continued excellence of JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius, and for the bright future of all its students.

May this institution stand as a beacon of learning, healing, and hope, serving not only Mauritius, but the wider region and humanity at large.

It is now my pleasure to formally inaugurate the School of Medicine of the JSS Academy of Higher Education and Research, Mauritius.

Thank you for your kind attention.