



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: LAUNCH OF INDRADHANUSH MAGAZINE AND
FIVE BOOKS OF MR PAHLAD RAMSURRUN**

**VENUE: BEAU BASSIN ARYA MANDIR, 23, SWAMI
DAYANAND STREET, BEAU BASSIN**

DATE: 25 APRIL 2026

TIME: 10:00 HOURS

Protocol

Honourable Ministers and Junior Ministers

His Excellency Shri Anurag Shrivastava, High Commissioner of India

Mr Pahlad Ramsurrin, GOSK;

Distinguished Speakers,

Esteemed Representatives of Institutions

Distinguished Guests,

Members of the Media,

All Protocol Observed

Introduction

Good morning and Namaskaar

Thank you the invitation and warm welcome.

Thank you also for the opportunity to address you on this very special occasion.

Where a special edition of the trilingual Indradhanush Magazine, as well five books written by Mr Pahlad Ramsurrin, are being launched.

I have listened very attentively to the thoughtful remarks of the previous speakers, and I associate myself with them to warmly congratulate Mr Ramsurrin, his family members, and all his well wishers upon this remarkable milestone in his cultural and literary journey.

Throughout history, writers, artists and entrepreneurs have always played a catalytic role in shaping societies and civilizations .

The are the soul and spirit of civilisations.

But as I have stated on many occasions, unfortunately, very often, they go unrecognized and unsung. This is what I stated during book launches on Adolph De Plevitz, Dunputh Lallah and Dookhee Gungah recently.

My presence to-day at this function is to reassert my sincere recognition, through Mr Ramsarran, towards all creators of our cultural, social and historical heritage and legacy.

Our society is blessed to be the cradle of multiple cultures and our writers, artists and entrepreneurs, through their imagination and creativity help to blend these cultures into unity and strength so essential for our mutual progress and prosperity.

Mr Ramsurrun

At 88 years of age, Mr Ramsurrun's intellectual energy, discipline, and unwavering dedication to knowledge command deep respect and his publications reflect the very soul of our nation: diverse, multilingual, intellectually vibrant and emotionally inspirational.

He has an international readership.

Once you start reading a publication by Mr Ramsurrun, you develop the natural urge to read more. I have no doubt that you also will experience this excitement.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's launch also bears meaningful proximity to the celebration of World Book and Copyright Day, observed annually on 23 April under the auspices of UNESCO.

In a digital world dominated by AI and digital books, print books continue to be enjoyed as they represent vessels of thought, carriers of culture, and bridges between generations.

It is therefore no coincidence that societies which cultivate strong reading habits consistently demonstrate higher levels of educational attainment, broader perspectives, and stronger social cohesion.

Renaissance and Role of Writers

History offers us important lessons in this regard.

The European Renaissance era was one such moment - a period of intellectual rebirth during which literature, philosophy, the arts and science enabled societies to move beyond stagnation and rediscover the centrality of human inquiry, creativity and advancement

Today's equally complex and challenging period is marked by rapid technological advancement and information overload, alongside fragmentation, uncertainty, conflict, and an erosion of cultural values and the need for a new way forward.

Against this backdrop, the role of our writers, scholars, and intellectuals remains pivotal.

Mauritius, as a multi-religious and multicultural rainbow nation, has a particular responsibility in this regard.

Our identity is not singular; it is a tapestry, and it is through the written word that convey our deepest values that this tapestry is recorded, understood, strengthened and transmitted across generations.

Tribute

The figures honoured in today's publications remind us of this responsibility.

Beekrumsing Ramlallah - teacher, journalist, freedom fighter, and nation-builder - understood the power of education and the press as instruments of transformation.

In fact, it was with deep conviction that when I served as Minister of Education and Human Resource, I took the decision to rename Mapou State Secondary School in his honour.

It is important that our institutions reflect the values and legacy of those who have contributed meaningfully to the intellectual, democratic, and social fabric of our nation.

This is the responsibility of those who manage these institutions.

The other personalities highlighted today - Dr Jugroo Seegobin, Professor Ram Prakash and Dookhee Gungah- equally embody the transformative power of knowledge and social upliftment.

I also recently had the opportunity to reflect upon the legacy of Dookhee Gungah at the premiere of a first-cut documentary dedicated to his life.

These contributions, together with works such as “*Impressions of a Fortnight in Soviet Land*” and “*Mauritius ki Lok Kathayan*”, illustrate the diversity of intellectual inquiry - from history and travel to folklore and cultural memory.

We must therefore recognise, support, and invest in our writers and artists, for their work is a passport to multiple worlds and a foundation for informed, responsible citizenship.

Government Support to Writers and Artists

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The Government Programme 2025-2029 that I presented to the nation already recognises that culture and the arts must form an integral part of our development.

This is why even at State House, through initiatives such as hosting the Prix de Poésie Édouard Maunick, our “Paint the Seeds of Hope” project for children, and the recent exhibition of photojournalistic work by the Media Trust, we are celebrating artistic excellence and encouraging new voices.

As President of the Republic, I will continue to support all initiatives that promote literature, creativity, and intellectual exchange as these are essential ingredients for a strong, united, vibrant forward looking society.

Conclusion

On this positive and optimistic note, I once again congratulate Mr Pahlad Ramsurrun on this important endeavour, and wish him continued inspiration in his literary journey.

Let us continue to uphold knowledge, culture, and literature as solid foundations for a stronger Mauritius - As One People, as One Nation.

Dhanyavaad. Merci et Bonne Continuation.