



SPEECH

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

**EVENT: CLOSING CEREMONY - 13TH WORLD TAMILS
ECONOMIC CONFERENCE**

**VENUE: AUDITORIUM, ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE
INSTITUTE OF PUBLIC SERVICE AND
INNOVATION, COTE D'OR TECHNOPOLE, REDUIT**

DATE: 04 SEPTEMBER 2025

TIME: 17:00 HOURS

Honourable Ministers,

Excellencies,

Honorable Members of Parliament,

Dr V.R.S. Sampath, President of the World Tamils Economic Foundation and the Madras Development Society;

Mr. Jayasankar Seshadri, President, Indian Business Council- Mauritius,

Mr. Jensen Tayelamay, Managing Director - Tayelamay Group,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Good evening. Vannakam. Namaskar.

I am very pleased to be with you this evening for the closing ceremony of the **13th World Tamils Economic Conference and Global Economic Summit 2026**, being held in our beautiful island.

I extend, once again, a very warm and cordial welcome to the organisers and all delegates.

Over the past three days, our Republic has been blessed with the distinguished presence, Members of National Assemblies, business leaders, entrepreneurs, professionals, academics, policymakers and community leaders from different parts of the world.

I would like, first and foremost, to congratulate the organisers, the Madras Development Society, the World Tamils Economic Foundation, the Tayelamay Group, and all their partners and stakeholders, for bringing this important international gathering to Mauritius.

I also wish to express my sincere appreciation to the High Commission of India for its contribution in the organization of this 13th Global Economic

Summit & World Tamils Economic Conference, Mauritius – 2026, and, more broadly, for further strengthening our longstanding friendship and close people-to-people ties between Mauritius and India.

I also want to place on record the presence and active participation of the Mauritius Economic Development Board, a key agency for the promotion of Investment and Trade.

Conference

My warm thanks go as well to all the speakers and panelists who shared their valuable knowledge and wide experience, and to all the delegates and participants whose engagement and exchanges have given life to this Conference.

Over these three days, you have discussed many of the opportunities and challenges shaping our economies and societies in a broad range of sectors - from investment, trade and entrepreneurship to technology, artificial intelligence, education, healthcare, women's participation and opportunities for young people.

I will not attempt to revisit those discussions this evening.

What matters at the conclusion of a conference such as this is what we do with the ideas, relationships and opportunities that have emerged from it and the indispensable bonding and networks that you have forged together to support and sustain all your projects and initiatives.

People-to-people connect is, perhaps, one of the greatest strengths of a gathering such as this.

I congratulate the global Tamil community for bringing together entrepreneurs, investors, professionals, academics, researchers and young people across continents and generations.

It represents an important reservoir of unique blend of business, entrepreneurial, cultural blend knowledge, skills, experience and enterprise nurtured by the Tamilian culture and ethos.

But networks are valuable only when they lead to meaningful engagement and concrete partnerships.

The real success of this Conference will therefore not be measured only by what has been discussed in these three days, but by what happens after we leave this room:

The partnerships that are pursued, the investments that materialise, the research collaborations that are developed, the businesses that are created, and the opportunities that are opened for the next generation.

The Tamil Journey in Mauritius

This conference is also an opportunity, to remember the epic journey of the Tamil community in Mauritius.

The history of the Tamil community is deeply woven into the history of our nation.

Over generations, people of Tamil origin have contributed to the development of Mauritius in various sectors: architecture and infrastructure, agriculture, commerce, education, health, politics, public service, religion, culture and community life.

When they came to Mauritius they brought with them not only their knowledge, labour and skills, but also their language, traditions, values and cultural heritage.

These have been preserved across generations while, at the same time, becoming part of the broader Mauritian identity.

They constitute an important and vibrant component of our rainbow nation.

This is one of the strengths of the Mauritian experience.

Our different communities have retained their histories and cultural identities, while contributing to a shared national story.

Our diversity is therefore not a collection of separate identities, but part of the common heritage from which modern Mauritius has been built.

The story of the Tamil community is consequently not only a story of the past.

It is also a story of adaptation, contribution and achievement and of how heritage can provide a foundation for engagement in nation building.

Mauritius as a Place of Connection and as a Bridge

Multicultural Mauritius resonates with this spirit of openness and connection.

Our own history has been shaped by movement, migration, exchange and the meeting of different cultures and traditions.

We can remain proud of our heritage while, at the same time, building bridges with the wider world. We can preserve our roots while creating new opportunities for future generations.

Mauritius is also naturally positioned as a bridge between Africa, India and the wider Indian Ocean region and promote and sustain South South cooperation.

Our longstanding relationship with India, our African identity and our international outlook provide a strong foundation for greater cooperation in investment, trade, education, healthcare, energy, agroindustry technology, innovation, and professional services.

I therefore hope that this Conference will contribute to deepening these connections and positioning Mauritius even more strongly within global networks of knowledge and enterprise, a hub for both inward and outward Investment and Trade.

And provide new opportunities for our youth to engage with the wider world.

Let us therefore ensure that the conversation that have begun here continue beyond Mauritius, through practical cooperation, sustained partnerships and lasting relationships between institutions, businesses and people.

Concluding Remarks

Distinguished Guests,

As we bring this 13th World Tamils Economic Conference and Global Economic Summit to a close, I hope that you will take with you not only

pleasant memories of Mauritius, but also new relationships, new ideas and new possibilities.

Let me once again congratulate the organisers on the successful conclusion of this Conference and thank all the speakers, delegates, partners and participants for their contribution.

I hope, too, that Mauritius will remain in your thoughts not simply as the host of this Conference, but as a country that values its heritage, welcomes the world and seeks to build bridges between people, nations and generations.

I wish you all a safe journey home and every success in the work that lies ahead.

Thank you.