

**Speech by Sir Anerood Jugnauth, Minister Mentor  
and Minister of Defence of the Republic of Mauritius  
at the National Day Celebrations in New Delhi  
organised by the Mauritian High Commission**

17 March 2017 – 19 h 00

Shri Kalraj Mishra, Minister of Micro, Small  
and Medium Enterprises of India,

The Vice Prime Minister, Honourable  
Showkutally Soodhun,

The High Commissioner, Mr Jagdish  
Goburdhun,

Members of the Staff,

Ladies and Gentlemen

Good evening

It is my pleasure to join you in the celebrations of our National Day here in New Delhi.

Celebrating such a momentous event on the Indian soil carries a lot of significance.

Firstly, because both India and Mauritius have been colonised by the Britishers and independence was not gifted but was the result of hard fought struggle.

And secondly, in view of the fact that the history of Mauritius is intertwined with that of India.

Our ancestors came mainly from this land which we affectionately call Mother India. They were those indentured labourers who sacrificed their lives to shape the destiny of our motherland.

**Bharat aur Mauritius ka sambandh, itihaas, sanskriti, bhasha ka sambhandh hai hi. Lekin ous se barh-kar, khoon aur aatma ka sambandh hai.**

Our bonds of kinship make our relationship unique. It is the kind of relationship that links a mother to her child. That is why such an occasion carries with it emotion and pride.

Besides being deeply rooted in history and kinship, the special India-Mauritius relationship has been further nurtured by mutual trust and respect, common values, time-tested solidarity and a shared vision of a peaceful and equitable world. A longstanding cooperation spanning across fields from the economy to technology and science, has also underpinned this relationship.

Our multifaceted relationship is testimony, above all, to the natural affinity that will always connect us.

The visit of the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi to Mauritius in 2015 for our National Day has provided a boost in terms of the vision and focus that we have for our bilateral relations in the years to come.

Our unique partnership is set to become even more strategic as India accompanies Mauritius on its next economic transformation journey

This is witnessed by the grant of 353 million US dollars that have been provided to us for the implementation of major game-changing infrastructure projects including the Metro Express. The works for the Metro Express have been launched on Friday last.

The special grant that comes in the aftermath of the successfully renegotiated India-Mauritius Double Taxation Avoidance Convention adds up to the new line of credit to the tune of 500 million US dollars that was spontaneously offered to Mauritius during the memorable visit of Shri Narendra Modi.

The Indian Prime Minister went even further to show to what extent he has Mauritius at heart. He has given due recognition and respect to our bonds of kinship by taking the historic decision to allow our descendants of Indian origin to qualify for the OCI Scheme. I seize this opportunity to thank Shri Narendra Modi from the bottom of my heart for showing to the world that when he calls Mauritius ‘Chota Bharat’ he really and sincerely means it.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

The unique India-Mauritius partnership covers also the field of Maritime Safety and Security in the Indian Ocean which is in fact one of the pillars of our cooperation.

I wish here to express my appreciation for the assistance provided by India in the procurement of assets for the Mauritius Police Force, including the Offshore Patrol Vessel CGS Barracuda, training of Mauritian officers and the recent commissioning of fast interceptor boats.

These acquisitions will assist Mauritius in the combat against poaching of our marine resources and illicit activities in our seas. I am confident we will work together to harness the untapped potential of the Ocean Economy, especially in our region.



Ladies and Gentlemen,

While we celebrate our Independence and Republic Day, there is one highly appreciable national trait that I have always stressed upon and which is worth repeating.

Our country has been blessed with a population that never accepts any form of defeatism. Our People has always been resilient, no matter how hard the adversities that have come their way.

In their quest for a free and just society and better living standards, they have always chosen to make pessimism the rare exception and optimism the golden rule in the nation-building process

On this special occasion, I wish to express my confidence and strong belief that the Republic of Mauritius is well geared toward new heights in socio-economic development.

With India accompanying our strides, I have no doubt that the future will be brighter and that Mauritius will emerge as an icon of progress and prosperity based on modern infrastructure, technology and innovation.

Before ending, I wish to say to Union Minister Shri Mishra that it will be a pleasure for me to welcome him in Mauritius during his forthcoming visit. (12-14 May 2017).

One this note, I thank you for your kind attention.

Long Live the Republic of Mauritius !

Long Live the India-Mauritius relationship !