

**Speech of Minister Mentor, Minister of Defence and Minister for Rodrigues, Sir
Anerood Jugnauth, GCSK, KCMG, QC at Inaugural Session of UP Investors' Summit**

21 February 2018

The Prime Minister of the Republic of India, Shri Narendra Modi ji,

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath ji,

Distinguished representatives from the Indian Business Community,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Namasté to everybody

Mujhe bahut khushi hai ki aaj mujhé aap ke saamné kuch shabd kehne ka mauka mil raha hai.

Saab se pehle, mein sab ko, Chota Bharat, yani Mauritius ki taraf se, Bharat Mata ki vasiyon ko subh kaamnayein pesh karta houn.

I also bring along with me the blessings of the Prime Minister of Mauritius Shriman Pravind Kumar Jugnauth who has not been able to attend this investor's summit due to pressing commitments on the national scene.

I wish to thank the State Government of Uttar Pradesh, particularly Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath ji, for inviting Mauritius to be a Partner Country at this Investors Summit.

I am also grateful to the Government of Uttar Pradesh for the excellent arrangements extended to me and my delegation.

Mauritius feels honoured to be part of this major event which aims at building a new and prosperous Uttar Pradesh.

Our participation stems from our willingness to further use our respective attributes and special relations in favour of socio-economic advancement.

Bharat aur Mauritius ké beech khoon ka rishta to hein hi, par jabsé Shri Narendra Modi ji pradhan mantri bané, tabsé donon deshon ké beech rishta aur bhi mazboot hogaya hein.

Issi gehré rishté ké daam par hum ek ujwal bhavisyā ki naya ayam karna chahté hein, Uttar Pradesh ké saat, jahan sé hamaré purvaj Mauritius ayé thé.

My presence here, ladies and gentlemen, is yet another signal of our firm intention to participate in the development of Uttar Pradesh. We are keen to share, learn and collaborate for mutually beneficial partnership.

As former Prime Minister and President of my country who has spearheaded the economic transformation of Mauritius, I know pretty well how such a Summit can kick start a new era of development and progress.

Indeed, ladies and gentlemen, we are gathered here to contribute towards charting a better future for Uttar Pradesh. That future can only be properly shaped through vision, investments, hard work and an equitable distribution of the wealth created.

We all admire the vision, the drive, the passion and the determination with which Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi ji is propelling India towards new heights of socio-economic development. He is doing that with a strong sense of humanism. His mission is driven by equity, justice and prosperity for all, without any distinction.

Such mission is the hallmark of great leaders.

The philosophy of inclusiveness strongly advocated by Prime Minister Modi is even more pronouncedly reflected in the recent Union Budget.

Here in Uttar Pradesh, the vision and mission of Shri Modi ji is shared and put into practice by the State Government led by Shri Yogi Adityanath ji.

During our meeting in Mauritius back in November 2017, when he honoured us by participating in the commemoration of the 183rd Anniversary of the arrival of Indian Immigrants to Mauritius, Shri Yogi Adityanath was impressive and inspiring in his thoughts and I could see in him the passion to help transform Uttar Pradesh into a dynamic growth and development hub.

I commend him for his efforts towards attracting Foreign Direct Investments into Uttar Pradesh.

I assure him that business people from Mauritius are already prospecting investment opportunities in Uttar Pradesh.

Areas of interest and collaboration include religious tourism, agriculture, manufacturing, food processing, sugarcane cluster, financial services and logistics.

Definitely, the catalyst for Mauritian investors has been the OCI card which is for us a game changer and opens up new opportunities and investment avenues.

Here again, Mauritius is thankful to Shri Narendra Modi ji for the special carve out agreed by the Government of India to enable most Mauritian nationals of Indian descent to become eligible for the OCI Card Scheme and thus connect more easily with the land of their ancestors.

Facilitating the reunion of the 'Pravasi Bharatya Family, can not only foster stronger cultural links and an increased movement of people, but will create a new dynamism that will boost investment, business and trade.

I will dwell thoroughly on investment opportunities for both Mauritian businessmen in Uttar Pradesh and Indian investors in Mauritius tomorrow at the specific Mauritius Country Session.

To conclude, I will say that Mauritius looks forward to reinforcing its relations with Uttar Pradesh, the land where most of our ancestors came from. We want to explore all investment and cooperation avenues, including obviously cultural exchanges.

On this particular front, I thank Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath for the decision his Government has taken to donate a plot of land in Varanasi for the construction of a UP-Mauritius Pravasi Bhawan.

I thank you for listening to me and look forward to see you at tomorrow's Mauritius Country Session.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

I wish you a successful Summit.

JAI HIND

JAI MAURITIUS