

**JOINT E-INAUGURATION OF SOCIAL HOUSING UNITS PROJECT AND JOINT E-LAUNCH
OF CIVIL SERVICE COLLEGE PROJECT AND
8 MW SOLAR PV FARM PROJECT**

THURSDAY 20 JANUARY 2022 AT 1500 Hrs

**VENUE: SIR HARILAL VAGHJEE MEMORIAL HALL,
PORT LOUIS**

**His Excellency Shri Narendra Modi ji,
Prime Minister of the Republic of India,**

**His Excellency Dr Subrahmanyam Jaishankar, External Affairs Minister
of India,**

Honourable Ministers of State of the External Affairs Ministry of India,

Honourable Ministers of the Republic of Mauritius,

Distinguished guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good afternoon

Namaste

Shri Modi Ji,

It is with immense pleasure and privilege that I welcome you to the Virtual Platform for the e-inauguration of the Social Housing Units at Dagotièrè and Mare Tabac, and the e-launch of the Civil Service College and the 8 Mega Watt Solar Photovoltaic Farm Project which will contribute significantly to the development of Mauritius.

At the outset, allow me to express my gratitude and that of the People of Mauritius to the Government and People of India for the wide-ranging cooperation and technical and financial assistance provided to Mauritius over the years. We are so much delighted that our partnership and friendship have grown to new heights since you have become the Prime Minister of the Republic of India.

Shri Modi Ji,

Tahe dil se mein aap ko aur apki saarkar ko dhanyavad dena chaata houn.

I would like to recall that this is the third time that we are having a Virtual Inauguration for projects launched with the assistance of the Indian Government. In 2019, we jointly inaugurated the First phase of the Metro Express Project and the new ENT Hospital; and in 2020, the New Supreme Court Building.

Commercial operations of the Metro Express along the first segment of the rail corridor have been running since January 2020. The second and third phases of this flagship project of our two Governments will be completed by the end of this year, and we are currently working on the fourth phase.

The Metro Express has already proved its efficiency and gained popularity with the Mauritian public as a safe, fast and green mode of transport. It is testimony to the vibrancy of the Mauritius-India partnership and we never cease to acknowledge that without the financial assistance of the Government of India, this project would not have been implemented so fast.

I have the privilege to inform you that to pay gratitude for India's support to the Metro Express Project, my Government has decided to name one of the major Metro Stations as Mahatma Gandhi Station.

Likewise, the new ENT Hospital is fully operational and provides a state-of-the-art medical facility to the people of Mauritius, being one of the foremost institutions used for the treatment of COVID-19 patients.

The New Supreme Court is also fully functional in a more conducive environment. This modern infrastructure is equipped with adequate amenities and is enabling our Judiciary to make the best use of innovative technologies for a more inclusive, effective and efficient delivery of justice. Today, I am proud to say that this event demonstrates once again the very special and privileged relations between Mauritius and India.

I would like to emphasize that like the Metro Express, the implementation of these projects would not have been possible without the Lines of Credit and Grants generously provided by the Government of India. These, once again, illustrate the profound and continued commitment of India to the progress of Mauritius and the well-being of its people.

Bharat ne Mauritius ko hamesha pragati ke liye poora sahyog diya hein. Isske liye Mauritius ki jaanta hamesha bharat ka abhaari rahegi.

Shri Modi Ji,

Adequate housing for families in various income groups is at the top of my Government's agenda. We have pledged to alleviate the housing problem by building more houses and without losing sight on the need to provide other facilities such as efficient transport services linking people to jobs, schools, health, and other social amenities. The Dagotièrè and Mare Tabac sites comprise 956 social housing units with all infrastructural and recreational amenities. This project has become a reality thanks to the generous grant of 20 Million USD by the Government of India and an additional sum of 25 Million USD under the Indian Line of Credit.

Moreover, with the setting up of the New Social Living Development Ltd, we aim to build 12,000 housing units with all associated infrastructure,

including social and recreational amenities which will facilitate the integration of the residents.

Shri Modi Ji,

The construction of the Civil Service College at Moka is yet another testimony of the support of the Government of India to enhance the skills of our human resources. Between 2015 and December 2021, the existing Civil Service College, Mauritius has provided training to more than 50,000 public officers. The new College will allow us to step up our training programme locally. I wish to thank the Government of India for the continued assistance provided to our citizens in capacity building in India.

Thanks to the generous grant of 4.74 Million USD by your Government, we will implement the new Civil Service College project, which will cater for the training needs of the public sector at large, including state-owned enterprises and also serve as a regional centre of excellence.

The plan of the Civil Service College has been prepared by the Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Good Governance and Policy Analysis of India. This institution has also assisted in defining the training needs and strategy for the human resource development of the public sector in Mauritius.

Shri Modi Ji,

The third project concerns the setting up of an 8 Mega Watt Solar Photovoltaic Farm at Tamarind Falls, Henrietta. This is yet another key element in the promotion of our Green Energy initiative.

The project comprises the design, supply, installation, testing and commissioning of a Solar Photovoltaic Farm of 8 Mega Watt capacity which, once operational, will generate about 14 Giga Watt hours of electricity annually and will contribute towards the national objective of attaining 60% Renewable Energy mix by 2030.

We are very much committed to the development of this green initiative financed under a Line of Credit of 500 million USD from the EXIM Bank of India through the SBM (Mauritius) Infrastructure Development Company Ltd and the SIC Development Company.

In addition, there was an Exchange of Agreement a few moments ago which again indicates the willingness of both our countries to forge closer links between us. These Agreements relate to:

1. a Line of Credit of 190 Million USD for Metro Express and other Infrastructure Projects; and
2. an MOU on Small Development Projects.

Besides providing financial support for large and medium scale development projects, your Government is also contributing towards the implementation of small community projects. The 400 Million Mauritian rupees put at our disposal generously, would contribute significantly to economic and social development and improvement of public welfare.

Shri Modi Ji,

I was looking forward to meeting you in the context of the Vibrant Gujarat Global Summit which has been postponed due to the COVID pandemic which is affecting the whole world. I sincerely wish we can meet in the very near future to further consolidate our partnership and friendship.

Mauritius will celebrate the commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the establishment of the diplomatic relations between our two countries next year. We will commemorate this landmark event with all the symbolism that it deserves.

Shri Modi ji,

Considering our strong historical and cultural ties and given the special bonds of friendship between the people of Mauritius and India, it is a great honour for me to invite you to make an official visit to Mauritius in November or December of this year for the grand inauguration of the full Metro Express Service from Port Louis to Curepipe and Rose Hill to Réduit. We look forward to be honoured by your presence once again.

Long live the friendship between Mauritius and India!

Bharat Mata ko abhivadan karta houn.

Jai Hind!

Jai Mauritius!

Dhanyavaad.
