

INAUGURATION OF THE NEW SUPREME COURT BUILDING

SPEECH BY HON PRAVIND KUMAR JUGNAUTH

PRIME MINISTER

THURSDAY 30 JULY 2020 AT 1030 HRS

VENUE: NEW SUPREME COURT BUILDING

EDITH CAVELL STREET

PORT LOUIS

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

His Lordship The Chief Justice,

Colleague Ministers,

The Hon Leader of the Opposition,

Parliamentary Private Secretaries,

Members of the Diplomatic Corps,

Judges and Staff of the Judiciary,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Good Morning,

Mera Namaskar Swikar Kijie

At the outset, I wish to heartily thank Prime Minister Shri Modi Ji for demonstrating once again, that Mauritius is very close to his heart by accepting to spare some of his precious time to be live with us for the e-inauguration of the Mauritius New Supreme Court, despite the crises and urgencies related to the Covid-19 pandemic.

We know how challenging and hectic the current times are for a Prime Minister in the midst of this pandemic that is taking its toll of lives and livelihoods. We commend you and your government, Shri Modi Ji, for working day and night to control the pace and spread of Covid-19 in India. I seize this opportunity to convey our solidarity to you and to the Government and People of India in these trying times and pray that the whole world gets over this nightmare at the earliest.

We also laud the boundless generosity and leadership of India which, at the peak of the crisis, did not hesitate to assist countries including Mauritius. Through *Operation Sanjeevni*, Mauritius benefitted from critical amount of essential medicines, medical equipment as well as Ayurvedic medecines. Under *Operation Sagar* we saw the visit of a Medical Assistance Team from India onboard *INS Kesari* for a three-week visit during which our two countries shared experience in the fight against COVID-19.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today is another momentous day in the history of Mauritius-India relationship. It is a fact that India has accompanied Mauritius all along its journey towards socio-economic progress.

Our shared past as well as close economic, cultural, and human ties have forged a deep bond between our two countries.

Ever since Shri Modi Ji became Prime Minister of India, the bond of friendship between our two countries has kept on strengthening.

Shri Modi Ji, hamara desh, hamari janta aapke samarthan ke liye aabhaaree hein.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

In October last, Shri Modi Ji and I jointly e-inaugurated the first phase of the iconic Metro Express project and the state-of-the art ENT hospital, both of which have benefitted from Indian funding.

The e-inauguration of the new Supreme Court building marks another significant milestone in the modernisation of our country's infrastructure. It is yet another achievement that has been possible thanks to the financial assistance from India. Indeed, the Government of India has provided a grant of 30 million USD for this project.

The new Supreme Court building is equipped with all the modern amenities required for a smooth and effective delivery of justice in our country.

This building is the result of the hard work and collaboration of many people, to whom I convey my expression of gratitude and appreciation.

With its 12 floors, the new Supreme Court building will house under one roof, the Civil, Criminal, Commercial, Family, and Mediation courts, the Chief Justice's Chambers and Judges' Chambers as well as the administration staff. The synergies which will be created will undoubtedly improve court operations and service to court users.

This modern infrastructure will enable our Judiciary to take advantage of new technologies to craft innovative and effective measures for making the justice system more efficient, more accessible, and more inclusive.

Until now, due to limited space at the Supreme Court, Judges had to wait for long periods of time for court rooms to be free to hear cases.

We had to invest in new facilities, and today, this brand new Supreme Court, standing majestically in our judicial landscape, is testimony to our bold response.

We took up the challenge because our priorities are guided by the fundamental mission of establishing justice.

Shri Modi Ji, we know that you uphold the same values. In a speech you made at Prayagraj in March this year, you emphasised that your government's actions to ensure justice for all citizens embodies your philosophy of "**sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas**", meaning "Together, for everyone's growth, with everyone's trust".

Ladies and Gentlemen,

My Government has chosen a focused path towards modernization, but we are, at the same time, conscious of the importance to preserve historic sites and heritage buildings. This is why the old buildings on the existing site of the Supreme Court will be preserved.

These buildings which date back to the French colonial times will be renovated and will in the future house a separate Court of Appeal. We shall retain as much of the significant historical fabric as possible when carrying out the repair works.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Today's event bears out the depth of our determination and commitment to our modernisation endeavour for the wellbeing of our people. This is sacred for us and I know, Shri Modi Ji, that we both share this philosophy.

Before concluding, I wish to once again thank you Shri Modi Ji to grace us by your presence online and to share with us this momentous occasion.

May the truth and justice always triumph in this new Supreme Court in the spirit of *Satyamev Jayate*, the Sanskrit mantra for truthfulness and national motto of India which has been inspiring our people generation after generation.

Long Live the India-Mauritius relationship.

Thank you for your kind attention.

Dhanyavaad.
