

**Maharashtra & Chhatrapati Shivaji Night New Town Hall, Curepipe
on 19th May at 19hrs.**

**Honorable Steven Obeegadoo, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of
Housing and Land Use Planning
Honourable Ministers**

Honourable Members of Parliament

Mr Hans Marguerritte – Mayor Municipal Council of Curepipe

Mr Praveen Ramburn – Mayor Municipal Council of Vacoas/Phoenix

Mr. Rohan Tannoo, President of Shivaji Ashram

Distinguished guests

All protocol observed

Ladies and gentlemen

Good evening

The lives of all the great men remind us that we can make our lives sublime. Brave men are always honoured and remembered for all the ages and in all countries. We always find inspiration from the life and history of great persons. Indian History is full of different national heroes who devoted their life for their state and their motherland. One of them is Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj who became an icon for freedom fighters because his name evoked a strong feeling of love and sacrifice.

Shivaji was a visionary leader who fought for the rights of his people and worked towards establishing an independent Maharashtra state. He was a great warrior, a skilled strategist, and a compassionate ruler.

Shivaji Maharaj's legacy has endured for centuries. His principles of self rule, equality and tolerance continue to inspire people today. He is regarded as one of the greatest leaders of India, and his contribution to the country's history and culture is immeasurable.

Ladies and gentlemen

Maharashtra is a state with a rich history and culture that dates back centuries. Maharashtra has played a significant role in shaping India's progress and growth. This State has been a leader in several fields such as: Industry and commerce, agriculture and education.

Furthermore, it is a land of diversity and has been the birthplace of many great thinkers, artists, and leaders. Maharashtra has a unique blend of various cultures, traditions, and languages and has a rich tradition of music, dance, literature, and arts. A glimpse at the programme shows that we shall be given the opportunity to appreciate some aspects of this culture during this evening.

The state is also famous for its handicrafts, which are renowned not only across India but worldwide.

Marathas from Maharashtra and from different corners of the world celebrate the heritage and traditions of the State of Maharashtra and the successful pioneer of the State, the king Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj. Hence our meeting of this evening.

Maharashtra day is celebrated on 1st May to commemorate the spirit of the people who fought for the creation of this state and to recognize the rich culture and heritage of Maharashtra. This date coincides with the celebration of the International Labour Day so that we shall remember that the formation of the state of Maharashtra was the result of the 'Sweat and blood' of the labourers.

Ladies and gentlemen

Our ancestors came with "nothing". But true, they came with their languages, their spiritual beliefs, their scriptures. They came from a thriving multicultural country. Here they came as slaves and labourers under a colonial regime and they knew days of hunger, pain and distress. Despite the conditions of living, they had a backbone, roots and a network. They had hope for a better life, a vision for their children. We are these grand-grand-children for whom they came here.

The Marathas of Mauritius, though a minority Community have preserved their cultural heritage from their forefathers from Maharashtra and have contributed significantly to the economic, social and political development of the country.

The Government of Mauritius gives possibility to the different ethnic groups to perpetuate their culture, such as customs, and religion, which originated from their countries of origin. The Marathi Speaking Union and the Mauritius Marathi Cultural Centre Trust are doing their best to promote Marathi culture and language among young people.

It is recognised that human relations are essential in society because they maintain a peaceful climate and strengthen the bonds between individuals. For many years, everyone has lived together in Mauritius, and each community interacts with each other, primarily through sharing cultures. Specialists frequently present Mauritius as an exemplary model of cohabitation.

Whether through music, food, dance, language or clothing, everyone enjoys the different facets of each other's culture, especially during festivals. This sharing and appreciation of each other's culture strengthens the bonds between communities and contributes to the willingness to live together happily in the mix of cultures.

The **Kanawla** is one of my favourite cakes and I also enjoy **puran poli** which my Secretary brings to the office on special occasions.

Dear guests

Undeniably, Chhatrapati Shivaji's heroic deeds can be transposed to our modern context. Currently, the world is battling COVID-19, which has left behind unimaginable sufferings and fatalities. Far from giving up, we have to will ourselves to win the war.

Maharashtra state was established after great sacrifices. Today, it has become a very advanced and important state in India. It is a good wish that Maharashtra, which has come about through the efforts of many such people, will progress further.

THANK YOU