

Speech of Mr Speaker

**At the opening of the orientation programme conducted by the Parliamentary
Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) of the Lok Sabha
Secretariat**

Friday 04 October 2024

Shri. Rajit Punhani, Chief Executive Officer of Sansad TV,

Shri Anjani Kumar, IFS, Joint Secretary Lok Sabha Secretariat,

Shri P K Mallick, Director

Ladies and Gentleman,

Good morning,

I am honoured and delighted to participate in the opening of this orientation programme conducted by the Parliamentary Research and Training Institute for Democracies (PRIDE) of the Lok Sabha Secretariat, for the technical officers of the Mauritius National Assembly for the implementation of the Digital Transformation and Engagement Strategy.

I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar, Vice President of India and Chairperson of the Rajya Sabha, my counterpart, Shri Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, Shri Jai Shankar, Minister of External Affairs of India, Shri. Rajit Punhani, Chief Executive Officer of Sansad TV and the Secretariat of the Lok Sabha, for their invaluable support and collaboration in providing technical training to our officers.

Ladies and Gentleman,

Technology is a powerful enabler of change. Digital transformation has become an absolute necessity. During my official visit to India in August last, I affirmed that Parliament must adapt to this era driven by new technologies and artificial intelligence. The Lok Sabha of the Republic of India, the National Assembly of the Republic of Mauritius, the Rajya Sabha, in collaboration with the Ministry of External Affairs of

India, with the support of the High Commission of India have organised this 5-day orientation programme, from 04 to 10 October 2024, for the training of our technical officers.

I would also like to share that Sansad TV stands as a valuable benchmark as we look to transform our own Parliament TV Channel. Sansad TV has demonstrated exemplary success in broadcasting parliamentary proceedings and in engaging in educational and public interest content, making it a model of transparency and accessibility. By aligning with the innovations and practices of Sansad TV, in the realm of digital technologies and interactive features, we aspire to elevate our Parliament TV into a modern platform that will strengthen the bond between our Parliament and our citizens as well as we will ensure that our legislative process remains open and accessible to all.

Ladies and Gentleman,

This orientation programme will play a pivotal role in shaping the future of our Parliament TV Channel and the implementation of the Digital Transformation and Engagement Strategy, a substantive part of our mission to India, which is expected to come to fruition in the next three years.

The comprehensive training will indeed cover essential areas such as Parliament reporting, video production, multi-camera production for live parliamentary broadcasts, electronic cinematography, and sound recording. Participants will gain expertise in graphics design, video editing, television engineering, and the administration of ingest servers.

The programme will also emphasise the archiving and the transcription of different content in multiple languages. By mastering these skills, our team will be in a position to produce high-quality and dynamic broadcasts that would capture the essence of our legislative proceedings thereby ensuring greater transparency, accessibility, and

engagement for the public. The training will significantly elevate the standard of our Parliament TV channel and allow us to align with international best practices.

Ladies and Gentleman,

I am deeply grateful to my Indian counterpart for the time, resources and energy invested in this endeavour as well as for his commitment to propel the Mauritius National Assembly into a new digital era whereby the sacrosanct duty of Parliament's engagement with the people, to uphold the principles of democratic values becomes a seamless process.

This initiative on their part is more than just a learning opportunity. Indeed, it reflects the strength of our partnership and our shared commitment to enhancing skills, fostering innovation, and building capacity.

My visit to India was a highlight of my tenure as Speaker and I shall always cherish my exchanges with Mr. Rajit Punhani and the whole team of the Sansad TV.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and we look forward to further collaboration and progress in the future.
