

**Mr Patrick Andre, PS, Ministry of Transport,  
Mr Mike Anthony Morel, PS, Ministry of Family, Youth and Sport  
Mr Geffy Zialor, CEO, Seychelles Public Transport Corporation,  
Mr Andy Moncherry, Chairman, Seychelles Public Transport Corporation,  
Members of the SPTC Board,  
Officers of the Ministry of Finance,  
Officers of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs,  
Distinguished guests,**

It is a matter of great pleasure for me to be present at today's ceremony of launching of the **3 low floor buses**, by the Seychelles Public Transport Corporation (**SPTC**). These buses have been procured through Indian Line of Credit support.

Under this project, 60 buses have been supplied to SPTC. These buses have been manufactured by Ashok Leyland, a reputed Indian vehicles manufacturer, with wide presence in Africa. I recall being present at the function in January 2023, along with Minister Derjacques, when the first buses under this project arrived in Seychelles. I am happy to see that today, with the inauguration of these **03 Low Floor Buses**, this project, funded by Government of India as part of a USD 10 million Line of Credit from EXIM Bank – has reached its culmination.

A very important highlight of today's function, as has been mentioned, is that the buses being launched today are low floor buses, which will, hopefully, be a transformative upgrade in making efficient and effective public transport available to all, especially the elderly and people with disabilities. I also note that SPTC is also launching a **new Customer Service**

**Center and QR Code Bus fare Payment platform** today. I congratulate Minister Derjacques, the Ministry of Transport and the SPTC, on these timely and people-centric initiatives.

**Distinguished guests,**

India and Seychelles historically enjoy warm, friendly and cordial ties and a vibrant development partnership.

India's development partnership with Seychelles is based on our genuine desire to work together for each other's welfare and interests. Our development cooperation is transparent, the funding involved is on easy and flexible terms and, most importantly, it is completely based on the priorities of Seychelles.

So, it is not surprise that our partnership with Seychelles is broad-based. It includes capacity building, grant and credit based projects, High Impact Community Development Projects and ITEC training courses, to name a few.

It is has always been India's endeavour to share India's experiences, learnings and models as possible templates for others, particularly in the developing world and to promote a universal sense of oneness through enhancing connectivity.

Let me conclude by stating that these buses for the SPTC will augment connectivity in Seychelles and accessibility of public transport. India is proud to partner Seychelles in reinforcing the capacity of its public transport infrastructure and promoting connectivity. We cherish our warm ties with Seychelles and will always stand ready to partner it in its developmental needs.

I once again congratulate the Ministry of Transport and SPTC  
on the delivery of the new buses.  
Thank you.

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