



MEDIA RELEASE

5 October 2020

Celebration of 151st Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

The Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo and Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre celebrated the 151st birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi with various events on 1st and 2nd October, 2020. The two-year long celebration of 150 years of Mahatma Gandhi concluded with activities organized on the virtual platform due to the restriction imposed by local government because of COVID-19 pandemic.

2. The celebration started on 1 October, with the webinar on 'Gandhi's Perspective on Sustainable Development' organised by Consulate of India in Sao Paulo & Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in collaboration with Instituto Superior de Administração e Economia (ISAE) School of Business, Curitiba. Ambassador of India to Brazil, Mr. Suresh K Reddy presented the opening remarks for the webinar and stated that "Mahatma Gandhi represents India and what India stands for, his values are what shapes us and guides us today also".

3. The webinar had distinguished speakers from India and Brazil which included Padma Shree Awardee, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, Chancellor, Mahatma Gandhi Central University, Bihar; Dr. Rajni Bakshi, a member of the Executive Committee of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti and a Gandhian Scholar; Dr. Nirja Mattoo a Sustainability expert and a faculty at SPJMR, Mumbai and Mr. Leandro Uchoas an educator & activist and also the founder of Instituto Shanti Brasil located in Rio De Janeiro. Highlighting various aspects of Gandhian philosophy the speakers elaborated on how Mahatma Gandhi's way of living is the best example of sustainable development for world and his teachings of harmonious co-existence of man and the ecosystem are perhaps more relevant today than in his own time.

4. On 2 October, Consul General Mr. Amit Kumar Mishra led the officials of the Consulate and the Cultural Centre to pay floral tributes at the Mahatma Gandhi Statue near Ibirapeura park in São Paulo. Secretary of International Relations of City of Sao Paulo, Mr. Luiz Alvaro and

Gandhian scholar Padma Shri Prof Lia Diskin also joined in paying floral tributes to the Mahatma. Consul General congratulated everyone on Gandhi Jayanti and spoke about how the Gandhian teachings are a guiding force for people during the present times as well.

5. The last event as part of commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was a webinar titled '*Being the Change*' on 2 October, organized by Consulate General of India, Sao Paulo & Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre in collaboration with Palas Athena. The event started with recital of favorite bhajans of Mahatma Gandhi by the Indian singer, Ms. Meeta Ravindran. Consul General, Mr. Amit Kumar Mishra gave the opening remarks and emphasized on the significance of the date and teaching of the Mahatma. In his address, Mr. Mishra also highlighted the achievements of the present government under the leadership of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, which is trying to fulfill the Gandhian concept of 'Sarvodaya' with a community-centered approach ensuring fulfilment of basic needs of all human beings.

6. The other speakers for the event included Ms. Shelly Jyoti, a visual artist from India who draws inspiration from Gandhi's ideals of *Swaraj*, *Sarvodaya* and *Swadharma* to create works and narratives using the Indian textile technique of Ajrakh. Director, UNESCO, Brazil Ms. Marlova J. Noletto also joined the celebration and highlighted on the culture of peace and non-violence and its importance in the present-day times. The celebration ended with a dialogue between two Gandhian Scholars & educators, Mr. Leandro Uchoas and Mr. Joao Signorelli, on how each individual can contribute to bring a change in the world and follow Mahatma's teaching of '*Be the change you want to see in the world*'. Mr. Joao Signorelli also read out a few lines from Gandhi's autobiography '*My Experiments with truth*'.

7. To commemorate the conclusion of 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Consulate General of India in Sao Paulo, Swami Vivekananda Cultural Centre and Palas Athena brought out a special edition of two books of Mahatma Gandhi namely '*My Experiments with truth*' & '*The Wheel & Calm Thinking*'.

A few photographs of the events held from 1 & 2 October 2020 are attached herewith

01 October 2020: Webinar on 'Gandhi's Perspective on Sustainable Development





2 October 2020: Floral Tribute at Gandhi Statute







2 October 2020: Webinar 'Being the Change'



