



**Embassy of India
Brussels
PRESS RELEASE**



Celebration of Gandhi Jayanti 2018
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In the framework of the global commemoration of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of the Indian nation, Government of India has launched several worldwide initiatives and planned simultaneous events all over the globe to synchronise a universal celebration of Gandhiji's universal message of truth and ahimsa (non-violence).

Ceremonial Unveiling of the bust of Gandhiji on Chancery premises

On the eve of Gandhi Jayanti, a bust of Gandhiji made by renowned Indian sculptor, Ram Sutar, was installed and unveiled at the premises of the Chancery on 26 September 2018.

Hon'ble Members of Parliament, Shri. Ajay Kumar Mishra (MP, Lok Sabha), Dr. Udit Raj (MP, Lok Sabha), and Shri. Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati, (MP, Rajya Sabha) unveiled and offered garlands and floral tributes, accompanied by President of the Delegation for Relations with India, Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden and Ambassador of India, Smt. Gaitri I. Kumar.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrations in Antwerp

Governor of the City of Antwerp in collaboration with the Embassy of India, Brussels hosted an event to pay homage to Mahatma Gandhi at the Govenorate of Antwerp.

Minister of Justice, H.E Mr. KoenGeens, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and delivered the keynote address.

Hon'ble Governor of Antwerp, Ms. Cathy Berx shared her personal thoughts about Gandhi ji and his influence in her life .

Advocate General with the Court of Cassation, The Right Honorable André van Ingelgem , Former President of the Belgian Constitutional Court, The Right Honorable Etienne De Groot , the King's prosecutor of Antwerp, MrsGepts Anne Marie, the Vice President of the Court of Antwerp MrBoudewijn Franck, Shri. NileshJogani, President of the Antwerp Indian Association, members of the Indian community in Antwerp and other dignitaries participated in the event.

Speaking on the occasion, H.E Mr. KoenGeensstressed the relevance of the universal values espoused by Gandhiji and their resonance in the world today.

Ambassador of India, Smt. Gaitri I. Kumar spoke about the importance of understanding the true potential of Gandhian philosophy and the significance of the launch of a two-year global celebration on the occasion of the 150th anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

Floral tributes to the statue of Gandhiji were made by the eminent guests present.

On the occasion, special commemorative stamps and a first day cover brought out by India Post was released in the presence of Minister of Justice H.E Mr. KoenGeens and Hon'ble Governor of Antwerp, Ms. Cathy Berx.

A viola d'Amore performance of Gandhiji's favourite bhajans 'Raghupati Raghav' and 'Vaishnav Jan to' by renowned Belgian musician, Mr. Hans Vermeersch was also organized.

Gandhi Jayanti celebrations in Brussels

Gandhi Jayanti celebrations were also organized at the premises of the Embassy on 02 October 2018. Following floral tributes to the bust of Gandhiji in the Chancery garden, **a key note address on Gandhian values was made by Gandhian Scholar Mr. Fernand Samsoen.**

The premiere of the 'Vaishnav Jan To' bhajan video produced by the Embassy in collaboration with Belgian artist, Ms. Ana Rocha, was organized.

A documentary film on the life of Mahatma Gandhi, 'Mahatma – A great soul of 20th century' was screened for participants.

On the occasion, Ambassador of India, Smt. Gaitri I. Kumar launched the **Gandhi@150 LED Projection show on the Chancery façade.**

The Embassy also launched an online Gandhi@150 quiz contest open to residents of Belgium and Luxembourg.

A floral tribute was offered before the statue of Gandhiji at Park Marie Jose at Molenbeek, Brussels, earlier today.

Presentation on 'Clean up Village and recycling of waste'

On 26 September 2018, Ambassador of India hosted a working lunch for the Hon'ble Members of Parliament of India, Shri. Ajay Kumar Mishra, Dr. Udit Raj, and Shri. Sambhaji Shahu Chhatrapati, and other dignitaries. Members of European Parliament, Mr. Geoffrey Van Orden, President of the Delegation for Relations with India and Ms. Neena Gill (Vice-Chair, Delegation for Relations with India) also attended the lunch. During the working lunch, Mr. Tom De Reu, representative of Belgium-based company M/S Gemini Corporation, made a presentation on strategies adopted by the company for taking forward

the vision of 'Swachh Bharat' through sustainable initiatives such as their 'Clean up Village' campaign and recycling of waste in India. A lively discussion followed focusing on the vast potential of waste management initiatives in India.

Cleanliness Drive on the Embassy Premises

Cleanliness, as an integral part of Gandhiji's vision for an ideal independent Indian society, has been the theme in Embassy's activities over the last year .

In keeping with the Gandhian ideal for a society that prioritizes cleanliness, the 'Swachh Bharat' mission, a flagship scheme of Government of India, focuses on bringing a transformational change to India's approach to cleanliness and sanitation.

In accordance with the stated objectives of the 'Swachh Bharat' mission, Embassy of India, Brussels organized a cleanliness drive on its premises which including weeding of old files, removal of old and discarded furniture and other materials, sprucing up of the lawns and garden of the Chancery, cleaning and painting of rooms etc.

Upcoming events

The Embassy of India, Brussels will support a Peace Seminar focusing on the values espoused by Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King and Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan on 27 October 2018 in Brussels.

On 7 November 2018, the Embassy of India will install an exhibition of pictures of the life of Gandhi and his most famous quotes in collaboration with private publisher and writer on Gandhi, ShriPramodKapurat the European Parliament.

*Brussels
02 October 2018*