

Embassy of India
Thimphu

Press Release: **Launch of art competition as part of the Grand Finale of the 150th Birth Anniversary celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi**

To commemorate the Grand Finale of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy of India will be organizing a number of activities to mark the [Gandhi@150](#) celebrations, culminating in his birth anniversary on 2 October 2020.

2. Along with the National Institute of Zorig Chusum of Bhutan, the Embassy of India has launched a competition that entails participants to showcase the correlation between Gandhiji's thoughts and the 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030 (UN SDGs), suitably captured in a work of art.

3. The following linkages clearly draw out the correlation between Gandhiji's thoughts and the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and how capsules of his philosophy have inspired the formulation of a number of UN SDGs.

Mahatma Gandhi and United Nations Sustainable Development Goals 2030

UN SDGs	Details	Gandhiji's thoughts and quotes on the theme of this UN SDG
Goal 1	No Poverty	On poverty he said, "Poverty is the worst form of violence". He also believed in the concept of 'Antodaya' (welfare of the least or poorly placed sections of society).
Goal 2	Zero hunger	On hunger he said, "There are people in the world so hungry, that God cannot appear to them except in the form of bread."
Goal 3	Good health and well being	"It is Health that is real Wealth and not pieces of gold and silver", commented Gandhiji who was also serious about fitness
Goal 4	Quality education	Gandhiji said, "Real education consists in drawing the best out of yourself. Learn as if you were to live forever."
Goal 5	Gender equality	He said, "Woman is more fitted than man to make exploration and take bolder action in nonviolence. There is no occasion for women to consider themselves subordinate or inferior to men."
Goal 6	Clean water and sanitation	Gandhiji said, "Sanitation is more important than independence". He made cleanliness and sanitation an integral part of the Gandhian way of living. His quote "Cleanliness is Godliness" finds resonance in today's world as well.
Goal 8	Decent work and economic growth	Gandhiji's concept of Gram Swaraj is linked to this SDG. He had said "Each village should be basically self-reliant, making provision for all necessities of life - food, clothing, clean water, sanitation, housing, education and so on, including government and self-defence, and all socially useful amenities required by a community.

Goal 10	Reduced inequalities	"It should not happen that a handful of rich people should live in jewelled places and the millions in miserable hovels devoid of sunlight or ventilation." - Quote by Gandhiji
Goal 11	Sustainable cities and communities	"The earth, the air, the land and the water are not an inheritance from our forefathers but on loan from our children. So we have to handover to them at least as it was handed over to us." Quote by Gandhiji.
Goal 12	Responsible Consumption and Production	"Earth provides enough to satisfy every man's need but not every man's greed": Mahatma Gandhi
Goal 13	Climate Action	Gandhiji said, "What we are doing to the forests of the world is but a mirror reflection of what we are doing to ourselves and to one another."
Goal 15	Life on Land	"The greatness of a nation and its moral progress can be judged by the way its animals are treated." : Gandhiji
Goal 16	Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions	Gandhiji said "An eye for an eye will only make the whole world blind." He also said, "I oppose violence because when it appears to do good, the good is only temporary, the evil it does is permanent." Gandhiji believed in Ahimsa or Non-violence and all his campaigns during India's freedom movement were based on these principles.

4. In the Gandhi@150 art competition, our Bhutanese friends, in the age group of 15-26 years are invited to present their entries, **drawing on any of the above correlations in a form of artwork which could be a painting, sculpture, a piece of 3D art or a form of traditional art like embroidery or wood carving. For instance, a sculpture of Gandhiji could be made of recyclable material - drawing attention to the preservation of the environment and climate action. An alternative entry could be a painting that depicts any theme espoused by Gandhiji that has relevance to any one of UN SDGs.**

5. We are offering attractive prizes for the best entries with additional marks for creativity and linkage to the UN SDGs:-

1st prize – Rs./Nu 30,000-

2nd prize – Rs./Nu 25,000-

3rd prize – Rs./Nu 20,000-

6. All participants are requested to submit entries in a digital/JPEG format by email to edu.thimphu@mea.gov.in latest by 28 September 2020. The prizes will be awarded at a special event held at the Embassy of India, Thimphu on 2 October 2020, coinciding with Mahatma Gandhi's birth anniversary.
