

Consulate General of India
Phuentsholing

Press Release: **150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations of Mahatma Gandhi**

The two-year long Gandhi@150 celebrations were organized by the Consulate General of India, Phuentsholing through variety of events.

2. Over the last two years, the Consulate General of India had collaborated with different organizations of Bhutan to organize various activities and events to celebrate the life of the Mahatma. Some of them include:

- (a) Indo-Bhutan Friendship Swachhta Abhiyan which was co-hosted with Phuentsholing Thromde. Under this joint initiative, 35 different teams comprising officers and staff of GoI & RGoB establishment in Phuentsholing were tasked to clean the Phuentsholing city. During this activity of cleanliness, the teams took upon themselves to spread the message of Bapu (*Cleanliness is next to Godliness*) among the people of Phuentsholing.
- (b) School outreach programmes was also conducted in 8 different schools/colleges in Phuentsholing city, Chukha, Samtse followed by Yoga demonstration, Talkson life and teachings of Gandhiji including quizzes.
- (c) Green initiative through planting saplings on Indo-Bhutan border in collaboration with Phuentsholing Thromde. The event witnessed participation of Thrompon (Mayor), Senior Government Officials, Officers from IMTRAT, Members of Bhutan-India Friendship Association and Indian community in Bhutan.
- (d) Vegetarian Food Festival was hosted on June 21, 2019 post completion of 5th IDY Celebration with vegetarian delicacies to spread the message of Bapu on vegetarianism.
- (e) The 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi was celebrated by Consulate General of India Phuentsholing at India House Club Kabreytar. Consul General participated in the Peace Walk, Blood Donation-cumHealth Check-up camp at Samtse Dzongkhag.
- (f) Consul General participated in the unveiling of walking life-size statue of Mahatma Gandhi in the front lawns of the Embassy of India Thimphu and the Khadi-Thagzo Textile Presentation held at the Royal Textile Academy in October 2019.
- (g) Among the social media initiatives, CGI streaming of Gandhi Katha on its social media platforms by Dr Shobhana Radhakrishna; shared Vaishnav Jan bhajan sung by Ms. Yangchen D (Vocals), Mr Ngawang Yeshey (Guitar & Mandolin), Mr Basu Dev Sharma (Percussion- Tabla) Bhutanese Artist; shared video messages of the Prime Minister of India and events organized by various arms of Government of India including ICCR.

3. In the run up to the 151st Birth Anniversary celebrations, CGI shared various infographics, short videos including rare photographs of Mahatma Gandhi starting September 26, 2020 on its social media handles.

4. The Indian Council for Cultural Relations is hosting a Webinar titled Weaving Relations: Textile Traditions on 3 October 2020 to conclude the Gandhi@150 birth anniversary celebrations. Her Majesty Ashi Sangay Choden Wangchuck, the Royal Queen Mother of Bhutan is the Special Guest at the Textiles Webinar, she is expected to share little-known facts regarding the tradition of Royal Textiles in Bhutan through a recorded message. Ms. Chandrika Tamang, sustainable fashion designer from Bhutan will also participate live in the 3rd session of the Webinar, she is expected to highlight the unique textile traditions and special weaves of Bhutan.
