

Press Release

Six events in four cities of the Netherlands, including a ‘Gandhi March’ from the iconic Peace Palace of The Hague will mark launch of two year long celebrations of the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

The Netherlands is set to witness six events in four cities as part of activities to mark the launch of the two year long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.

2. These events include a ‘Gandhi March’ from the iconic Peace Palace of The Hague to Grote Kerk on September 30, 2018 (Sunday) with participation of people of all nationalities and around twenty Ambassadors of different countries. Well-known spiritual guru from India ‘Sri M’; Ms. Kavita Parbhudayal, Deputy Mayor of The Hague, Ambassador of India to the Netherlands, Venu Rajamony and Ambassadors of the US, Indonesia and Afghanistan will address the marchers. The Gandhi March will conclude with multinational cultural performances highlighting the message of non-violence, a special exhibition mounted on a Khadi Scroll (*curated by Pramod Kapoor of Roli Books, India*) and a movie on the life of Mahatma Gandhi.

3. On October 2, the International Day of Non-Violence, five events will be held in the four cities of The Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Zoetermeer. Gandhi statues in the cities will be garlanded and the public invited to place flowers at the feet of the statue as a mark of respect amidst speeches, singing of favourite songs of Mahatma Gandhi and cultural programmes. Special commemorative stamps issued by the Indian Postal Department will be released in front of the Peace Palace and a meeting held within the Peace Palace complex to discuss the relevance and importance of Mahatma Gandhi to the challenges of the modern world. A ‘Gandhi Walk’ will also be held in the capital city the same evening.

4. The Embassy of India alongwith community organizations will conduct during the period of October 1-5, 2018 an outreach programme called “*Follow the Mahatma*” under which over 100 volunteers will fan out to around 20 schools of the Netherlands to spread the message of non-violence and to educate students about the life of Mahatma Gandhi and how India won freedom through a non-violence movement. A social media campaign with the hashtag *#followthemahatma* will be conducted during the period inviting people across the Netherlands to post messages reiterating their commitment to the principle of non-violence.

5. The Netherlands has a special connection to India and Mahatma Gandhi. There are around thirty streets in the country named after Mahatma Gandhi, perhaps the largest after India anywhere in the world.
