

**Embassy of India**

**The Hague**

**Press Release**

**October 1, 2018**

**Gandhi@150 celebrations to be launched on October 2 in the Netherlands with six events in four cities of The Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Zoetermeer**

Six events in four cities will mark the launch of the two-year long celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the Netherlands.

Gandhi statues in the four cities of The Hague, Amsterdam, Utrecht and Zoetermeer 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 on October 2, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and the International Day of Non-Violence.

Special commemorative stamps marking the 150<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary issued by the Indian Postal Department will be presented by Ambassador of India to the Netherlands, H.E. Mr. Venu Rajamony to the former Foreign Minister and Chairman of Carnegie Foundation, Dr. R. Bernard Bot and Director General Erik de Baedts at a function in front of the iconic Peace Palace, home to the International Court of Justice and the Permanent Court of Arbitration.

An LED projection on the “Relevance of Bapu’s message in the contemporary world” is further being organized at a special function in honour of Mahatma Gandhi within the Peace Palace as well as at public places like the Railway Stations of the four large cities of The Hague, Amsterdam, Rotterdam, and Utrecht.

The Embassy of India along with 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 educate students about the life of Mahatma Gandhi. Books on Mahatma Gandhi in Dutch will be presented to the schools.

A social media campaign with the hashtag #FollowTheMahatma is also being conducted inviting people to post messages reiterating their commitment to the principle of non-violence.

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