



## **Press Release**

The two-week long grand finale celebrations of 150<sup>th</sup> Birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi concluded with much fervor today at the historic Constitution hill, Johannesburg with the lighting of majestic Constitution Hill towers in tri-colors. Complimenting the tri-colors of India, the whole atmosphere was patriotic with the soulful renderings of Gandhiji's favourite Bhajans. Holding of this grand finale event at Constitution Hill is of utmost importance as Mahatma Gandhi was imprisoned here during his stay in South Africa. Earlier the High Commissioner of India, H.E. Shri Jaideep Sarkar, and Consul General of India, H.E. Ms. Anju Ranjan, paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi's bust at Constitution Hill.

The grand finale celebrations commenced in the morning at Tolstoy Farm, Lawley. Created in 1910, Tolstoy Farm was the first community Ashram initiated by Mahatma Gandhi during his South African movement. The programme at Tolstoy Farm was organized in association with Mahatma Gandhi Remembrance Organization (South Africa). High Commissioner Shri Sarkar paid homage over a bust of Mahatma Gandhi and unveiled the public utility services built with the support of the Consulate General of India, Johannesburg at the Tolstoy Farm. Speaking on the occasion High Commissioner underlined Gandhiji's relevance in today's life. While complimenting all, High Commissioner of India informed that Phoenix Farm Durban which is considered as the birth place of Satyagrah of Gandhi Ji has been declared as the heritage site by the Government of South Africa.

Mahatma Gandhi followed and encouraged the consumption of a vegetarian diet. To spread his message of vegetarianism, the Consulate hosted a vegetarian food festival at its premises which included Gandhiji's favourite vegetarian dishes. The food festival was well received and appreciated.

Preceding the concluding event on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, the Consulate had organised a series of events including a lecture series via Facebook Live which featured eminent Gandhian scholars like Prof. Romesh Bhardwaj, Dr. Ravindra Kumar, Dr. Varsha Das, Dr. Jasbir Chawla on life and message of Mahatma Gandhi. The lecture series concluded with a lecture by Consul General Ms. Anju Ranjan on 'Truth and Non-Violence: Glimpses from Gandhi Ji's life.' Apart from this, the Consulate also organised a tree plantation drive at Tolstoy Farm and handed over cleaning tools and equipment for the upkeep and maintenance of the Tolstoy Farm.

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