

**High Commission of India  
(Abuja)**

**Press Release**

**Closing ceremony of commemoration of the 150th Birth Anniversary Year of Mahatma Gandhi**

The two year-long celebrations to mark the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, launched on 2 October 2018, ended in Nigeria today with the Closing Ceremony organised by the High Commission of India, Abuja. H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Federal Republic of Nigeria was the Chief Guest of the event and addressed the audience in virtual mode.

On the occasion, excerpts of Prime Minister of India's address on Mahatma Gandhi at United Nations on the occasion of Gandhi@150, were shown. It was followed by a digital projection of key moments of Gandhiji's life, his inspiring quotes, discourses and initiatives, highlighting the relevance of Mahatma's life and philosophy in the contemporary world. A video showcasing various commemorative activities undertaken by India's Missions abroad marking Gandhi@150, was also shown. It was followed by a Skit on the life of Mahatma Gandhi performed by the Nigerian artists of the 'Arojah Royal Theatre', Abuja.

Speaking on the Occasion, High Commissioner recalled the importance of Gandhi ji's African experiences in shaping his life and philosophy. He conveyed his gratitude to H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs, Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria for his contribution to the Anthology on Gandhi@150, which had been published earlier. He presented a NIPOST Commemorative Stamp on Gandhi@150 to Foreign Minister H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama. Mr. Allen Onyeama, Chairman Air Peace Airlines, also gave a Goodwill message, in virtual mode on the occasion.

H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria conveyed that he was pleased to write about Mahatma Gandhi and participate in the Closing Ceremony. He said that Gandhi ji has always been a hero for him personally, who he sees as a guiding light for the whole of humanity.

Deputy High Commissioner Shri V.S.D.L Surendra has handed over 150 Solar lamps to the Nigerian NGO 'Ajike People Support Centre' in Kwara state. H.E. Mr. Geoffrey Onyeama, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Nigeria unveiled the NIPOST Commemorative Stamp on Mahatma Gandhi to the audience.

Over 100 guests attended the combined event at the High Commission of India, Abuja and its Office in Lagos, including prominent Nigerian dignitaries, diplomatic corps, members of Association of Nigerian alumni of Indian Universities, and members of the Indian community. The event was telecast live on High Commission's facebook page. A Photo Exhibition, with a collection of photographs from the Gandhi National Museum, New Delhi, on Mahatma Gandhi's life and message, was also held at the venue. The event concluded with an interactive session between the High Commissioner and Heads of Indian community organizations in Lagos, followed by a vegetarian lunch.

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**2 October 2020**