

**High Commission of India  
Windhoek**

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**Press Release**

**Historic Commemorations in Namibia to mark Gandhi@150**

To commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Ministry of International Relations and Cooperation and High Commission of India, Windhoek, organized a special lecture on October 2, 2019 under the prestigious **Dr. Theo-Ben Gurirab Lecture Series** of Namibia. The 6<sup>th</sup> edition of the lecture series was organized at Namibia University of Science and Technology in Windhoek on the theme “**150 Years: Celebration of the vision of Mahatma Gandhi**”. In honour of the great soul, UN celebrates October 2 as the International Day of Non-Violence.

2. Guest of Honour for the evening, **Father of Namibian Nation and Founding President Hon. Dr. Sam Nujoma paid homage to the Father of Indian Nation Mahatma Gandhi**. Talking about Gandhian ideas in his remarks, he said, “Being a great statesman, thinker, humanist and an apostle of peace of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, through his concept of freedom, Gandhi never tolerated the subordination of one nation or individual to another.” He also said, “The relations between the peoples of India and Namibia date back to the time of our bitter struggle for national independence and sovereignty and have been deeply rooted in the history and work of the Non-Aligned Movement.”

3. Other dignitaries present included Hon. Peter Katjavivi, **Speaker of the National Assembly (lower house of Parliament) of Namibia**; Hon. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah, **Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of International Relations and Cooperation**; Hon. Nahas Angula, **former Prime Minister**; Ambassadors and Diplomatic Corps. Hon. Deputy PM called Mahatma Gandhi an advocate of peace and non-violence, whose values were emulated by many in the world.

4. High Commissioner of India H.E. Prashant Agrawal, Prof Phaniel Kaapama of University of Namibia, and former PM Hon. Nahas Angula were the main speakers for the evening. High Commissioner, in his address, said, “...instead of diminishing in relevance, Gandhian values have become all the more pertinent in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Whichever the challenge we confront, we can be sure that the Gandhian way is a real, live option, an option that informs and illuminates. He is a moral aquifer, to help replenish and recharge our thirsty souls.” Their speeches were followed by a round of discussion with the

audience, which included Academia, Students, Media, and the general public.

5. Namibian Postal Department (NamPost) recently released a **special commemorative set of five stamps on Mahatma Gandhi**, which were officially launched by Hon. Dr Sam Nujoma, High Commissioner of India, Deputy PM and Speaker of National Assembly on the occasion. It is for the **first time** that Namibia came up with a special postage stamp on a foreign leader. **Father of Namibian Nation launching the commemorative stamp on Father of Indian Nation** was the high point of the evening.

6. During the past months, a series of events have been organized by the High Commission of India to mark [Gandhi@150](#) in Namibia, including Gandhi lectures and outreach in a number of schools and organizations, planting of 150 trees on the World Environment Day, promoting cycling and sustainable lifestyle, gifting of books on Mahatma Gandhi to school libraries, singing of Mahatma Gandhi's favourite prayer 'Vaishnav Jan To' by famous Namibian singer Ms. Sally Boss Madam etc. A health camp providing free of cost artificial limbs to 500 needy people is also currently underway in Rundu.

7. A few pictures of the event are attached.

**Windhoek**  
**October 3, 2019**

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Personalised stamp launch 2 October 2019  
**150 Years of Mahatma Gandhi**



**150 Years** of inspiring humanity

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**Mahatma Gandhi**  
 2 October 1869 – 30 January 1948

