

Embassy of India

Djibouti

Press Release

Celebration of 150th Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in Djibouti

Embassy of India, Djibouti in partnership with the Mahatma Gandhi Centre for Leadership and Entrepreneurship (MGCLE) organized a programme to commemorate "Gandhi@150"- the initiative of Government of India to celebrate the 150th year of the anniversary of the Mahatma.

2. The programme started with the unveiling of a bust of Mahatma Gandhi at the entrance of the centre by H.E. Mr. Ilyas Moussa Dawaleh, Minister of Economy and Finance, in charge of Industries, Government of Djibouti and H.E. Mr. Ashok Kumar, Ambassador of India to the Republic of Djibouti in the presence of several Ambassadors, members of diplomatic corps and international organisations based in Djibouti. The bronze bust of Mahatma Gandhi is designed by the renowned sculptor Mr. Ram Sutar, and was gifted to the Government of Djibouti by Indian Council of Cultural Relations (ICCR). The unveiling was followed by offering of floral tributes by the dignitaries present. This momentous occasion was marked by planting of saplings of Jamun (*Syzygium Cumini*) and Neem (*Azadirachta Indica*) by the Hon'ble Finance Minister and Ambassador of India. Government of India is promoting tree plantation under the Jal Shakti Abhiyan while Government of Djibouti has also renewed its focus on tree plantation and afforestation drive.





3. The Hon'ble Chief Guest inaugurated a photo exhibition on the life of Mahatma Gandhi. The programme started with screening of a short film "Gandhi – the visionary dreamer". Ms. Oubah Malow, Director, MGCLE welcomed the audience with her remarks. H.E. Mr. Ashok Kumar, Ambassador of India, addressed the gathering highlighting the growth and potential of India-Djibouti relationship and development cooperation especially in the field of small scale enterprises, skill development, self-employment in line with Mahatma's vision of self-reliance. Hon'ble Finance Minister Mr. Ilyas Dawaleh expressed his gratitude to India for funding the construction of the Centre and hoped for further cooperation with India to strengthen the Centre. He mentioned that Gandhi's ideas of self-reliance and self-sufficiency appealed to him the most, especially in the context of need for entrepreneurship and self-employment to create jobs for the youth of Djibouti.



4. Prof Ramesh C Bharadwaj, Director of Gandhi Bhawan, University of Delhi and a renowned Gandhian scholar delivered a lecture on Gandhi's ideals and its relevance in the contemporary world by a renowned Gandhian scholar. His lucid explanation of Gandhi's thoughts and its application to developing societies was well received by the audience who later engaged in an enthusiastic question and answer session with the scholar. Another lecture on Mahatma Gandhi by the visiting scholar is scheduled at University of Djibouti on 20th January 2020 where Embassy of India will inaugurate an "India Corner" with books on India's diverse, vibrant and multi-cultural society.





5. The diplomatic community supported the event with enthusiastic participation. Notable guests included the Dean of diplomatic corps - Ambassador

of Palestine and the Ambassadors of USA, China, Germany, Yemen, Kuwait, EU, Cuba, Cd'A of Russia, Resident Coordinator of UN among other diplomats.

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Djibouti