



## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Celebration of 149<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.**

The Consulate General of India in collaboration with Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan, Manhattan Borough President's Office and NYC Parks Department celebrated 149<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2, 2018, near Gandhiji's Statue at Union Square Park. Among others, the occasion was graced by Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney, Ms. Gale Brewer, Manhattan Borough President, Mr. Hersh Parekh from Governor's office, Mr. Navin Mehta Chairman of Bhartiya Vidya Bhavan and Mr. H.R. Shah, Chairman of TV Asia.

The program began with a rendition of Gandhiji's favorite bhajan titled "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Re Kahiye" by students of Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan followed by offerings of floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by the dignitaries. In their remarks, the speakers were united in conveying the relevance of Gandhiji's teachings and philosophy as more than ever relevant in today's world. Congresswoman Carolyn Maloney spoke about how Gandhiji's legacy inspired civil rights movements around the globe, from Martin Luther King's movement for racial equality to Nelson Mandela's fight against apartheid. She also announced the introduction of the resolution (H R 6916) in the US House of Representatives to posthumously award the prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Mahatma Gandhi.

As part of year long celebrations planned to commemorate 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, Consul General urged the gathering to participate and propagate the newly launched Consulate's series, titled "What Mahatma Means to You". He also informed the gathering of the release of Gandhiji's favorite bhajan "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye" recorded by legendary American singer Chaka Khan and Sonu Nigam on October 02, 2018.

The program ended with Mr. Hersh Parekh presenting a citation from Governor Andrew Cuomo to Consul General.

As part of **Gandhi At 150**, Consulate also participated in the Gandhi Jayanti celebrations along with Shanti Fund, a non-profit organization devoted to promoting Gandhian teachings, at H. Lee Dennison Building in Hauppauge, NY. The Consulate is partnering with Shanti Fund for yearlong celebration of Gandhi At 150.

On the occasion, audio & video of Gandhi's famous bhajan "Vaishnav Jan To Tene Kahiye" recorded by 10-time Emmy award artist Chaka Khan along with renowned Indian singer Sonu Nigam was played to the audience of more than 200 people. A book on Mahatma Gandhi's formative years called 'GANDHI: Birth of a Mahatma' by Arvin Ghosh was released by Consul General. Celebration was attended by Rajya Sahab MP, Dr. Ameer Yajnik and local political representatives. Khadi Paintings by Francis Kodankandath on Gandhian values were also displayed.

October 03, 2018

New York.