

Embassy of India
Ashgabat

Press Release

Celebrations of the 157th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi

(Ashgabat, 2 October 2026)

The Embassy of India organized the celebrations of the 157th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi as well as the International Day of Non-Violence in Ashgabat on 2 October 2026. The event was graced by the Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan H.E. Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov, UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang, Ambassadors and Representatives of Diplomatic Missions based in Ashgabat, Members of Indian Diaspora and Friends of India in Turkmenistan.

2. The celebrations commenced with floral tributes to Gandhiji by Ambassador Bandaru Wilsonbabu, Deputy Foreign Minister Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov and other dignitaries. In her remarks, the UN Resident Coordinator Ms. Xiaojun Grace Wang recalled Gandhiji's philosophy of Non-Violence and its growing relevance in today's world for promoting dialogue, tolerance and peaceful coexistence.

3. In his speech, Ambassador Bandaru Wilsonbabu spoke about Gandhiji's concepts of Satyagraha (Force of Truth), Ahimsa (Non-Violence) and Sarvodaya (Development for All) and their influence on several public figures like Martin Luther King Jr and Nelson Mandela in their respective struggles for justice. Ambassador reaffirmed that as the land of Buddha and Gandhi, India remains firmly on the side of peace. He also noted that the bust of Mahatma Gandhi in Ashgabat stands as a symbol of India-Turkmenistan friendship as well as the commitment of the two countries to promote a culture of peace, tolerance and harmony.

4. Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of Turkmenistan Mr. Ahmet Gurbanov highlighted the close alignment between Turkmenistan's policy of "Permanent Neutrality" and Gandhiji's philosophy of Non-Violence. In this context, he recalled that Turkmenistan was one of the co-sponsors of the United Nations General Assembly resolution of 2007, which decided to mark Gandhiji's birthday (2 October) every year as the International Day of Non-Violence.

5. The celebrations witnessed a special Yoga demonstration, recitation of poems on Gandhiji and rendition of his favorite Bhajans(Songs). A special exhibition on Gandhiji's life and legacy was also organized on the occasion. The event concluded with the tasting of Indian snacks.

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