**Consulate General of India**

**Jaffna**

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**Press Release**

****Celebrating Gandhi Jayanthi with a Cycle Rally and Tree Planting Ceremony in Jaffna****

**1.On the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on October 2nd (Gandhi Jayanthi), the Consulate General of India in Jaffna organized a cycle rally from the Consulate to Cargill Square to pay homage to the Gandhi statue. The event witnessed the participation of various dignitaries, including Chief Secretary of Northern Province Mr. L. Ilaangovan, Vice Chancellor of University of Jaffna Professor S. Srisatkunarajah, Jaffna Municipal Commissioner, Director of Jaffna Teaching Hospital Dr. Sathiyamoorthy, religious leaders, Consulate officials, functionaries of Gandhi Samajam, and members of the general public.**

**2. During the event, Consul General Sh. Sai Murali led the gathering in paying floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi. In his address, the Consul General emphasized that Gandhi's philosophy provides significant inspiration for the struggles for human rights and reconciliation in the region. He noted that Gandhi himself visited Jaffna during his trip to Sri Lanka in 1927, highlighting the significance of standing on the path that Gandhi once travelled. The visit was a testament to Gandhi’s deep connection with the people of Jaffna and his belief in non-violent resistance to bring about positive change.**

**3. Following the rally, a tree planting ceremony was held at the Jaffna Cultural Centre (JCC), with N. Vedanayagam, Governor of the Northern Province participating in the event. The Consul General briefed the Governor on the significance of the occasion and expressed gratitude for his participation. The Governor expressed his pleasure at being invited to the event. He also took a tour of the facilities at the Jaffna Cultural Centre. CG also held discussions with the Governor on India's ongoing and future development projects in the Northern Province.**

**4. Earlier in the day, the Consul General also paid tributes to the Gandhi statue in Ariyalai, Jaffna.**

5. A few representative photographs are enclosed.

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**Jaffna**

**03rd October 2024**