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PRESS NOTE

Felicitation of His Holiness The Dalai Lama
19th November 2022
Dharamshala, India

His Holiness the Dalai Lama 14, the Great Tibetan Buddhist is going to be conferred with the first ever Gandhi Mandela Award 2019 on 19th November 2022 at a ceremony to be held at Thekchen Choeling, Dharamshala, HP, India in the presence of Hon'ble Governor of Himachal Pradesh H.E. Shri Rajendra Arlekar and the Jury Chairman and Vice Chairman Justice K G Balakrishnan and Justice Gyan Sudha Misra. A jury consisting of five Chief Justices from three countries have selected him for his outstanding contribution in the area of World Peace and Harmony.

The Dalai Lama is the spiritual leader of the Tibetan people and their greatest advocate for a free Tibet. Born to a farming family in northeastern Tibet, at the age of two, the child, then named **Lhamo Dhondup**, was recognized as the reincarnation of the previous Dalai Lama. Presently in exile, he chose the land of Mahatma Gandhi as his final frontier to spread the message of peace, non-violence, and compassionate responsibility for his fellow man. Among several world leaders inspired by Mahatma Gandhi, His Holiness the Dalai Lama is the front runner. Media hailed The Dalai Lama as Gandhi's spiritual heir to nonviolence. Mahatma Gandhi's words have guided him, he says. While accepting the Nobel Peace Prize in Oslo in 1989, he said it was "a tribute to the man who founded the modern tradition of non-violent action for change, Mahatma Gandhi, whose life taught and inspired me". He reflected on the life and work of his friend Nelson Mandela, who passed away at the age of 95. He said, "We must carry on his spirit from generation to generation." The two peacemakers met in South Africa in 1996.

His Holiness is truly an inspiration for the society and has carried forward the principles of the Gandhi and Mandela. Some of his major peace initiatives include:

1. Transformation of the whole of Tibet into a zone of peace
2. Abandonment of China's population transfer policy that threatens the very existence of the Tibetans as a people.
3. Respect for people's fundamental rights and democratic freedom

Gandhi Mandela Foundation

(A Govt of India Recognized 80G, 12A Trust)

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4. Restoration and protection of Tibet's natural environment
5. Spreading the message of non-violence and religious harmony throughout the world

Gandhi Mandela Foundation is registered under the Govt of India trust Act, which promotes individual freedom, civil liberties, and human rights across the globe. The head quarter is situated at New Delhi and the Global presence includes America, Africa, Russia, London, Switzerland, China, Nepal and Bangladesh. The foundation instituted the Gandhi Mandela Awards during the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to celebrate those who have carried forward the legacies of Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela. The Founder and Secretary General of Gandhi Mandela Foundation is Adv. Nandan Jha and the Chairman of the Foundation is India's Hindu Spiritual leader Swami Avdheshanand Giri Ji Maharaj.

Gandhi Mandela Award:

The Jury: This is the world's first most empowered jury including: Hon'ble Justice K.G. Balakrishnan (Former Chief Justice of India & Former Chairman HHRC India), Vice Chairman Hon'ble Justice Gyan Sudha Misra (Former Judge Supreme Court of India), Hon'ble Justice Dipak Misra (Former Chief Justice of India), Hon'ble Justice Kedarnath Upadhyay (Former Chief Justice of Nepal & Former Chairman, NHRC, Nepal) and Hon'ble Justice Tafazzul Islam (Former Chief Justice of Bangladesh).

Medal: one of the most expensive Gold Medal made by INDIA GOVERNMENT MINT, A Unit of Security printing and Minting Corporation of India Limited,

The detail specification of the medal are as follows:

Material : <6 Ct. Gold

Weight: 350 gm. (Gold-85.75gm+ Copper-264.25 gm.)

Diameter of 100 mm.

Packing Material : Pine Wood Box

Ribbon: White Ribbon

Certificate: First ever certificate duly signed by a jury consisting of five Former Chief Justice and Former Supreme Court Judge of India, Nepal and Bangladesh.

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