

Embassy of India, Vienna

\*\*\*\*\*

### **Celebration of 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in Vienna**

In order to commemorate the 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi on 2 October 2019, Embassy of India, Vienna had organized a talk titled “Popular Diplomacy and the Philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi” by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna at Vienna International Center (VIC) where the UN offices in Vienna are located. Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna has founded the ‘Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance’ SCOPE, India for promoting ethical business practices and organizational integrity in Public Sector Enterprises of Government of India.

Gandhi Jayanti is also commemorated as the International Day of Non-Violence since 2007.

Director General UN Offices in Vienna (UNOV) & Executive Director UN Organization on Drugs & Crime (UNODC) H.E. Mr. Yury Fedotov was the Chief Guest for the function.

The talk saw participation from Ambassadors and Permanent Representatives of various countries as well as other members of diplomatic community, the officials of UN organizations at VIC, special Austrian guests invited for the occasion including the former Chair of the India-Austria Parliamentary Friendship Group and members of the Indian community.

On this occasion, the dignitaries on the dais released and were presented with the Gandhi@150 commemorative stamp and the first day cover brought out by UN Postal Administration.

In view of the significant and seminal contribution of Mahatma Gandhi to India and countries across the globe, his inspiration to leading political and philosophical personalities as also countless individuals and his relevance to disciplines such as politics, international relations, economics, spirituality, ecology, conflict resolution, sustainability, service to humanity and more, his concepts of compassion, non-violence, social justice, minimalism, peace and civil disobedience, the event at the UN on October 2 explored the relevance of Gandhiji's principles, ideas and alternatives to the personal quest by individuals and nations alike for greater substance in life; to address pressing and emerging challenges of our times and inherent lessons in his life for personal growth and transformation.

Embassy of India, Vienna, together with the Institute of South Asian, Tibetan & Buddhist Studies, had also organized a talk by Dr. Shobhana Radhakrishna on

“Transformational Leadership of Mahatma Gandhi and its Relevance in Contemporary World” on the eve of Gandhi Jayanti on 1 October 2019. This event saw large participation from students, professors, members of the diplomatic community and of the Indian community in Vienna.

Following are some photos of the two events:























