



सत्यमेव जयते

**Embassy of India
Jakarta**

PRESS RELEASE

Gandhi Jayanti Celebrated in Jakarta

A special program was organized by the Embassy of India in association with the Gandhi Memorial Intercontinental School, Jakarta, on 2 October 2017 to celebrate 148th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The Ambassador of India to Indonesia, H.E. Mr. Pradeep Kumar Rawat, was the chief guest on the occasion. The program began with Ambassador and other guests paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi. A choir rendering of favorite bhajans of Mahatma Gandhi was followed by a keynote address by the Ambassador of India.

Speaking on the occasion Ambassador Rawat said that Mahatma Gandhi advocated peace and non-violence during a period which was mired by ultra-nationalism, gross inequalities, brutalities on colonized societies and two World Wars. As the world realized enormity of death and destruction caused by the Second World War, they found relevance of what Mahatma Gandhi stood for. The United Nations have rightly declared the birthday of Mahatma Gandhi as “International Day of Non-violence”. He said that many of us believe that Gandhism is too idealistic to be practiced today. However we have examples of Martin Luther King Junior and Nelson Mandela, two great leaders who followed Gandhian principles successfully. Addressing the students in the audience, Ambassador said that Mahatma Gandhi was not a born great but he achieved greatness because he has faith in self, he was persistent, and he learnt from his mistakes. Ambassador told that Mahatma Gandhi was himself a religious person and believed in equal respect for all religions. It was his conviction that nothing enduring can be built on violence. Ambassador said Gandhi’s principles could be solution for religious extremism and terrorism being witnessed today. Mahatma Gandhi gave stress on moral education, community work and struggle against political and social oppression. Ambassador said that cleanliness and sanitation was very close to heart of Mahatma Gandhi. It is therefore apt that Government of India launched ‘Swachh Bharat Abhiyan’ or ‘Clean India Mission’ on his birth anniversary in 2014 with the objective of providing adequate sanitation and building modern toilets for all by 2 October 2019.

Prominent among those present were Ambassadors of Bangladesh, Kazakhstan, Serbia, Zimbabwe and Venezuela; Charge d’Affaires of Palestine; several diplomats; officers and staff of Embassy of India and teachers and students of Gandhi Memorial Intercontinental School. Gandhi Sewa Loka made donations to NGOs such as Yayasan GNOTA, Yayasan Binangkit, Yayasan Rawinala, Pesantren Nurul Imam Bogor and SLB Dian Grahita who are engaged in providing education to needy and differently abled students in Indonesia.





Jakarta: 2 October 2017