

## **Release of Special Postage Stamp in Peru to Commemorate 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi @Mahatma150**

The Postal Services Department of Peru (*Servicios Postales del Peru-SERPOST*) has released a special postage stamp to commemorate the 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. A Presentation Ceremony to unveil the Stamp was held on 17<sup>th</sup> February 2020 at the Indian Cultural Center, Lima, PERU. Mr. Enrique Prado Lopez De Romana, President of the Directorate of Peruvian Postal Department (SERPOST) was the Chief Guest of the event.

2. The programme started with the traditional lighting of lamp and rendering of Mahatma Gandhi's favorite Bhajans by Peruvian and Indian artists. Ambassador, H.E. Mandarapu Subbarayudu, in his welcome address, expressed his thankfulness to SERPOST and Government of Peru to release this commemorative Stamp. He emphasized on the universality of Gandhi's message, philosophy and its relevance today. He lauded love of the common people in Peru, as in India, for Mahatma Gandhi and adherence to his teachings, reflected in peaceful means of protest, preservation of environment, maintaining unity, harmony and core values of Truth, Non-violence and Compassion for others. He also appreciated the services of SERPOST, which touches the lives of common people.

3. Mr. Enrique Prado Lopez De Romana, President of the Directorate of Peruvian Postal Services Department (SERPOST) expressed his happiness on the release of the commemorative stamp and thereby Peru being a part of the global celebration of Mahatma Gandhi's 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary.

4. The ceremony of release of the Stamp included 'stamping' and formal exchange of first day covers between Ambassador and President of SERPOST, followed by similar exchange by four Peruvian dignitaries with Indian counterparts. This was followed by formal unveiling of the commemorative stamp by Ambassador and President of SERPOST.

5. The Embassy has conducted a series of activities for celebrations of the 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi since October 02, 2018. These include "Peace March" held in Pamplona Alta, in the district of San Juan de Miraflores on Gandhi's Birth anniversary on October 02, 2018 and again on October 02, 2019, to commemorate the International Day of Non-Violence. The local community participates in this activity that culminates in a function at LozaGandhi, a playground named after Mahatma Gandhi. The Embassy is also running a Mahatma Gandhi Afforestation Project in the area. The Birth Anniversary events also included a public event Mariscal Castilla Park in Lince, painting competition among school, release of commemorative postal stamp and special cultural programmes by Indian and Peruvian artists etc.

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