

**Embassy of India  
Bangkok**

**Press Release**

**Commemoration of the International Day of Non-Violence in Bangkok**

On the occasion of the 146<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, the Embassy of India, Bangkok in collaboration with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission of the Asia and Pacific (UNESCAP) commemorated the 9<sup>th</sup> International Day of Non-Violence on Friday, 2 October 2015 at the UN Conference Centre (UNCC), Bangkok. The Day has been celebrated in UNCC since 2007 when the United Nations General Assembly decided to observe 2 October as the International Day of Non-violence.



Dr. Shamshad Akhtar, Executive Secretary of the UNESCAP read out a special message of H. E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary General of the UN. In her remarks, Dr. Akhtar highlighted the significance of non-violence and urged the International Community to secure a culture of peace, tolerance and understanding. Ambassador Harsh Vardhan Shringla in his address underlined the importance of Mahatma Gandhi's ideas of non-violence and truth in today's world and urged the gathering to strive to adopt Gandhian methods to the present day challenges, with sincerity and diligence.

Ambassador Rajiv Bhatia, former Director General of the Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), delivered a special lecture on the "Relevance of Gandhian Philosophy in the Contemporary World". Ambassador Bhatia highlighted the multi-dimensionality of Mahatma Gandhi's personality and his philosophy and its relevance today. A short documentary titled "the Visionary Dreamer" produced by Prasar Bharti was screened.

Students from the Modern International School of Bangkok and Ms. Ravinder Kaur & Group paid a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi by performing Bhajans and songs. A presentation titled 'a simple man, the world calls Mahatma' produced by Public Diplomacy Division, Ministry of External Affairs was shown at UNCC. The event ended with the offering of floral tributes by the attendees at the bust of Mahatma Gandhi installed by Government of India in UNCC.





The function was well-attended by Ambassadors and members of the Diplomatic Corps, members of UN agencies, teachers and students of various Universities and schools in Thailand (Thammasat, Mahidol, Silpakorn, Siam and Assumption), representatives of various Indian Associations and media.

*(Bangkok-2 October 2015)*

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