Embassy of India

Budapest

**PRESS RELEASE**

Subject: Celebrations of 150 Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in Budapest on 2nd October, 2018.

In the first ever event organized by any Embassy in the magnificent Hungarian Parliament ( in the prestigious Szell Kalman Hall), Embassy of India celebrated 150th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in the Hungarian Parliament with Hungarian Parliamentarians on 2nd October, 2018.

2. Speaker of Hungarian National Assembly, Mr. Laszlo Kover, Mr. Peter Cseresnyes, Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs, and Members of the Hungarian Parliament participated in the event. Celebrations started with paying of floral tribute to Mahatma Gandhi’s bust by Speaker, Ambassador and other dignitaries. Video of the Gujarati Bhajan ‘Vaishnav Jan toh’ sung by Ms. Maga Jennifer, a prominent singer of Hungary was publicly released. Ambassador greeted the Speaker with a Kashmiri shawl and presented him a replica of Gandhiji’s Charkha. Commemorative stamps on Mahatma Gandhi were released by Ambassador, Speaker and other dignitaries.

3. Ambassador in his speech thanked Speaker and Mr. Cseresnyes for arranging the event in the Hungarian Parliament and reiterated the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi’s principles of truth and non-violence in the present world. Speaker in his speech paid glowing tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and exhorted Hungarians and other world leaders to follow the values of Mahatma Gandhi. He specifically mentioned the celebrations of 70th anniversary of Indo-Hungarian Diplomatic relations in Budapest in November this year and said that it would be a milestone in Indo-Hungarian relations.

4. Inauguration was followed by a very special Chair Yoga session for the Members of the Parliament, by Yoga Teacher of the Embassy, which was fully packed. The session for MPs , included simple yet effective Yogic techniques which would help them in managing their stressful schedules. Yoga mats, Yoga t-shirts and books on Mahatma Gandhi were presented to the dignitaries.

5. A photographic exhibition, comprising 32 selected photographs of Mahatma Gandhi was also mounted in the Parliament which was very well received by the Members of Parliament.

6. Photographs taken on the occasion are being sent herewith. Separate dispatch will follow on the evening event of LED projection in Buda Castle.