



**Embassy of India
Rome**

Gandhi Jayanti Celebrations in Rome

The Embassy of India organized a function to celebrate the 148th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi at Piazza Gandhi in Rome (Gandhi Square). Ambassador Reenat Sandhu and Guests of Honour: Senator Benedetto della Vedova, Under Secretary, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Italy and Counsellor Daniele Diaco, President of the Environment Commission of the Municipality of Rome, on behalf of the Mayor, paid floral tributes to Gandhiji. The ceremony was attended by over 100 members of the Indian community and local populace.

Addressing the gathering, Ambassador Reenat Sandhu spoke about the importance of Mahatma Gandhi's message of peace and non-violence which continues to inspire people around the world to this day. She also spoke about Gandhiji's vision to create a clean India. Following in his footsteps, Prime Minister of India has launched a Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan or Clean India Mission on Gandhiji's birth anniversary in 2014. Since then, the government has invested in infrastructure to provide sanitation facilities, waste disposal systems and safe drinking water. Several steps have also been taken to build greater awareness and create a mass movement to involve people of every age group in this mission to create a clean India by Gandhiji's 150th birthday in 2019.

The Guests of Honour spoke eloquently on the relevance of Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of humanism, truth and non-violence in present times. Under Secretary della Vedova also spoke about the 70th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the two countries, to be celebrated next year in 2018, and the enduring friendship between Italy and India. Counsellor Diaco expressed his deep admiration for 'a man who fought for his people'.

The Mission is organising two more events to commemorate Gandhi Jayanti this year, including tributes to Gandhiji at the Gandhi School at Narni on 03 October, 2017 and a lecture-cum-conference on Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy and ideals in present times at the prestigious La Sapienza University in Rome on 05 October 2017.

The Gandhi Jayanti function in Rome was celebrated by the Mission with active support of local Government bodies and associations, which wholeheartedly contributed their efforts and resources.





Ambassador Reenat Sandhu, Under Secretary Benedetto della Vedova and Counsellor Daniele Diaco paying floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi.





Ambassador and Guests of Honour addressing the gathering



Singing of Gandhiji's favourite bhajans by Mr. Guido de Laurentis and Mr. Guliano Lopez

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