

PRESS RELEASE

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations is organizing a Special event to commemorate the International Day of Non-Violence on 2 October 2016, the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi. The event is a reminder to Mahatma Gandhi's unequivocal message to uphold values of peace, tolerance and understanding.

2 October was marked as the International Day of Non-Violence by General Assembly Resolution A/RES/61/271 of 15 June 2007. Cosponsored by 140 countries the resolution established the commemoration of the International Day as an occasion to "disseminate the message of non-violence, including through education and public awareness".

This year's celebrations will be held at the ECOSOC Chamber of the United Nations on Sunday 2 October 2016 from 10.00 am to 12.00 pm.

The President of General Assembly H.E. Mr. Peter Thomson, Deputy Secretary General H.E. Mr. Jan Eliasson, Finance Minister of Bangladesh H.E. Mr. Abul Maal A. Muhith, and Prof. Barry L. Gan, Director of Center for Non-Violence, St. Bonaventure University, New York will address the gathering.

The opening segment will be followed by a recital of songs emphasizing virtues of Peace and Non-Violence by Ms. Sudha Raghunathan a renowned Indian Classical singer in the Carnatic Music tradition.

As a tribute to Mahatma Gandhi's focus on preserving the environment, India will submit its certification of Instrument of ratification of the Paris Agreement on 2 October 2016 to the United Nations. India had last year the same day, announced its climate action plan and declared its Intended Nationally Determined Contribution.

This October also marks the fiftieth anniversary of performance of Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi, India's music legend and most celebrated singer in the Carnatic Music tradition at the United Nations on the eve of UN Day on 23 October 1966. The UN Postal Administration (UNPA) will release a postage stamp commemorating the birth anniversary and fiftieth anniversary of performance by Dr. M.S. Subbulakshmi at the United Nations on 2 October 2016. Assistant Secretary General, Department of Management will release the stamp on behalf of UNPA. The stamps will be available for purchase at the UNPA website <http://unstamps.org>.

Dignitaries, diplomats and officials from the United Nations and the Permanent Missions to the United Nations, civil society, academia, media and invited guests will attend the Event.

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30 September, 2016