Gandhi@150

LEADERSHIP MATTERS: "Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi in the Contemporary World"

Statement

by

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External Affairs Minister

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Mr. Secretary-General
Distinguished world leaders
Ladies and gentlemen.

It is my honour to welcome you all to today’s commemorative event where we are celebrating the life and message of Mahatma Gandhi.

Today’s generation confronts challenges as diverse as climate change and gender justice to terrorism and social development. The philosophy and outlook of Mahatma Gandhi offer powerful tools to discern the path to addressing them.

Gandhiji’s advocacy of ‘simple living and high thinking’ highlighted living in consonance with the environment, reining in excessive consumerism and exploitation of natural resources. He made us think about climate change before that term was even invented.

In every way, he is the symbol of the Sustainable Development Goals that we today seek to achieve.
Gandhi’s life was also an example of standing up to fear and intimidation. His thoughts are a source of courage as we fight terrorism in all its forms and manifestation.

His ideals have influenced some of the greatest figures of our age.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Communities all over the world need inspired leaders to shape a hopeful future. Today, we have in our midst those who have led through their values and example.

Let us hear them.