



## **SHOBHANA RADHAKRISHNA**

### **PROPAGATING THE VISION OF MAHATMA GANDHI**

Shobhana Radhakrishna's cherished aim is to reintroduce Mahatma Gandhi to the people of India as well as those abroad. Mahatma Gandhi's thought and principles can guide the people as it has the strength to inspire and bring about change. His life was one of dedication and simplicity; he valued non-violence and truth as the guiding principles of his life and is the supremely practical leader for change.

Imbibing Gandhiji's values as she grew up in his ashram (*community living*) situated at Sevagram in Wardha, Shobhana's focal point is the Gandhian way of life and serving humanity. She believes that the Mahatma inspired many and gave strength to bring about change. In an era where the moral compass is being compromised in the name of progress and pragmatism, her lectures and training programs have highlighted the relevance of ethics and values, as well as the great heights one can achieve with Mahatma Gandhi serving as the role model for transformational leadership and sustainable development.

She is the Chief Functionary of the 'Gandhian Forum for Ethical Corporate Governance' formed under the aegis of the Standing Conference of Public Enterprises (SCOPE), New Delhi for promoting ethical business practices and organisational integrity in Public Sector Enterprises.

She is the guest faculty for the Company Director's training program being conducted by the Indian Institute of Corporate Affairs of the Ministry of Corporate Affairs. She has regularly addressed young probationary officers of the Indian Civil Services in the apex training academies of Government of India.

She has travelled internationally to hold invited lectures on the transformational leadership of Mahatma Gandhi, as mentioned below:

- In October 2009, 2011 and 2014 on the occasion of UN International day of non-violence, she was invited to deliver 24 lectures in **Japan** at the Embassy of India in Tokyo, Sugunami City Government, JICA, universities and various institutions.
- In July 2014 she gave the keynote address on Gandhian philosophy on Nelson Mandela day at the Constitution Hill and the Tolstoy Farm in Johannesburg, on invitation from the High Commissioner of India in Pretoria for the commemoration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the departure of Mahatma Gandhi from **South Africa**.
- On the occasion of the UN International Day of Non-Violence on 2nd October 2014, the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UN-ESCAP) and the Embassy of India in **Thailand** organised her special lecture at the United National Convention Centre in Bangkok.
- On 2nd October 2015, the High Commission of India in **Sri Lanka** organized her special lecture at the Indian Cultural Centre, Colombo University.
- On 2nd October 2016, the Embassy of India in **Tunisia** and ICCR organized her special lectures at the Manouba University in Tunis and unveiled the statue of Mahatma Gandhi.
- On the occasion of the UN International Day of Non-Violence in October 2016 she was invited by the Embassy of India in **China** for lectures at the Indian Mission in Beijing and in Fudan University in Shanghai.
- In February 2017, she was invited by the Tibet Buddhist Centre and the Global International Indian School in **Singapore** to give lectures on Mahatma Gandhi.

- In April 2017, in the Year of Japan India Friendly Exchanges, she was invited to deliver ten lectures in **Japan** at the Sophia, Keio, Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tsukuba, Osaka, Hiroshima and Kansai Universities and various institutions.
- In August 2017, she travelled to **Indonesia** for giving talks at Universities, organisations, Indian Cultural Centres at Jakarta and Bali which were organised by the Embassy of India in Jakarta
- In October 2017 on the occasion of UN International day of non-violence, she was invited to deliver the special talk in the Peace Palace, The Hague and gave lectures in **Netherlands, Austria & Germany** organised by the Universities and the Indian Missions.
- In May 2018, she travelled to **Japan** for giving talks at Universities and organisations, which were facilitated by the Consulate General of India, Kobe Osaka.
- In October 2018 on the occasion of UN International day of non-violence, she was invited to deliver the talk in the King Faisal Centre, Riyadh and gave ten lectures in **Saudi Arabia, Malaysia, Cambodia and Vietnam** organised by the Universities and the Indian Missions.
- In February to April 2019 on the occasion of 150<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi, she has given 48 lectures in **Egypt, Turkey, Bahrain, Italy, Greece, Sweden, Egypt, Australia, Fiji, New Zealand, Japan & South Korea** organised by the Universities and the Indian Missions.

Her talk highlighted how Gandhian philosophy had become gradually more relevant in the present day socio-political milieu, even more so than it was one hundred years ago. The value-based leadership espoused by him in public life constitutes a perfect module to be emulated in all spheres of our activities.

She believes that educated youth have tremendous potential for bringing about the desired social change in our country if guided towards Gandhian leadership. She was invited by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports to deliver lectures to youth at National Youth festivals.

She has over 38 years of experience in social work in development projects in different parts of India. Her background of Gandhian constructive work for the development and welfare of underprivileged communities has led her to dedicate her life to the cause of serving the poor in obtaining gender equity and self-reliance peace, justice and dignity.

She is the Chief Executive of the Ship for World Youth Alumni Association-India, a program of the Cabinet office of Government of Japan and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. She is the Chairperson of the non-profit organisations namely Uttranchal Development Institute, DISHA and the Center for Gandhian Vision and Values. She is the former Chairperson of Gandhi Peace Centre, India.

She was given the 'Eminent Citizen' recognition from the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India for conducting independent monitoring and assessment of MGNREGA program. She was the Chairperson of Gandhi Peace centre.

She is the governing body member of the 'Mahila Samakhya' program of the Government of Bihar and the 'Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan' program of the Government of Tripura. She is the advisor for National Coalition for Education, New Delhi.

#### Links for reference:

- [http://mea.gov.in/Portal/CountryNews/3063\\_PR\\_Int\\_NV\\_Day\\_Bangkok.pdf](http://mea.gov.in/Portal/CountryNews/3063_PR_Int_NV_Day_Bangkok.pdf)
- [http://www.indiaculture.nic.in/sites/default/files/press\\_release\\_africafestival/MAHATMA%20GANDHI'S%20100%20YEARS%20RETURN%20TO%20INDIA.pdf](http://www.indiaculture.nic.in/sites/default/files/press_release_africafestival/MAHATMA%20GANDHI'S%20100%20YEARS%20RETURN%20TO%20INDIA.pdf)
- <http://kapitalis.com/tunisie/2016/10/06/non-violence-gandhi-sur-un-piedestal-dans-campus-de-manouba/>
- <http://www.indianembassy.org.cn/newsDetails.aspx?NewsId=858>
- <http://www.indianconsulate.org.cn/event.php?id=358>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-cF2sA9qGKo>
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=frErnx6RQJ0>
- <https://www.facebook.com/IndiaInAustria/posts/1166524396825825>