

Programmes & Activities in the Financial Year of 2015-16

➤ *Free Health Check-up Camp (17.01.2016)*

Each Centre were present to discuss the problem of cleft lip, a genetic disorder and in collaboration with an NGO named Smile Train (Funded by USA) they are carrying on the difficult task of curing the patients of cleft lip by plastic surgery free of cost. One patient, Shri Uday Shankar Manna with this disorder came and successfully met the doctors who gave him further instructions to go to Repose Clinic and Research Centre for treatment. The patient went to Repose Clinic and after successful treatment has been totally cured from his problem. Towards the end of the camp, the doctors conducted the general check-up of Patients and advised them regarding treatment after which the. About seventy (70) people attended the camp which proved to be a big success among the local people.





➤ National Seminar on ‘Rethinking Gandhian Thought: Issues and Challenges’ (26/03/2016)

The Sangrahalaya organized a day-long National Seminar on ‘Rethinking Gandhian Thought: Issues and Challenges’ at its premises on March 26, 2016 from 11:00 am in the morning to 5:00 pm. Gandhiji's life, ideas and work are of crucial importance to all those who want a better life for humankind. The political map of the world has changed dramatically since his time, the economic scenario has witnessed unleashing of some disturbing forces, and the social set-up has undergone a tremendous change. The importance of moral and ethical issues raised by him however, remain central to the future of individuals and nations. Today we need him, more than before. It was with this aim of analyzing Mahatma Gandhi in a new perspective that the Sangrahalaya came up with the theme of the Seminar. The Seminar was well attended by the Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya, Shri Narayan Basu and other Members of the Committee, personnel from institutions related to Mahatma Gandhi, Faculty Members of the Department of Museology University of Calcutta and Rabindra Bharati University, distinguished scholars and research fellows from different Universities. The Inaugural Session of the programme was presided by Shri Narayan Basu, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya whereas the Welcome Address was delivered by the Director-Secretary of the Sangrahalaya Shri Pratik Ghosh. The Keynote Address was delivered by Shri A. Annamalai, Director National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi while the Valedictory Address was delivered by Shri Pawan Gupta, eminent Gandhian Scholar. The speakers of the Inaugural Session included Professor Sachindra Nath Bhattacharyya, Former Professor, Department of Museology, University of Calcutta, Dr. Shyamalkanti Chakravarti, Former Director, Indian Museum and National Library, Kolkata, Shri A. Annamalai and Shri Pawan Gupta. At the end of the Inaugural Session the Key Note Address was delivered by Shri A. Annamalai. There were a total of three (3) academic sessions following the Inaugural Session, chaired ably by Dr. Shyamalkanti Chakravarti, Professor Sakti Bhattacharya, Retired Director, Institute of English, Kolkata and Shri A. Annamalai. In all ten (10) papers were presented at the Seminar which gave interesting and diverse views on the theme of the Seminar. Finally, the Valedictory Address was delivered by Shri Pawan Kumar Gupta, Eminent Gandhian Scholar. The Seminar was a success and left room for thought for everyone to analyze Gandhiji in a new perspective and consideration of the significance and efficacy of Gandhian philosophy in today's world.





➤ Other Activities

- ❖ ***International Seminar on the topic 'Community Participation in Museological Practices' in collaboration with the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta: (02/12/2015):***

The Department of Museology, University of Calcutta organized an international Seminar on the topic 'Community Participation in Museological Practices' in collaboration with the Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore on the 2nd of December at the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta, 1, Reformatory Street, Kolkata, where the Sangrahalaya sponsored the kits for the seminar. The inaugural session was chaired by Professor Samir Kumar Das, Dean Faculty of Arts, University of Calcutta. The welcome address was delivered by the Head of the Department, Department of Museology, University of Calcutta while the Inaugural Address was delivered by Professor Swagata Sen, Pro-Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), University of Calcutta. Retired Professors of the Department of Museology were felicitated in the inaugural session. In the subsequent sessions several valuable papers on the theme were presented by the faculty members of the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta as well as a number of eminent museum personnel including Dr. Stephen Inglis, Former Executive Director, Cree Cultural Institute, Quebec, Canada who also happens to be a former student of the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta. Dr.

Inglis presented a paper on Opportunities for Museums of the Future: Exciting New Linkages between the National and the Local. The Secretary of the Sangrahalaya presented a paper titled Community Participation Initiatives at Gandhi Memorial Museum, Barrackpore.



❖ ***Participation in the Secretaries' Conference of All India Gandhi Museums : (09/12/2015 and 10/12/2015)***

The Secretaries' Conference of the different Gandhi Sangrahalayas of the country, under the Gandhi Sangrahalaya Samiti, RajGhat, New Delhi, was hosted this year by the Mani Bhawan Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Mumbai from the 9th to the 10th of December, 2015 where almost all the Gandhi Sangrahalayas participated except the National Gandhi, Museum, New Delhi.

The Secretary of the Mani Bhawan Gandhi Sangrahalaya inaugurated the conference on the 9th December and he presented the prayer songs on Gandhiji. Shri Roji Ahmed, Chairman of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya Patna presided over the conference. After the inaugural session was over, each Sangrahalaya presented report of its activities for the present financial year. It has been found that all the Sangrahalayas are trying their best to utilize the resources for the cause the responsibility of which has been given to them.

The later part of the conference was not only rejuvenating but at the same time highly educative too. Shri Ajgaokarji, Secretary of the Mani Bhawan Gandhi Sangrahalaya could claim the credit for this. All the participants at the

conference were taken to the Elephanta Caves, a famous heritage site of Mumbai from where they learnt a lot about the culture of old Mumbai.



❖ ***Participation in the Environment Awareness Day Celebration (01/01/2016):***

The Sangrahalaya participated in the Environment Awareness Day Celebrations which were organized by the Frontline Society, Barrackpore, an NGO in association with the Sangrahalaya and many more institutions such as Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore, Sub Divisional Information and Cultural Office, Barrackpore and many local schools and colleges.

The programme began with a procession that walked from Talpukur, Barrackpore to the 1st Battalion Ground, Lat Bagan. The procession included members of the Frontline Society, students of different schools and colleges,

volunteers and general citizens. The procession ended at the 1st Battalion Ground, State Armed Police, Lat Bagan, Barrackpore where the main programme was scheduled to be held. The main programme consisted of speech by distinguished speakers which included the Chairman of the Sangrahalaya, Swami Nityarupananda Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission Barrackpore and many more. There was a cultural programme at the end of the function.



❖ **Participation at the Kolkata Book Fair 2016**

The Sangrahalaya participated in the Kolkata Book Fair this year held from 27th January, 2016 to 8th February, 2016 and shared a stall with 'Janasarthha Barta', a reputed journal of West Bengal to sell its publications. Shri Himanshu Halder, the Editor of 'Janasarthha Barta', extended his sincere cooperation.

The Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore is presently considered to be a Model Museum complete museological aspects and services. As a result the students of the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta are sent here for an Internship of three (3) months after obtaining their Post Graduate degree, but before receiving their certificates.

Five internees have been sent from 15th February, 2016 by the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta and they will complete their internship by May 15, 2016.

❖ ***Presentation of the Rajendra Lal Mitra Memorial Award, Rampran Gupta Memorial Award and deliverance of the Rajendra Lal Mitra Memorial Lecture (17/ 02/ 2016)***

Observance of the ceremony for the presentation of the Rajendra Lal Mitra Memorial Award, Rampran Gupta Memorial Award and the deliverance of the Rajendra Lal Mitra Award was organized jointly by the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Kolkata and the Paschimbanga Sangrahalaya Samity in association with Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore on 17th February, 2016 at the auditorium of the Bangiya Sahitya Parishad, Kolkata. Rajendra Lal Mitra was a famous Archaeologist, Essayist and Museologist and Rampran Gupta was a renowned historian both of whom have been nearly forgotten by the posterity. In order to make posterity aware of these two renowned personalities, the function was arranged to give the award constituted in the Memory of these two eminent personalities. The recipient of the Rajendra Lal Mitra Memorial Award and the deliverer of the Rajendra Lal Mitra Memorial Lecture was Shri Hemendu Bikash Chowdhury and the recipient of the Rampran Gupta Memorial Award was Shri Ashok Upadhyay. The Chairman and the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya were both invited as guests of honour and the Secretary put forward his valuable opinion on the occasion.

❖ ***Internship:***

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❖ **Special Visit:**

• **Eminent Visitors:**

Every year the Sangrahalaya is visited by a number of eminent visitors from every field of the society. They include scholars, defence personnel, bureaucrats and other government officials. This financial year witnessed the visit of quite a few such eminent personalities. Their names are given below:

- *Smt. Shreya Guha, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Culture, Government of India*
- *Shri A. Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi*
- *Shri Pawan Gupta, eminent Gandhian Scholar, Musoorie.*
- *Shri K. Jayaraman (IPS), SVS Police Academy, Barrackpore.*
- *Shri R. Ananth, Expenditure Observer, Election Commission of India.*



▪ **Visit by Student Groups –**

Regular visit by school groups is an essential feature of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya. The school groups are entertained with a set of programmes designed for them if the Sangrahalaya is informed beforehand.

- *A School group consisting of thirty nine (39) students and four (4) teachers of Kanaipur Sree Guru High School, Rishra visited the Sangrahalaya on the 23rd of June 2015. The students were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and then given a questionnaire on life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. They were also shown the documentary film show 'Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement in India' from the collection of the Sangrahalaya. The two students who scored the highest and second highest in answering the questionnaire were awarded prizes.*
- *The students of classes V to IX and teachers of Calcutta Public School, Bidhan Park, Dum Dum, Kolkata, visited the Sangrahalaya on the 5th of December for an educational excursion. The entire group consisted of near about one hundred and seventy (170) visitors including one hundred and sixty (160) students and ten (10) teachers. The visitors were given a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya. After the tour they were shown an animated Biography of Mahatma Gandhi and later they participated in a spot quiz on Mahatma Gandhi. The winners were given prizes that consisted of books and CDs published by the Sangrahalaya.*
- *A group of twenty eight (28) students and five (5) teachers of Ishwar Chandra(Cantonment Board) Primary School, Barrackpore came to visit the Sangrahalaya on the 18th of December, 2015. They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary, titled '**Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement in India**' from the collection of the Sangrahalaya.*

- *dents of the Kendriya Vidyalaya Barrackpore (AFS) came to the Sangrahalaya as part of their educational tour. A total of one hundred and fifty students (150) students came with seven (7) teachers on 21st December, 2015 The students got a glimpse of the life and works of Gandhiji from the guided tour provided to them in two (2) batches. Later they were shown the documentary, titled **'Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement in India'** from the collection of the Sangrahalaya.*
- *About one hundred and thirty two (132) students of Jogesh Chandra Chowdhury College, Prince Anwar Shah Road, Kolkata paid a visit to the Sangrahalaya along with 13 teachers of their college on 23rd November, 2015. They visited the galleries under the guidance of the guide lecturer of the Sangrahalaya and were shown the documentary, titled **'Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement in India'** from the collection of the Sangrahalaya.*





