

**Annual Report of Activities of the  
Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, for the year  
2010-11, ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2011.**

Museums, conceptually, have made sea-changes over centuries incur prorating in the process all the helpful technological innovations, inventions and developments to make these more attractive and beneficial for the students and scholars in particulars and the community at large. Museums have now reached almost every household all over the globe through the electronic medium by developing softwares that make people aware of the collections and wares the museums possess and consult to obtain specific informations they require.

Keeping this in view the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, has developed this financial year a software on the total collection of the Sangrahalaya titled 'Gandhi Museum Resource Information System'. The total cost involved had been Rs. 36,000/- (rupees thirty six thousand) and it will be put into the Sangrahalaya's Internet and website soon.

Another remarkable land mark that marked this year's activities was the observance of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday in a very innovative way befitting a museum. The Sangrahalaya developed a 'Presentation' (short video clipping) on the sweet relationship between Gandhiji and the Gurudev with original movie-materials from its Archive. This was first shown at the Sangrahalaya's auditorium on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 and later on this had been borrowed and shown at different seminars and functions organized by many colleges and other institutions drawing appreciation from the viewers.

We have, however, to report before enumerating our activities this financial year the loss we have sustained in the sudden demise of our erstwhile while chairman of the Managing Committee, Dr. Tapas Kumar Banerjee, on the 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2009. A good man of God, Dr. Banerjee endeared whoever came in his contact by his peaceful composure and sweet smile and his knowledge about eminent personalities from all walks of life and events had been remarkable and treat to hear and enhance one's knowledge. Let his soul rest in peace. Sri Narayan Basu, Freedom Fighter, Journalist, Organizer and Social Activist, is presently the Chairman of the Sangrahalaya's Managing Committee.

Mentioned below, in short, the activities of this Sangrahalaya undertaken in the financial year under review.

**A) Publications:** a) Bengali translation of Mrs. Millie Graham Pollock's book in English 'Gandhi the Man' translated by Late Dr. Tapas Kumar Banerjee, hard bound

number of pages being 28 and the cost is Rs. 60/- (rupees sixty) per copy, first impression 500 copies.

**b)** 2 (two) Issues of our bi-lingual journal 'Gandhi Sangbad/Gandhi News', the contributors being eminent Academicians like Prof. Amalendu De, Prof. Jahar Sen, Dr. Ashish Nandi, Prof. Tapas Chattopadhyay, Swami Someswarananda, Dr. Sajal Basu, Prof. Shyamalesh Das, Sri B.G. Verghese the eminent Journalist, etc.. Reminiscences of Late Charuprabha Sengupta, eminent Freedom Fighter and Constructive Worker who came in contact with Gandhiji in the thirties and forties of the last century and of Late Krhitish Roy, a close Associate of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Organizing Secretary of the National Gandhi Museum, preserved in the Sangrahalaya's Archives, were also published.

**B) Programme:** *a) Observance of Gandhiji's 142<sup>nd</sup> Birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010 and Presentation of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award and Deliverance of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration:*

The Sangrahalaya celebrated Mahatma Gandhi's 142<sup>nd</sup> Birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010, with the presentation of the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award and deliverance of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration at a whole day function held at the Sangrahalaya. This year the Award comprising of Rs. 10,000/- (rupees ten thousand) in cash and a Silver Salver, etc., was given to eminent Researcher in Folk Literature and Folk Culture Sri Bireswar Bandopadhyay and Prof. Dr. Amalendu De, eminent Historian, delivered the Oration. Prof. Iva Bhattacharya rendered songs from her own script on the life of Mahatma Gandhi to conclude the function. The programme was very well attended and some of our Members of the Managing Committee were present. Doordarshan Kendra, Kolkata, covered the programme and telecast some portions of it the same evening.

*b) Observance of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday:*

On the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2010, the Sangrahalaya organized a function to celebrate the 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the Poet Laureate Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore with thought provoking lectures on him and musical voice. At the outset a 'Presentation' on the sweet relationship between Gandhiji and Tagore, prepared by the Sangrahalaya, was screened. The auditorium was packed to the capacity and some of our Managing Committee Members were also present. Prof. Hossainur Rahman's speech on Tagore's with his usual erudition enthralled all. Sri Narayan Basu, Chairman, Managing Committee, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, presided.

*c) Seminar on the Mahatma & the Poet:*

With the collaborative assistance of Uttarpara Raja Peary Mohan College and its highly knowledgeable Principal and Professors the Sangrahalaya jointly organized a

whole day seminar on Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi on the 10<sup>th</sup> November, 2010. Senior Professors drawn from the Universities of Calcutta, Rabindra Bharati, Viswa Bharati, Burdwan, and Prof. Hossainur Rahman eminent Academician and Members of our Managing Committee, spoke on the different aspects of the Gurudev and the Mahatma, their contributions and above all their unique relationship. The whole programme was a very fruit full exercise and the audience comprised of professors and senior students of the college. The Sangrahalaya expresses its gratitude to Prof. Sarmistha Nath and Prof. Sanjukta Bhattacharya for their whole hearted contributions to make the programme a glowing success.

*d) Seminar to celebrate Gurudev Tagore's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the Bhaivab Ganguli College, Belgharia:*

The Sangrahalaya lent its services to organize a seminar to observe Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's 150<sup>th</sup> Birthday at the Bhaivab Ganguli College, Belgharia, North 24-Praganas, on the 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 2010. The speakers were mainly drawn from the College and the Sangrahalaya arranged to screen the 'Presentation' it has prepared on the sweet relationship between Tagore and Gandhiji at the outset.

*e) Seminar on 'Gandhiji & Terrorism':*

With the Collaboration of Naihati Rajib Gandhi Memorial Society the Sangrahalaya organized a seminar on 'Gandhiji & Terrorism' on the 21<sup>st</sup> February, 2010, to make people aware of the menace of terrorism and violence and show means to combat these through Gandhiji's thoughts, programmes and endeavors. Sri Narayan Basu, Chairman, presided and speakers included Dr. Ratan Nandi, ex-Teacher-in-Charge, Rishi Bamkim College Naihati, Sri Dhilan Sarkar, Chairman, Naihati Municipality and the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya. Sri Gour Das, Secretary, Naihati Rajib Gandhi Memorial Society, moderated the whole discussions. It was well attended.

*f) Observance of 'Bano Mahotsab' (International Forest Day):*

Douglas Memorial School, Barrackpore and the Sangrahalaya jointly organized a tree plantation programme in the Sangrahalaya garden on the 9<sup>th</sup> June, 2010, and skit and musical soirees were performed by the students of the school to make people aware about the importance of trees and forests in our lives and well-preserved environment.

*g) Dramatization of Satinath Bhaduri's 'Dhorai Charit Manash':*

The Sangrahalaya helped 'Noutanki' a drama-unit and its Director Sri Abhisek Basu to stage Satinath Bhaduri's famous novel on the rising of the Dalits under the inspiration of Mahatma Gandhi's teachings and methods on the 2<sup>nd</sup> January, 2011, at

the Girish Mancha, Bagbazar, Kolkata. Later on eminent Literary Personality Sri Sunil Ganguli highly appreciated the presentation.

*h) Observance of the Birthday of Jaya Prakash Narayan:*

The Sangrahalaya assisted Indian News Service, Yuger Duk and some other organizations to organize a seminar at the Mahabodhi Society, College Square, Kolkata, to observe Jaya Prakash Narayan's Birthday on 11<sup>th</sup> October, 2010. Speakers included Dr. Sajal Basu, Sri Kironmoy Nanda, Secretary of the Sangrahalaya and host of others.

*i) Children's Fair:*

The Sangrahalaya lent its infra-structure to Barrackpore Barta, a fortnightly Journal, to organize a Children's Fair at the premises of the Sangrahalaya on the 9<sup>th</sup> January, 2010. The programme included Children's art and skit competitions, exhibitions on (i) the life and works of Acharyya Prafulla Chanda Ray, (ii) evolution of the Indian National Flag and (iii) mountaineering. Around four hundred children participated in the competitions and prize were given by the Sub-divisional officer, Barrackpore, S.D.P.O., Barrackpore, etc.. Many people, local and outside, visited the exhibitions throughout the day.

*j) Public meeting to celebrate historic August Revolution:*

On the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, the Sangrahalaya collaborated with the Indian News Service and Juger Dak, Kolkata – 13, to organize a public meeting on the 9<sup>th</sup> August, 2010, at the 'August Kranti Memorial Columns' erected near the Srimani Market in North Kolkata, to celebrate the August Revolution, also known as the Quit India Movement. On 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1942, Aditya Sengupta and 2 others were killed in police firing for defying police order. Apart from recounting the glorious event, its significance and lessons that can be derived even today, glowing tributes were paid to the memories of the Martyrs by public leaders, academicians, social activists including veteran Socialist Leader and Freedom Fighter Sri Janmenjoy Ojha, Dr. Sajal Basu, the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya. Prof. Prabodh Sinha presided, etc..

*k) Visit by Students and Faculty Members from different Universities & Colleges, etc.:*

This is an annual feature. Students and Professors of the Department of Museology of the Calcutta and Rabindra Bharati Universities visit the Sangrahalaya on mutually convenient dates, regarded as educational tour also. The Students are also asked to prepare a Tour Report which carry 10 marks during the final viva-examination. This year the students and Professors of the Dept. of Museology, Calcutta University visited on 10-04-2010.

*l) Guest Lectureship:*

The Secretary continues to be a Guest Lecturer at the Dept. of Museology and also in the M.A. Course in Buddhist Studies, both belonging to Calcutta University. He also lectured at the State University, Barasat, and numerous colleges, etc..

**D) T.V. Shootings and Telecast and Radio Broadcast about the Sangrahalaya & interview of the Secretary:**

- i) 04-10-2010 - Calcutta (C) T.V.
- ii) 28-01-2011 – Recording by All India Radio, Kolkata, for its 30<sup>th</sup> January Programme.
- iii) 10-02-2011 – By Aakash Bangla, Kolkata, for it 'Cholo Jai' Programme.
- iv) 11-07-2010 – By Aakash Bangla, Kolkata.

**E) Talks and write ups of the Secretary:**

- i) 03-09-2010 – At the Bhairab Ganguli College, Belgharia, Kolkata, on Gandhiji & Tagore.
- ii) 11-10-2010 – On Jaya Prakash Narayan at the Mahabodhi Society.
- iii) 11-10-2010 – Dept. of Pali, University of Calcutta, College Street Campus, on Gandhiji & Gautama Buddha.
- iv) 20-10-2010 – At the Ananda Niketan, Bagan, Howrah – on Gandhiji.
- v) 03-01-2011 – At the Dept. of History, University of Calcutta, on Gandhiji's Education, Peace & Non-violence.
- vi) 23-01-2011 – At the Indian Medical Association on contributions of Netaji, Pt. Neheru and Jaya Prakash Narayan on the Indian Freedom Movement – a comparative study.
- vii) 31-01-2011 – Interview by all India Radio, Kolkata, on Gandhiji's relevance today.
- viii) 30-01-2011 – At the Beliaghata Gandhi Bhavan, organized by W.B. Gandhi Peace Foundation – 'Significance of Gandhiji's Death'.

- ix) 21-02-2011 – Significance of the International Mother Tongue Day at Sukanta Sadan, Barrackpore, organized by the Barrackpore Municipality.

Also many article on Gandhiji, allied themes, etc., in different journals and Puja Numbers, etc..

#### **F) Observance of Important National Day's:**

Like previous years the Sangrahalaya observed in befitting manners Mahatma Gandhi's 142<sup>nd</sup> Birthday on the 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2010 with a public meeting at the Sangrahalaya, the Independence Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> August, Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore's Birthday on the 9<sup>th</sup> May, 2010 and Netaji's Birthday on the 23 January, 2010. On all these days the Sangrahalaya was kept open from 9:30 am for the visitors.

#### **G) Library:**

The library has also grown with new books, both purchased and received as gifts. Some rare books have been bound, laminated and photo copies of these were done for preservation. Presently the pest control of books is done directly by us.

No. of Books: Around 12,000

No. of Visitors: 15,000

No. of Readers: 1600

No. of Journals: Subscribed: 15, Gifts: 17

Daily News Papers: 3

Press-clippings of important news and write ups are carried out regularly.

#### **H) Research Scholars and eminent Personalities, using the Library:**

- a) Dr. Tapas Kumar Banerjee.
- b) Prof. Hossainur Rahman.
- c) Prof Jahar Sen.
- d) Dr. Sajal Basu.
- e) Dr. Suparna Guptoo.
- f) Prof. Sandip Das.
- g) Prof. Kanai Pada Roy.
- h) Dr. P.M. Roy.
- i) Prof. Dhruva Narayan Banerjee.
- j) Prof. Sukanya Sarkar.
- k) Prof. Anindita Banerjee.
- l) Prof. Sarmistha Nath.
- m) Prof. Manjushree Mukherjee.
- n) Prof. Somasree Ghosh.

- o) Prof. Soma Dhar.
- p) Prof. Sima Roy, and  
host of students doing their Ph.D & M.Phils at various Universities.

**Prof. Supriya Munshi,**  
*Secretary,*  
*GANDHI SMARAK SANGRAHALAYA,*  
*BARRACKPORE.*