

Annual Report of Activities of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore for the year 2013-14, from 1st April, 2013 to 31st March, 2014.

The financial year 2013-14, was one of rejuvenation for the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore on the 31st August, 2013, the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, sent us Rupees two crores (Rs. 2,00,000,00/-) to augment the Sangrahalaya's income and the annual interest accruing from its investment in F.D. at the Uco Bank, Barrackpore Branch, as Corpus Fund, was directed to be utilized for expenses other than for any administrative purpose. This would, inter alia, be utilized for revival and improvement of the services and programmes the Sangrahalaya had been carrying on for the benefit of students, scholars and visitors and discontinued due to paucity of funds, undertake better visitor-amenities and arrange for treatment, preservation and upkeep of Sangrahalaya's collections including historic photographs and rare books in the Library including lamination, etc..

The Sangrahalaya this financial year was favoured with visit of the Union Minister in Charge of the Ministry of Culture hon'ble Mrs. Chandresh Kumari Katoch along with Mrs. Sreya Guha, I.A.S., Jt. Secretary in the Ministry and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, O.S.D., in the later part of the financial year under review.

Mentioned below a short resume of activities of the Sangrahalaya during the financial year 2013-14:

1. **No. of Visitors:** Around 50,000 persons
2. **Preservation of historical photographs:** The remaining numbers of photographs, around 350, were treated by Color Magic in this financial year.
3. **Publications:** The Sangrahalaya could bring out three (3) Issues of its Journal Gandhi Sangrahalaya / Gandhi News with contributions from eminent Scholars. Besides this the Sangrahalaya helped numerous scholars for their doctoral or post-doctoral works, publications, etc.. Students from different Universities and colleges also used the library, etc..

The Secretary wrote prefaces to two (2) Publications- (1) Gandhiji's Jail terms in South Africa by Sri Parimal De and (2) Gandhiji & Communal Harmony by Ananda Prasad Roy.

4. **Repairs:** The remaining portions of the Sangrahalaya – building were repaired, particularly the roof.

5. **Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award & Oration organized on the 2nd October, 2013:**

This year the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award was given to Sri Bimal Chanda Pal, eminent Gandhian Constructive worker and Secretary, Sram Vidyapith, Belda, Midnapur.

The Mahatma Gandhi Memorial oration was delivered by Prof. Hasi Banerjee of the Department of History, Calcutta University. She spoke about relationship between Gandhiji and Mirabeau.

6. Seminars, Lectures, etc., date wise – organized by us or with our financial support or arranged by numerous Colleges, Voluntary, Organizations, etc..

06-04-2013 :

Seminar organized by Dr. B.C. Roy Memorial Society, Simurali, Nadia, with the topic “Contemporary Relevance of Mahatma Gandhi”. We bore all the expenses. Speakers included the local M.L.A., Academicians and Social Activists. Sri Pasupati Adhikari, President of the Society conducted. It was well-attended.

23-04-2013 :

Seminar at the Sangrahalaya Rabindra Bhaban organized by the Shyamnagar Kirtichandra H.S. School to observe its Centenary. Speakers included Secretary of the Sangrahalaya, Prof. Dhrunajyoti Chattopadhyay, Pro-V.C. (Academic) of the Calcutta University, etc..

02-05-2013 :

Seminar on Environment Awareness at the Rabindra Bhaban, Shymnagar, organized by the West Bengal Pollution Control Board. Speakers included the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya, Chairman of the West Bengal Pollution Control Board, etc..

25-05-2013 :

Seminar at Birla Academy of Art & Culture, Southern Avenue, Kolkata, on the State of the Province. Speakers included the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya, Smt. Amala Shankar, the famous Dancer, etc..

22-06-2013 :

Programme organized by the Sub-Divisional Information & Culture Department at the Rastuguru Surendranath Library in Which Speakers included the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya. Mrs. Manju Basu, Local M.L.A., Sri Malay Ghose, Chairman, North Barrackpore Municipality, etc..

09-07-2013 :

Seminar organized by the Sub-Divisional Officer's office at Titagarh Municipality on Environment. Speakers included the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya, etc..

02-08-2013 :

Two-day U.G.C. sponsored Seminar on Sri Aurobinda organized by the Bamanpukur Humayan Kabir Mahavidyalaya, near Minakhan, Sundraban. Speakers included the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya and many academicians.

10-08-2013 :

6-day Orientation Course on Indian Culture and Tradition for teachers of different Army Schools. The Secretary of the Sangrahalaya inaugurated the Course at the Army School, Barrackpore.

23-09-2013 :

Seminar organized by Krishnanath School, Titagarh, to celebrate hundred years of the School. The Secretary of the Sangrahalaya had been one of the speakers.

28-09-2013 :

ICOM-INC Day-Long Seminar at the Sangrahalaya on 'Gandhism in Indian Scenario and Role of Museums' – organized jointly by INC-ICOM and the Sangrahalaya. The key note Address was given by the Secretary

of the Sangrahalaya and the Speakers included Dr. Shyamal Kanti Chakravarty, Prof. Atul Chandra Bhowmik, Prof. Sachindra Nath Bhattacharyya, Dr. M.K. Nayar, Secretary INC-ICOM and host of others drawn from museums, etc.. Dr. Arun Chatterjee, President, INC-ICOM presided.

02-10-2013:

145th Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award & Oration:

On the 2nd October, 2013 the Sangrahalaya organized the 17th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award and Oration to mark the 145th Birthday of the Mahatma. The fuction was held at the Mural Gallery of the Sangrahalaya and the Recipient of the year's Award was Shri Bimal Pal, eminent Gandhian Conructive Worker, Theoretician, Sarvodaya Leader and Secretary, Sram Vidyapith, Belda, West Midnapur, a pre-independence Constructive Work Institution. The Oration was given by Prof. Hasi Banerjee of the Department of History, University of Calcutta and she spoke on the relationship between Gandhiji & Mirabehn. Shri Narayan Basu. Chairman, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Managing Committee, presided and Members of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Managing Committee, were also present.

25-10-2013:

Ichapur Frontline Society in collaboration with the Sangrahalaya organized a Seminar on Environment – Awareness at the Sangrahalaya. Academicians, Activists, etc., participated and the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya presided.

10-12-2013:

The History Department of the South Calcutta Girls' College invited the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya to speak on the 'Role of Gandhiji in the Indian National Movement'. The Principal of the college presided.

19-01-2014:

Seminar at Garur Phari, Garifa, North 24 pgs, organized by Naihati Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Society on 'Nelson Mandela & Mahatma Gandhi' Shri Narayan Basu, Chairman, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Managing Committee presided and the speakers included Dr. Ratan Nandi, former Teacher-in-Charge, Naihati Rishi Bamkimchandra College and the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya. Shri Gour Das, Secretary, Rajiv Gandhi Memorial Society, moderated.

23-01-2014:

Netaji Subhas Chandra Basu's Birthday function organized by the S.D.O., Barrackpore, at the Administrative Building. The Secretary was the principal speaker.

25-01-2014:

The S.D.O.'s office convened at the Administrative Building a seminar to celebrate Voters' Day. The principal speakers were the S.D.O., the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya and other dignitaries from all walks of life.

01-02-2014:

Visit of the Hon'ble Minister in Charge of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India:

Mrs. Chandresh Kumari Katoch, Hon'ble Minister in Charge of the Ministry of Culture, Government of India, paid us a visit. She was accompanied by Mrs. Sreya Guha, I.A.S., Jt. Secretary in the Ministry of Culture and Dr. Rajesh Kumar, O.S.D.. Most of the Members of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya including the Chairman Shri Narayan Basu were present on the occasion.

21-04-2014:

The Secretary of the Sangrahalaya was invited by the State University, Barasat, to Speak on 'Peace' to the Faculty and students of the University. The Faculty included Prof. Richard Sharp from Ford Foundation.

24-03-2014:

2-days International Seminar organized by the Dept. Museology, University of Calcutta, at the auditorium of the Indian Statistical Institute:

The Department of Museology, University of Calcutta, organized a 2-day International seminar at the Centenary Auditorium of the Indian Statistical Institute, Baranagar on the 24th & 25th March, 2014. Participants from Sri Lanka, Thailand and Bangladesh and Professors, Research Scholars and Students from the University of Calcutta deliberated on the Topic – "Museum in motion – Ideas, Issues and Challenges". The Sangrahalaya contributed Rupees fifteen thousand (Rs. 15,000/-) towards

arrangement for kits for the participants. The Secretary of the Sangrahalaya presented a Paper (Museums – a Challenge for & to the Society) and presided over the 3rd Session on 24-03-2014.

28-03-2014:

Selection of Guide Lectures for the Sangrahalaya:

The Sangrahalaya proposed to appoint one Guide Lecture each on rotational basis for 3 / 4 months from ex-students of the Dept. of Museology of Calcutta University from this financial year and sought the assistance of the Dept. of Museology to select candidates. For this on 28-03-2014 interview was arranged for interested candidates at the Dept. of Museology, Alipur Campus and Shri Narayan Basu, Chairman of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, Managing Committee, Dr. Shyamal Kanti Chakravarty, Museum – Expert and Senior Member of the Managing Committee of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, Secretary of the Sangrahalaya and Professors of the Department were present and took interviews of the candidates.

31-03-2014:

The Sangrahalaya lent its infrastructure and also hosted the All India Naturopathy Institute, New Delhi, Annual General Meeting at the Sangrahalaya on 31-03-2014 & 01-04-2014. The participants included Shri Ramchandra Rahi, Secretary. All India Gandhi Samrak Nidhi, Prof. Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum, Dr. Abhdesb Prasad Mirhra, Secretary of the Institute and Representatives from different provinces, working on Naturopathy patronized and practiced by Gandhiji himself.

Beside these the Sangrahalaya celebrated the Independence Day, Tagore's Birthday, Netaji's Birthday and obviously Mahatma Gandhi's 145th Birthday in befitting manners.

The secretary continues to be the Visiting Lecturer at the Dept. of Museology, University of Calcutta, and Fellow at the Gandhian Studies Centre, Calcutta University and also taught at some other Universities.

The Library has also grown with purchase of new books and pest-control is carried out regularly.

(SUPRIYA MUNSHI)