

Annual Report of Activities for the Year of 2016-2017



(Till the 31st March, 2017)



GANDHI SMARAK SANGRAHALAYA, BARRACKPORE

(Gandhi Memorial Museum, Barrackpore)

14, Riverside Road, Barrackpore, Kolkata-700120

Website : www.gandhimuseum.in

E-mail : gandhimuseum.120@gmail.com

Ph. No. : (033) 2592-0170

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES
FOR THE YEAR OF 2016-2017
(Till the 31st March, 2017)



GANDHI SMARAK SANGRAHALAYA, BARRACKPORE
(Gandhi Memorial Museum, Barrackpore)
14, Riverside Road, Barrackpore
Kolkata-700120

List of Committee Members for the year of 2016-17

1. *Shri Narayan Basu*
Chairman
2. *Dr. Shyamalkanti Chakravarti*
Member
3. *Shri Salil Kumar Gupta*
Member
4. *Dr. Maya Ghose*
Member
5. *Shri Madhusudan Ghosh*
Member
6. *Professor Jahar Sen*
Member
7. *Professor Hossainur Rahman*
Member
8. *Shri Satyendra Nath Mukherjee*
Member
9. *Shri Debajyoti Dutta*
Member
10. *Shri Pratik Ghosh*
Director-Secretary

The Report of Activities : 2016-17 **(1st April, 2016 - 31st March, 2017)**

True to its objective the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore has succeeded in preserving and protecting the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi through multifarious programmes and activities for the community. The current financial year witnessed the completion of the first phase of work of the two galleries of the Sangrahalaya with new modes of display combined with audio-visual aids. The renovation and upgradation work of the Sangrahalaya's building was funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India and the contract for the renovation work had been given to National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata, who have successfully completed the work through their unit Creative Museum Designs. The newly modified galleries were opened to the public on the occasion of the Centenary year celebration of Champaran Satyagraha on April 18, 2017.

In terms of programmes, projects and activities, the current financial year has been a very dynamic one with multifarious activities. The Sangrahalaya has indulged in different categories of educational activities ranging from scholarly programmes to programmes for the community at large and from in-house programmes to outreach programmes for schools in remote rural areas. A short summary of the activities of the Sangrahalaya in the financial year 2016-17 has been enumerated below.

1. Number of Visitors :

Near about 50,000 visitors visited the Sangrahalaya, including those who participated in the various programmes organized by the Sangrahalaya or utilized its services.

2. Eminent Speakers in Programmes :

- I. Professor Pradip Bhattacharya, Honourable Member of Parliament, Government of India.
- II. Sardar Amjad Ali, Former Member of Parliament, Government of India.

- III. Professor Rabiranjana Chattopadhyay, Former Minister, Department of Science and Technology, Government of West Bengal.
- IV. Shri A. Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi
- V. Professor Tapati Mukherjee, Adhyakha, Rabindra Bhavana, Director, Culture and Cultural Relations, Visva-Bharati, Santiniketan.
- VI. Dr. Swapan Sur, Former OSD, Mother Dairy.
- VII. Shri Pranab Ghosh, Ichhamati Milk Union Limited, Government of West Bengal.
- VIII. Shri Mukut Roy Chowdhury, Former District Fishery Officer, Government of West Bengal.
- IX. Shri P. Dhanasekaran, Principal, Burdwan Institute of Medical and Life Science.
- X. Professor Ashok Kumar Mukhopadhyay, former Subhash Chandra Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Calcutta.
- XI. Shri Swapan Kumar Chakraborty, Headmaster, Bhadrpara Gilarchhat High School, Raidighi, South 24 Parganas.

3. Newly Acquired Assets :

- a) Eight display panels in Roll-Up Standee for the Exhibition Set '*Satyagraher Satyanusandhan*' (The Story of Satyagraha by Mahatma Gandhi) portable and convenient for mobile exhibitions.
- b) One Desktop Computer for cataloging of the books in the library of the Sangrahalaya.

4. Library :

The present financial year witnessed the growth of the library with the addition of new books (both by purchase as well as gifts) and periodicals thereby attracting the attention of a number of readers, scholars and visitors. At present the number of books at the library of the Sangrahalaya is approximately a little above 12,180.

5. The Sangrahalaya has successfully published four (4) issues of its bilingual Museum bulletin 'Gandhi Sangbad/Gandhi News.' The contributors included eminent Scholars from a number of disciplines of social sciences.

6. Setting up of Temporary Exhibition Set on Satyagraha Movements in India by Mahatma Gandhi :

During this financial year the Sangrahalaya has successfully set up a temporary exhibition set on '*Satyagraher Satyanusandhan*' (The Story of the different Movements in Indian Freedom Movement where Satyagraha was employed by Mahatma Gandhi as a means for fighting against the British Government).

7. Programmes and Activities :

a) Birthday Celebrations of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore (08/05/2016)

The Birthday Celebrations of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore was observed by the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, on May 8, 2016, at its premises. A programme was arranged to mark the occasion which took place in the evening from 4 p.m. The programme was based on the theme '*Tomay Notun Kore Pabo Bole*' highlighting the sweet and intimate relation between Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi. The programme started with the garlanding of the photograph of Rabindranath and Gandhiji, by the members of the Managing Committee of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore and other eminent persons present at the programme. A humble tribute was paid to Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on behalf of the Sangrahalaya by the





members of its staff with the item termed '*Amar Rabindranath*' based on the poem on Tagore by Subho Dasgupta and songs written by Tagore. A Musical Soiree based on the relation between Tagore and Gandhiji was performed by

the cultural group *Muktangan Sanskritik Samsthha* from Barrackpore. Finally, a unique programme of *kabir larai* (a competition between folk artists of impromptu folk songs composed

and sung on the spot based on a particular theme) based on the relation between

Gandhiji and Tagore took place. The *kabir larai* was performed by Sri Radha Krishna Tarja Samsthha headed by



Kabiyal Jadab Chandra Mondal and his associates Kabiyal Mahadev Halder and Smt. Rama Halder and *Dhol* (indigenous drum of Bengal) player Sri Monoranjan Sarkar.

The programme received a lot of positive response from the audience especially the kabir larai which is a folk art that is fast dying out due to lack of new artists and if care is not taken to preserve it then it is certain to fall into disuse and be lost into oblivion.

b) **An Informal 'Adda' with the Senior Citizens of a local Old-Age Home, involving exchange of thought about the life and activities of Mahatma Gandhi and Indian Freedom Movement (25/06/2016)**

The Sangrahalaya organized a programme for the senior citizens involving the mutual exchange of thought about the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi as well as their personal experiences about the



Freedom Movement of our Country, at its premises on June 25, 2016. The inmates of the local Old Age Home Bholananda Bridhashram were invited to the Sangrahalaya for the programme. 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. A Notebook for their personal use, based on the life and activities of Gandhiji in photographs and text was released by the two senior most inmates from among the ladies and gentlemen. Finally, the inmates and the staff of the Sangrahalaya sat down for an informal chat that involved exchange of the experiences of the senior citizens about seeing Gandhiji in person, the Freedom Movement of India and other incidents of the bygone era. The response from the inmates of the Bridhashram was overwhelming and the programme was a great success.



c) **Celebration of 70th Independence Day (15/08/2016)**

The 70th Independence Day

was celebrated on August 15, 2016 at the premises of the Sangrahalaya in a befitting manner. The national flag was hoisted by Shri Pratik



Ghosh, Director-Secretary, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore at 9:30 am in the morning. The guests included the local senior citizens, distinguished persons of the area and members of different cultural institutions. After flag hoisting a ‘Sit and Draw

Competition’ for children, was organized by the Sangrahalaya 10:30 am onwards. The participants included students from the local academic institutions as well as the local art schools. The competition included three categories -

Group A – age 5 to 8 years, Group B – age 8+ to 12 years and Group C – 12+ years to 16 years. Group A had thirty seven (37) participants, Group B had forty five (45) and Group C had twenty four (24) participants which implies that there were a total of 106 participants in the competition.

The participants of Groups A and B could draw according to their choice while the topic for Group C was *Swadhin Bharat O Amra* (Independent India and Us). The



judges included Sri Maichel Bose, Principal of Pranavananda Art Institution, Kolkata and renowned artist Sri Debasish Mullick

Chowdhury.

The Sit and Draw Competition was followed by the presentation of the life of Mahatma Gandhi in Animation for the audience and after the



Film Show ended a performance of mime based on the theme of

significance of Independence Day was put up by Indian Mime Theatre, Kolkata. The show was immensely enjoyed by the children as



well as their guardians. Finally, at the end of the programme the

prize distribution ceremony was held where the Guests of Honour included Shri Madhusudan Ghosh, Honourable MLA, Government of West Bengal, Shri Narayan Basu,



Chairman of the Managing Committee of Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore and Prof. Kanaipada Roy, former Professor, Mahadevananda College. Prizes were awarded to three winners in each category whereas



consolation prizes were awarded to everyone. Certificates of participation were awarded to all the participants.

d) **Lecture at Assembly of Angels School**



The Director-Secretary of the Sangrahalaya was invited at the Assembly of Angels Secondary School, Barrackpore on August, 2016 to deliver a lecture on the Freedom Movement of India and the Revolt of 1857. The lecture received positive response from the students of the school.

e) **Programme to Commemorate the Commencement of Satyagraha Movement by Mahatma Gandhi (18/09/2016)**

A programme was organized by the Sangrahalaya to commemorate the commencement of the Satyagraha Movement by Mahatma Gandhi (on September 11, 1906), at its premises on September 18, 2016. A debate competition was arranged to commemorate the event the topic for which was *Bartamane Gandhijir Satyagraher Pantha Punaray*



Prasangik Hoe Poreche. The students of the Departments of Political Science and Sociology, University participated in the competition. Four (4) students from each of the two departments mentioned above, i.e. a total of eight (8) students participated as speakers amongst whom four (4) spoke for the motion and four (4) against the motion. Professor Bhaskar Chakraborti, Centenary Professor of International



Relations and Director CPWAS, Department of History, University of Calcutta acted as the Chief Guest at the programme. Professor Suparna Goptu,



Professor, Department of History and the Director, Gandhian Studies Centre University of Calcutta and Professor Sitanath Mazumdar, Professor, Department of Business Management University of Calcutta



acted as the Special Guests as well as the judges of the debate competition. The students of different departments of the University of Calcutta participated as the audience. The team that spoke for the motion won the competition. Prizes were awarded to both the Winners as well as the Runners-up team.



f) **Observance of Mahatma Gandhi's 147th Birthday and Presentation of the Presentation of the 19th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award and Deliverance of the 18th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration (02/10/2016)**

Mahatma Gandhi's Birthday was celebrated by the Sangrahalaya on October 2, 2016 at its premises. The 19th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award was presented and the 18th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration





was delivered on the occasion. The Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award is instituted to honour those engaged in Gandhian and noble society-enriching activities, etc. In the financial year 2016-17 the award was presented to Siksha Niketan (Kalanabagram), Burdwan, a well known Gandhian Voluntary

Organization, which is involved in providing the 'Basic Education' to underprivileged children and young adults on the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi's 'Buniyadi Siksha'. The Award consists of a silver salver, Scroll of Honour and Rupees ten thousand (10,000/-) and traditional materials. The award was handed over by Shri Narayan Basu, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya, to Shri Ganendra Biswas, Secretary of Siksha Niketan. Dr. Maya Ghosh, member of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya read out the Scroll of Honour. Professor Pradip Bhattacharya, Honourable Member of Parliament (Rajya Sabha), Government of India delivered the 18th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration. He was felicitated with a Silver Salver and traditional materials. The function was attended by the members of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya as well as eminent personalities, all of whom took turns to garland the photograph of



Mahatma Gandhi and spinning the Charkha (Spinning Wheel) installed at the entrance of the Mural Gallery of the Sangrahalaya. The entire function was presided over by Sri Narayan Basu, Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya while the

welcome address was delivered by Sri Pratik Ghosh, Director-Secretary of the Sangrahalaya.

The Sangrahalaya put up two (2) stalls at the programme, one of its publications as well as mementos and another of the products prepared by the ladies during the training provided by the Sangrahalaya for financial empowerment of the women. Both the stalls received a lot of positive response from all the guests.

g) **All India Gandhi Museums' Forum Meeting 2016 (16/12/2016 to 18/12/2016)**

The All India Gandhi Museums' Forum Meeting took place from December 16-December 18, 2016. This time the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore hosted the meeting. The



participants were the representatives of different Gandhi Museums in India which included the National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi, Magan Sangrahalaya, Wardha, Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai and Mani Bhavan Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Mumbai. The meeting began on December 16, 2016 at 11am with the opening song being rendered by Smt. Sarbani Chatterjee, Librarian of the Sangrahalaya. Next the Welcome Address was delivered by Shri Narayan Basu,

Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya. The Meeting was presided by Shri A. Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi. After the inaugural session was over,



the agenda of the meeting was elaborated by Shri Annamalai. The agenda included presentation of the annual reports of all the Sangrahalayas as well as discussion on the financial strategies and the Tentative Plan for the Celebration of

150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi in 2019. Each Sangrahalaya presented a report of its activities for the present financial year. All the Sangrahalayas stressed on the fact that they are trying their level best to utilize the resources available at their disposal for betterment of their respective museums in every way. The post lunch session was reserved for discussion of the financial position and strategies taken by the different museums in the present financial year. It was decided that each museum will present its proposal of activities and the proposed budget for these activities which will be sent to the Ministry of Culture through the National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi for funds for financial assistance of the museums.

On December 17, 2016 the Tentative Plan for the Celebration of 150th Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi to be organized in 2019 was discussed at the



Meeting amongst all the Sangrahalayas with relevant and significant suggestions from all the participants. It was decided to keep in touch and take up suggestions from each other regarding

these celebrations. The post lunch session was reserved for a visit of the participants to Belegkata, Gandhi Bhavan, Kolkata which was associated with the



memory of Gandhiji. Gandhiji was staying at Belegkata, Gandhi Bhavan on August 15, 2016 when India became independent. The participants visited the museum housed within the building. Later the participants visited Mother House, the residence and work place of Mother Teresa, the founder of Missionaries of Charity.

On December 18, 2016 the visitors were taken for a visit to Santiniketan, the place associated with the memory and heritage of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore. They met with the Director of



Rabindra Bhavana; Professor Tapati Mukherjee with whom a very enlightening discussion on Tagore and Santiniketan as well as the newly formed museums and galleries opened recently at Rabindra Bhavana Complex was carried out. A guided tour was

provided to the participants of the entire Rabindra Bhavana as well as Uttarayana Complex which houses five different houses of Tagore viz. Udichi, Udayan, Konarak, Shyamali and Punascha.

h) Arrangement of Interschool Exhibition on Environmental awareness, at the premises of Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya (28/01/2017)

The Paribesh Bandhav Mancha, Barrackpore, an NGO working on generating awareness on the evil effects of environmental pollution amongst people, particularly in the Barrackpore and adjacent

localities, for over a period of time, arranged an interschool exhibition of project works on environmental awareness at the premises of the Sangrahalaya on January 28, 2017, Saturday. Students of classes IX and X of eleven reputed schools of the Barrackpore Sub-Division participated in the above mentioned programme and projects made by them were displayed at the venue. Among the schools that participated one may mention the names of some such as, Manmathanath Girls' High School, Swami Mahadevananda Vidyayatan, Barrackpore Girls' High School, Manirampur High School, Barrackpore Cantonment Girls' High School and many more.

i) **Special Lecture on *Gandhijir Sikshachintar Pariprekshite Bartaman Siksha Byabasthhar Mulyayan* (28/02/2017)**

The Sangrahalaya organized a special lecture on the topic "*Gandhijir Sikshachintar Pariprekshite Bartaman Siksha Byabasthhar Mulyayan*" (Evaluation of the Present Education



System in Light of Gandhiji's Educational Thought) on

February 28, 2017 at its premises. The participants included 60 students and teachers of Ashok – Nilay Nivedita College of Education, Ullon, Ramlochanpur, South 24 Parganas. The Welcome

address was delivered by Shri Pratik Ghosh, Director- Secretary, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore. Two eminent speakers

were invited to deliver their valuable opinion on the theme of the lecture. They were Professor Ashok Kumar Mukhopadhyay, former Subhash Chandra Professor, Department of



Political Science, University of Calcutta and Shri Swapan Kumar Chakraborty, Headmaster, Bhadrpara Gilarchhat High School, Raidighi, South 24 Parganas. Professor Mukhopadhyay,



in his lecture stressed on the utility of Gandhiji's idea of Nai Talim and Sarvodaya (welfare for all) whereas Shri Chakraborty emphasized on the significance of value education which was given



so much importance by Gandhiji, for an ideal life. Finally, at the end of the lecture there was a panel discussion between the speakers and the participants where relevant questions based on the theme of the lecture were raised by the participants and answered by the

speakers. The participants were provided a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India* after the lecture got over.

j) **Panel Discussion on *Relevance of Gandhian Thought in Emerging Trends of Modern Journalism* at Press Club, Kolkata (21/03/2017)**

A Panel Discussion on the theme '*Relevance of Gandhian Thought in Emerging Trends of Modern Journalism*' at Press Club, Kolkata by the Sangrahalaya on March 21, 2017, 2 pm



onwards. The discussion was chaired by Shri Narayan Basu, Chairman, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore while the



Welcome Address was delivered by Shri Pratik Ghosh, Director-Secretary of the Sangrahalaya. The eminent speakers in the discussion included Padmashree Barun Majumder

(Senior Journalist, All India Radio), Shri Sukharanjan Sengupta (Former Correspondent, Ananda Bazar Patrika) and Shri Snehasis Sur, (Chief Reporter, DD-News, Kolkata).

The speakers gave their valuable views on the theme enlightening on Gandhiji's opinion of Journalism. They emphasized that Gandhiji held the view that successful journalism involved the media to reach out to every section of the population and presenting the happenings all around in the form of wholesome news and not sensational presentation and that he held the view that Swaraj or total independence can only be achieved when the common people can fearlessly voice their opinion in public. The speakers further stressed that in the present day when media was mostly bent on presenting sensational news, Gandhiji's views of Journalism have become more and more relevant.



The discussion was attended and covered by a number of representatives of media both print as well as different television channels and the programme has received wide publicity.

8) Workshops, Seminars, Symposiums, etc. :

In the financial year 2016-17 the Sangrahalaya successfully organized quite a few Workshops, Seminars, and Symposiums on varied and important topics related to the dissemination of the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi in the community at large and also social issues. A short resume of such events is given below:

a) Workshop on Food Safety, Quality Control and Naturopathy (04/07/2016)

The Sangrahalaya organized a day-long Workshop on 'Food Safety, Quality Control and Naturopathy' for the schools at its premises



on July 4, 2016 from 11.30 a.m. onwards. The Workshop had three (3) sessions. In the Inaugural Session, the Welcome Address was delivered by the Director-Secretary of the Sangrahalaya whereas the Inaugural Address was delivered

by the Chief Guest Shri Jyoti Chakraborty, Karmadhakshya, Zilla Parishad, North 24 Parganas. The second session included the deliberations and practical demonstrations on Food Safety and Quality Control of food used by the society in everyday life such as milk and milk products, fish, eggs, vegetables, adulteration by the use of food colours etc. and the third session consisted of deliberations on Naturopathic treatment and yogic asanas for treating common as well as chronic ailments. The experts in the second session included Dr. Swapan





Sur, Former OSD, Mother Dairy who spoke and demonstrated on ***'Food Safety of Eggs, Fish and Meat'***, Shri Pranab Ghosh, Ichhamati Milk Union Limited, Government of West Bengal, whose topic for deliberation was

'Safety and Quality of Milk Products', Shri Mukut Roy Chowdhury, Former District Fishery Officer, Government of West Bengal who spoke on ***'Food Safety of Fish and Vegetables'***, Shri Tridib Mandal, Retired Assistant Director whose topic for deliberation and demonstration was ***'Safety of Milk'*** and Shri Subhendu Kanjilal, Director, SAAS, EW Trust who demonstrated on ***'Adulteration by means of Food Colours'***.



The post lunch session consisted of deliberation and Demonstration on Naturopathy by Shri Dhanasekaran, Principal, Burdwan Institute of Medical and Life Science. Finally, at the end of the programme there was a Panel

Discussion which consisted of the interaction of the participants with the experts regarding questions on the different topics covered in all the three sessions. A total of one hundred and eighteen (118) students accompanied by their teachers belonging to five reputed schools viz. Central Model School,



Barrackpore, Sacred Heart Day High School (H.S.), Barrackpore, Manmathanath High School, Barrackpore, Kendriya Vidyalaya No. 1—Ishapore and Nawabgunj High School, Nawabgunj participated in the programme. The programme was a big success generating awareness among the participants regarding Food Safety and Naturopathy.

b) **Symposium on Biographical Museums in Promoting Economic Sustainability (11/02/2017)**

A symposium on *Biographical Museums in promoting Economic Sustainability* was organized by Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore on February 11, 2017 at its



premises. The symposium was organized in order to discuss in detail the challenges faced by biographical museums which includes economic hurdles as a major problem and proposals for possible solutions. The representatives of seven (7) museums attended the symposium for exchange of

valuable opinion. The museums included Rabindra Bhavana Museum, Visva Bharati, Santiniketan, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad Institute of Asian Studies, Bankim Bhavan Gaveshana Kendra, Kanthalpara, Naihati, Raja





Rammohun Roy Memorial Museum, Bhaskar Bhavan Museum, Chintamani Kar Sangrahalaya, Gurusaday Museum, Joka etc. The Welcome Address was delivered by Shri Pratik Ghosh, Director-Secretary, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore. The

Keynote Address was delivered by Dr. Atul Chandra Bhowmick, Former Professor, Department of Museology, University of Calcutta. He stressed in his speech that in present times it was absolutely necessary for museums to devise ways and means to sustain themselves as it is not always possible to get financial support from the government. He outlined the significance of involvement of museums in selling mementoes based on the collections of the museums. And also other means such as dolls and toy making and marketing them in collaboration with NGOs, selling publications of all kinds etc. The representatives of all the museums



subsequently put forward their views on the theme of the symposium giving valuable and many a times unique suggestions. Finally the Valedictory Address was delivered by Professor Tapati Mukherjee, Adhyakha, Rabindra Bhavana, Director, Culture and Cultural Relations, Visva-Bharati,



Santiniketan. She emphasized on the fact that the lives of great personalities serve as icons for the present generation as they embody the ideal virtues and philosophy of life. So it was not enough for biographical museums to remain as stories of life but to involve themselves actively in community development. There was valuable exchange of opinion and every participant was of the opinion that it was absolutely necessary for all the biographical museums to come on a common platform and form a forum.

9. Participatory Programmes with other Organizations :

a) Participation in the fair organized by Naihati Bhagat Singh Society at Naihati (23/09/2016 to 25/09/2016)

The Sangrahalaya participated and put up a stall at the fair organized by Naihati Bhagat Singh Society, at the Naihati Railway Institute Hall from September 23 to 25, 2016. The Mobile Exhibition Set *Alokchitre Teen Mahajibon* (three great personalities in photographs- Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose) in roll-up standee was mounted at the hall premises and a stall was put up by the Sangrahalaya for selling its publications as well as the products prepared by the women who have received training for Food Preparation and Preservation for financial empowerment organized by the Sangrahalaya. The documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India* was shown to the audience which was greatly appreciated.

b) Participation in the Programme on Commemoration of International Mother Tongue Day (*Bhasa Dibas*) (19/02/2017)

The Sangrahalaya was invited to participate in the 13th Annual Conference of the Gandhiji Janmotsav Udjapan Committee of Naihati on the eve of 'International Mother Tongue Day' at Mulajor Bharatchandra Granthhagar,





Shyamnagar on February 19, 2017. The MLA of Noapara Constituency, Shri Madhusudan Ghosh delivered the Inaugural Address and the Director-Secretary of the

Sangrahalaya delivered a speech on the significance of the Bhasa Dibas. The Exhibition on the life and works of Gandhiji in roll-up standee was mounted at the venue of the programme and the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India* was shown. The Sangrahalaya



also set up a temporary counter consisting of publications and other articles related to Mahatma Gandhi there. The participants overwhelmed about the articles at the counter related to Gandhiji. The programme received positive feedback from the audience.

**10. Training Programme :
Programme for Financial Empowerment of women by various Trainings (From 16/ 04/2016)**

The Training Programme started by the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore in the previous financial year to provide financial empowerment to local needy women is being carried on successfully. Three new batches of ladies underwent various trainings in this financial year.

a) Training for Tailoring and Cutting



After the completion of the training on Food Preparation and Preservation, the next training that has been successfully completed is Cutting and Tailoring. The training had started in April, 2016 and ended in July, 2016. The participants have been taught to make articles of everyday use such as blouses, kurtis, Churidars, Patiala Salwars, Petticoats etc. On completion



of the training the participants had to sit for an examination and make some of the articles that they had learnt in the course. Certificates have been awarded to all the participants.

b) Training for Food Preparation and Preservation (05/11/2016 to 29/01/2017)

A batch of ten (10) of ladies had enrolled for the training on Food Processing and Preservation. They have been taught to prepare and



preserve vinegar, four types of syrups and squashes, three types of jams, one type of jelly and



four types of pickles (two sour and two sweet). An examination was conducted for the participants, which consisted of theory, viva voce as well as practical



demonstration of their skills. Certificates were awarded to the participants on successful completion of the training.

c) **Training for Hand Batik (04/02/2017 to 15/05/2017)**

The training for hand for hand batik had been organized by the Sangrahalaya, from February 04, 2017 to May 5, 2017. It was successfully completed on May 15, 2017. The participants of the training have been taught to make handkerchiefs, table cloths and wall hangings. The participants had to sit for an examination consisting of theory as well as practical on completion of the training. They will be awarded certificates.

11. **Mobile Exhibition and Outreach Programmes in the Schools of Remote Areas :**

The Mobile Exhibition and daylong programme has been started by the Sangrahalaya for the schools in the remote areas who cannot visit the museum in person owing to some difficulties which was started in the last financial year is progressing extremely well with very good response from schools.

a) **At Oriental Association for Education and Research, Dewandighi, Burdwan (02/08/2016)**

As a part of this programme the Sangrahalaya visited the Oriental Association for Education and Research, Dewandighi, Burdwan on August 2, 2016. In the first half of the programme the participants were the students of Burdwan Model School which is one of the

units under the Oriental Association for Education and Research, Burdwan. The Sangrahalaya mounted a mobile exhibition set *Alokchitre Teen Mahajibon* (three great personalities in photographs- Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose) in roll-up standee made especially



for such programmes, at the school premises for the students as well as the staff of the school. Next a presentation on the harmful effects on *Global Warming and Climate Change* was put up for the students for highlighting the environmental

aspect of nature which is a part of the section of the programme termed *Desh Katha Dasher Katha*. After this the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India* was shown. In the second half of the programme the students of



Burdwan Institute of Management and Computer Science



participated in an audio –visual spot quiz, consisting of twenty (20) questions on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi, which was conducted by the Sangrahalaya. Finally, prizes were awarded to the winners of the quiz. The programme was highly



appreciated both by the students as well as the staff of Oriental Association for Education and Research, Dewandighi, Burdwan and the Sangrahalaya has been asked by the authorities to come to them with more such programmes in future.

b) At Nawabganj Balika Vidyalaya, Ichapur (08/08/2016)

The Sangrahalaya visited Nawabganj Balika Vidyalaya in Ichapur area for their Mobile Exhibition and daylong programme on August 8, 2016. The Sangrahalaya mounted the mobile exhibition set



Alokchitre Teen Mahajibon (three great personalities in photographs-

Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose) in roll-up standee, at the school premises for the students as well as the staff of the school. Next a presentation on the harmful effects on Global Warming and Climate Change was



put up for the students for highlighting the environmental aspect of nature which is a part of the section of the programme termed *Desh Kathha Dasher Kathha*. After this the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India* was shown to the



students. In the second half of the programme the students of the school participated in an audio – visual spot quiz, consisting of twenty (20) questions on the life and



works of Mahatma Gandhi, which was conducted by the Sangrahalaya. Finally, prizes were awarded to the winners of the quiz. The programme was highly appreciated both by the students as well as the staff of Nawabganj Valika Vidyalaya.



c) At Ghonja High School, Gaighata in the Bongaon Subdivision (30/08/2016)

On August 30, 2016 the Sangrahalaya was invited by Ghonja High School, Gaighata, in the Bongaon Subdivision for presenting the Mobile Exhibition and Daylong Programme at their premises. The mobile exhibition set *Alokchitre Teen Mahajibon* (three great personalities in photographs—



Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose) in roll-up standee was mounted at the school premises. Next a presentation on the harmful effects on *Global Warming and Climate Change* was put up for the students for



highlighting the environmental aspect of nature which is included in the section of the programme named *Desh Kathha Dasher Kathha*. After this the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the*

Freedom Movement of India was shown. In the second half of the programme the students of the school participated in an audio-visual spot quiz,



consisting of twenty (20) questions on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi, which was conducted by the Sangrahalaya. Finally, prizes were awarded to the winners of the quiz. The programme proved to be a very unique experience for both the

students as well as the staff of the school and received tremendous amount of positive response from them.

d) **At Deuribrah Kiranprava Vidyamandir High School at Bajkul, District Midnapore East (12/01/2017)**

The Sangrahalaya visited Deuribrah Kiranprava Vidyamandir High School at Bajkul, in the district of Purba Midnapore on January 12, 2017 with their Mobile Exhibition and Daylong Programme. The



mobile exhibition set *Alokchitre Teen Mahajibon* (three great personalities in photographs— Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose) in roll-up standee was mounted at the school premises. After this the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India* was shown.



Finally, the students of the school participated in an audio-visual spot quiz, consisting of twenty (20) questions on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi, which was conducted by the Sangrahalaya. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the quiz. The programme

proved to be a very unique experience for both the students as well as the staff of the school and received tremendous amount of positive response from them.

e) **At Rasakhowa High School, Karandighi, Uttar Dinajpur (14/02/2017)**

On February 14, 2017 the Sangrahalaya visited Rasakhowa High School, Karandighi, Uttar Dinajpur with their Mobile Exhibition and Daylong Programme. The mobile exhibition set *Alokchitre Teen Mahajibon* (three great personalities in photographs— Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose) in roll-up standee was mounted at the school premises. After this the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom*





Movement of India was shown. Finally, the students of the school participated in an audio –visual spot quiz, consisting of twenty (20) questions on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi, which was conducted by the Sangrahalaya. Prizes were awarded to the winners of the quiz. The Sangrahalaya was lauded for the presentation of the programme by the School authorities and the response from the students was extremely positive too.



f) At Khayramari High School, Murshidabad (16/03/2017)



The Sangrahalaya reached at Khayramari High School, Beharmapur in Murshidabad district for organizing the Mobile Exhibition &



Day-long Programme : '*Swadhinatar Senani Smarane— Desher Katha Daser Katha*' on March 16, 2017.



12. Participation at the Kolkata Book Fair 2016 (25/01/2017 to 05/02/2017)

The Sangrahalaya participated in the Kolkata Book Fair held this year from January 25,2017 to February 5,2017 and shared a stall with '*Janasarthha Barta*', a reputed journal of West Bengal to sell its publications. Shri Himanshu Halder, Editor of '*Janasarthha Barta*', extended his sincere help and cooperation in this matter.



13. Academic Interactions :

a) Assistance in Research

True to its practice of previous years, the Sangrahalaya has been successfully providing assistance to a number of research scholars from different Universities and Colleges, pursuing their Ph.D, M.Phils or Post-Doctoral etc. in a variety of topics. They are allowed to use the facilities of the library of the Sangrahalaya subject to the rules and regulations. They are also allowed to take necessary photographs after proper permission and following certain conditions.

b) Internship

The Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore is presently considered to be a Model Museum complete in every way in all museological aspects and services. As a result the students of the



department of Museology, university of Calcutta are sent here for Internship of three (3) months after obtaining their certificates.

This year too four (4) internees were sent from February 2, 2017 and they have successfully completed their Internship on April 30, 2017.



14. Special Visits :

Like the previous years the Sangrahalaya was visited by a number of eminent persons from every field of the society. They include scholars, bureaucrats, defence personnel and other government officials.

Their names have been given below :

- Group Captain A. Tripathi, Station Commander, Air Station, Barrackpore paid a visit to the Sangrahalaya on Aug 04, 2016. On seeing the display of the Sangrahalaya he commented. "A great effort to keep memory of the Father of the Nation burning."

- Debdas Datta, DG, Power Supply, West Bengal State Electricity Board paid a visit to the Sangrahalaya on August 13, 2016. His remark about the Sangrahalaya was, "Excellent."
- Major General Ajay Seth from Barrackpore Cantonment visited the Sangrahalaya on August 23, 2016. On completion of the guided tour of the Sangrahalaya he remarked, "Very interesting and educative. Hope the history is preserved."
- Shri Vijay Dube, the General Manager, of Vijaya Bank Eastern Region, visited the Sangrahalaya along with his family and sixty



four (64) employees of different branches of the bank, on January 22, 2017. They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of*

India. On seeing the display Shri Dube commented, "Inspiring and humble experience-congrats and thanks to the museum officials for their excellent endeavours." Mrs. Anjana Dube, wife of Shri Dube also commented positively regarding the display of the Sangrahalaya saying, "Very courteous staff and great experience on life and teachings of Bapu. Thank You".



- Shri Paritosh Roy, Secretary, Department of Rural Development, Government of West Bengal visited the Sangrahalaya on February 13, 2017 along with his friends and family. He was provided with a



guided tour of the Sangrahalaya. On seeing the display he commented, “গান্ধী স্মারক সংগ্রহালয়ে এসে অভিভূত হলাম। জাতির জনককে ভালোভাবে চিনলাম। সংগ্রহালয় কর্তৃপক্ষকে অসংখ্য

ধন্যবাদ।” (I am overwhelmed on visiting the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya. I have been able to know about the Father of the Nation clearly. Sincere thanks to the museum authorities.)



- Smt. Rumela Dey Project Director, D.R.D Cell and Additional District Mission Director, DMMU, ANNANDADHARA (NRLM), North 24 Parganas came to visit the Sangrahalaya on February 27, 2017. She was provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya.

15. Visit by Groups of Students :

- (i) A group of 25 teachers from various Kendriya Vidyalayas in West Bengal came to visit the Sangrahalaya on June 6, 2016 as part of the PRT In-service Course organized by the Kendriya Vidyalaya No-1, Ishapore, 24 Parganas (North). They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary titled ***Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India***. One of the participants Smt. Jayanti Mukherjee, Principal, Kendriya Vidyalaya, Asansol wrote the following remark on seeing the display of the Sangrahalaya, “Very well maintained and excellent demonstration given.” (06/06/2016).



- (ii) Twenty (20) students of Douglas Memorial Higher Secondary School accompanied by four (4) teachers and one (1) non teaching staff came to visit the Sangrahalaya on July 8, 2016 on the occasion of



celebration of Vanmahotsav and Environmental awareness programme. The Director-Secretary was given a sapling to be planted in the garden of the Sangrahalaya. Later the students and teachers were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya. One of the teachers Shri Rabi Sankar Ray remarked,

‘Outstanding’ about the display of the Sangrahalaya. (07/07/2016)



- (iii) On Aug 23, 2016, seventeen (17) students belonging to class XII of Rishra Vidyapith came to the Sangrahalaya accompanied by their teacher Shri Dilip Prasad for an educational excursion which is a part of their curriculum. They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary titled ***Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India***. After seeing the Sangrahalaya, their teacher Shri Dilip Prasad commented, “Very informative and display are rare.” (23/08/2016)



(iv) On September 27, 2016 forty (40) students and seven (7) professors of the Departments of Philosophy and Political Science of Chandraketurgarh Sahidullah Smriti Mahavidyalaya came to the Sangrahalaya for an educational tour which is part of their curriculum. They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary titled ***Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India***. On seeing the display of the Sangrahalaya one of the professors Mr. Md. Torikul Islam commented, “Very good!” (27/09/2016)



(v) Twenty seven (27) students of Assembly of Christ School paid a visit to the Sangrahalaya on October 27, 2016 accompanied by their teacher Shri Dharmendra Silpakar. They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and Shri Silpakar’s remark regarding the exhibits of the Sangrahalaya was, “Very good!” (27/10/2016)

(vi) On October 28, 2016 Thirty nine (39) students of Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission Barrackpore came to visit the Sangrahalaya accompanied by their teacher Shri Sunil Garui. They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary titled ***Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India***. (28/10/2016)

(vii) On November 12, 2016 the students of Cantonment Primary School, Lebong and Jalapahar, Darjeeling, who came to Kendriya Vidyalaya (Army), Barrackpore as part of an exchange programme visited the Sangrahalaya. There were a total of thirty four (34) students

accompanied by their teacher Shri Dinesh Tamang. On seeing the display of the Sangrahalaya Shri Tamang remarked, “Very Unique Collection!” (12/11/2016)

(viii) Fifty (50) students of Kendriya Vidyalaya (Army), Barrackpore visited the Sangrahalaya along with two (2) of their teachers on November 22, 2016. They were provided a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya. One of their teachers Mrs. Seema Dasgupta remarked, “The guides were excellent!” (22/11/2016)

(ix) On December 3, 2016, eighty (80) students of St. Stephens School, Habra, 24 Parganas North, visited the Sangrahalaya accompanied by their Principal, teachers and staff for an educational excursion. They were provided with a detailed guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and later shown the documentary titled ***Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India***. One of the teachers Shri Arup Kumar Sarkar remarked about the display, “Precious collection with satisfaction!” (03/12/2016)

(x) On December 10, 2016, eighty five (85) students of St. Stephens School, Ranaghat, 24 Parganas North, visited the Sangrahalaya accompanied by their Principal, teachers and staff for an educational excursion. They were provided with a detailed guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and later shown the documentary titled ***Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India***. (10/12/2016)

(xi) About 200 students of classes I and II of The Assembly of Angels Secondary School visited the Sangrahalaya for an educational tour on January 19, 2017. They were provided with a guided tour





of the Sangrahalaya. One of the teachers on seeing the display



commented, “Well maintained!” (19/01/2017)

(xii) Thirteen (13) students of the Department of Philosophy, Sreerampore College visited the Sangrahalaya along with their Professor, Dr. Prabhakar Bhattacharya on January 21, 2017. They were provided with a detailed guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and later shown the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India*. Dr. Bhattacharya who frequently arranges visits to the Sangrahalaya for his students remarked, “Like last year we have brought our students to introduce themselves to the life and works of the great soul.” (21/ 01/2017)

(xiii) A group of 23 foreign tourists from UK came to visit the Sangrahalaya on January 24, 2017 as part of the itinerary of a tour organized by the Department of Tourism, Government of India. They were provided with a guided tour of the galleries of the Sangrahalaya. Two of the visitors left extremely positive comments about the



Sangrahalaya. Mr. Brian Higgins from New Midland, England wrote, “Excellent Presentation” and Mr. David Ranle from Kent, England wrote, “Very good and clearly explained!” (24/01/2017)

(xiv) On February 6, 2017 near about seventy (70) students of Springdale Primary School, Kalyani visited the Sangrahalaya for an educational tour along with their teachers. They were provided with a guided



tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India*. Smt. Sudipta Saha, the Headmistress of the institution on seeing the display of the Sangrahalaya commented, “Very Good”. (06/02/2017)

(xv) On February 9, 2017 about 180 students of Sanat Roychowdhury institution for Girls’ from Govindo Khatik Road, Kolkata visited the Sangrahalaya with their teachers for an educational tour. They were



provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya. One of the teachers Smt. Subhasree Sarkhel



commented, “Very Good” on seeing the display of the Sangrahalaya. (09/02/2017)

(xvi) On February 17, 20 and 21, 2017 near about two hundred and forty (240) students of classes IV and V of Kendriya Vidyalaya (Army), Barrackpore visited the Sangrahalaya in three (3) batches of eighty (80) students (on each day) for an educational tour. They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the



documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India*. Three of the teachers accompanying the students wrote positive comments regarding the collection of the Sangrahalaya. Smt, Dipti Bandyopadhyay wrote, “Enjoyed the trip with



students.” Shri V.K Singh wrote, “Nice management and well decorated museum. Students became able to know many things about Gandhiji. They became very pleased with guide of this museum. Thanks to all employees of this Gandhi Museum.



Thanks again.” Smt R. De Sarkar wrote, “Educative.” (17/02/201, 20/02/2017 and 21/02/2017)

(xvii) Thirty (30) students from class IX of Ichapore Girls’ High School, Ichapore came to visit the Sangrahalaya on March 07, 2017 for an educational tour. They were provided with a guided tour of the Sangrahalaya and shown the documentary titled *Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India*. After this the students participated in the audio-visual spot quiz, consisting of twenty (20) questions on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi. Winners of the quiz contest were awarded prizes.

16. Media Coverage :

The Panel Discussion on Relevance of Gandhian Thought in Emerging Trends of Modern Journalism at Press Club, Kolkata, March 21, 2017 received extensive media coverage from different television channels both government as well as private.

Thus, on the whole the financial year 2016-2017 was very eventful. Programmes and activities of every kind and for almost every section of the society has been successfully carried out by means of which the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi has been successfully propagated.