

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*.

