

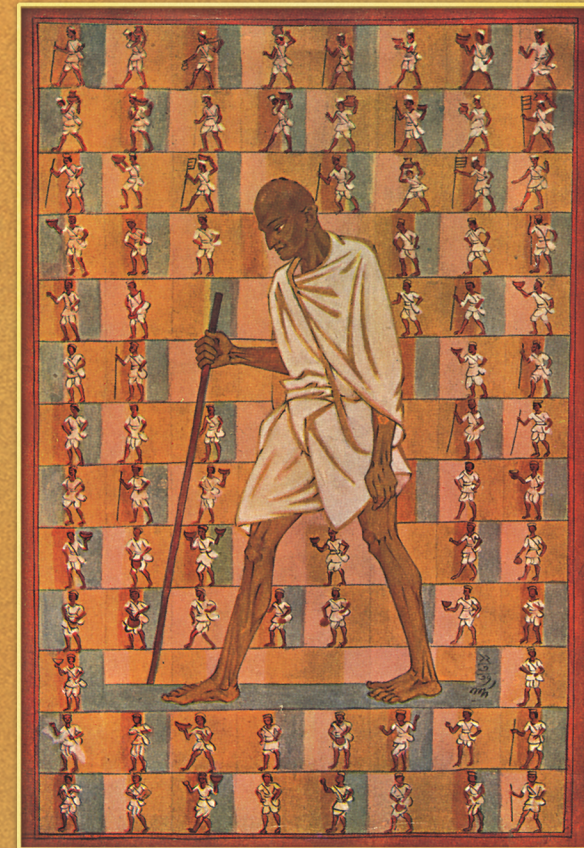


# Annual Report of Activities for the Year of 2015-2016

(Till the 31st March, 2016)



Gandhi Memorial Museum, Barrackpore



**GANDHI SMARAK SANGRAHALAYA, BARRACKPORE**  
(Gandhi Memorial Museum, Barrackpore)

14, Riverside Road, Barrackpore, Kolkata-700120

ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES  
FOR THE YEAR OF 2015-2016  
(Till the 31st March, 2016)



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

## List of Committee Members for the year of 2015-16

1. *Shri Narayan Basu*  
Chairman
2. *Dr. Shyamalkanti Chakravarti*  
Member
3. *Shri Salil Kumar Gupta*  
Member
4. *Dr. Maya Ghose*  
Member
5. *Late Tapan Chakravarty*  
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

## Foreword

A museum is presently looked upon as a Social Institution and hence has both responsibility and some abiding tasks. Ours is greater since we have taken upon ourselves the task to present and project a Personality who dedicated his whole life for the betterment and upliftment of the society.

The ongoing pages try to reflect our endeavours to that extent, to project Mahatma Gandhi's life, activities, philosophy and programmes, highly comprehensive and varied, through different museum processes—like Research Studies, Seminars, Symposiums, Workshops, Mobile Exhibitions, Participation in different Fairs, Initiation of Annual Award in his Memory, various experimental Educational Programmes for the different groups of people of the society including children, students, general public, women and senior citizens and collaborative programmes with Gandhian Institutions and NGOs, etc. during the year 2015-16, i.e. from 1st April, 2015 to 31st March, 2016, to improve things that matter for a meaningful and peaceful existence, not excluding the environment.

The Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore has since its inception, been inviting the local communities to participate in its activities. However, due to the changing role of museums, the trend has changed and the museum is now visiting the communities through various programmes at a community level. To actively involve the community in its programmes, our Sangrahalaya has developed separate Projects for Public Programmes, which are continuing throughout the year. Through these projects, we have initiated several programmes in this present financial year that directly involve the community. The aim of this project is to facilitate a process of development and organisational change within

museums that are committed to active partnership with their communities. It would support and help us to place community needs, values and active collaboration at the core of museum, thereby involving communities and individuals in decision-making processes. The distinctive characteristic of the programme was a collaborative, reflective, learning process through which institutions and communities share their experiences and learn from each other as critical friends. It recognises that they all have different starting points for the journeys the programme will take them on.

When we planned the community participation strategy through this public programme project we had decided to build up such types of programmes so that museum can be able to reach to different sections of the local community including students, youth, scholars, senior citizen group, women and under-privileged people. Since this Sangrahalaya has a great role in our society, so it is necessary to build up an involvement with the community and keeping in the mind of the present situation of the society this museum is trying to develop some strategies to enable us to reach Gandhiji's rich and beneficial ideas for the betterment of the society. Such types of programmes in this financial year through which this Sangrahalaya is trying to make the community participation strategies successful are :

➤ The Sangrahalaya is continuing its very beneficial, value oriented educational programmes for school students belonging to different schools under the banner '*Remembering the contributions of the Freedom Fighters*'. It is an outreach programme of the museum where usually a school contacts the museum for arranging the programme at the school. The Sangrahalaya has prepared a few films on it and also on our Freedom Movement for this purpose and interactive discussions are arranged with the students about our Freedom Movement, about the adventurous lives of the Freedom Fighters, their sacrifices for us and contributions, etc. Being inspired from such types of programmes by the Sangrahalaya, often the schools also organize programmes on different incidents of the Freedom

Movement and great lives involving the students. The Sangrahalaya has also added another dimension with this programme '*Dasher Katha, Dasher Katha*'—informing the students about the state of things regarding conditions of the people and the country and environment, ecology, depletion of natural resources and our responsibilities and duties to preserve the nature.

- The Sangrahalaya has organized various camps and workshops for the young generations in different times of this financial year on various current issues like, '*Contemporary Relevance of Gandhian Values*', '*Alternative Paradigm of Development—Tagore and Gandhi*', etc., in which the young group share their opinions through group discussion, debate, extempore, etc.
- This Sangrahalaya has organized Workshops, Seminars, Symposiums, etc. for the Scholars to project and disseminate Gandhian thought and to focus on the present condition of the country and our responsibility and duty on this behalf. These were arranged almost throughout the year, either within premises of the sangrahalaya itself or outside it in collaboration with other organizations.
- The Sangrahalaya also organized some special events for the local senior citizens to celebrate the special days of the year like our Independence Day, Mahatma Gandhi's Birth Day, etc. In the present financial year we had organized a Health Checkup Camp for the Senior Citizens of the adjacent areas of the Sangrahalaya and we have decided that it would be celebrated on the World Health Day in every year. Such participatory programme would create awareness about preventive health checkup of the participants.
- The Sangrahalaya organized a two days' Workshop on '*Formation of Self Help Groups and Gandhian Thought*'. The aim of the workshop was to encourage the formation of Self Help Groups among the needy, local women, to make them self sufficient. This idea of self sufficiency forms the crux of the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi who advocated socio-economic reconstruction by economic self-sufficiency for the people of grassroots level, especially women.

➤ In the current financial year the Sangrahalaya has planned to run a Training Centre in collaboration with a society of local area for developing the technical skills and managerial capability by means of some practical oriented training courses like Food Making and Processing, Tailoring and Cutting, Fabric and Batik Print, Jute Products Making, Grooming and Personality Development, etc. Such type of programme would also assist in capacity building of the women, raising their technical skills and managerial capability, accounting and management skill, general confidence, interactive capacity, creativity and raising their social and political status.

We, however, have to record with deep sense of sorrow the irreparable loss we have suffered in this financial year in the passing away of one of the Member of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya, Shri Tapan Chakravarty, whose contribution for the organization and development of this Sangrahalaya had been immense. We pay our humble homage to his memories.

We take this opportunity to offer our sincere thanks to our innumerable friends and admirers who have extended their co-operation to carry on our task. We are aware that we have to improve.

Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya  
Barrackpore  
1st September, 2016

**PRATIK GHOSH**  
*Director-Secretary*

**The Report of Activities : 2015-2016**  
**(1st April, 2015 to 31st March 2016)**

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Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya Barrackpore is successfully carrying on the commendable work of protecting and preserving the philosophy and values of Mahatma Gandhi through its multifarious activities and programmes for the community at large. The current financial year witnessed the beginning of the renovation and upgradation work at the Sangrahalaya funded by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The contract for the renovation work has been given by the Ministry to the National Council of Science Museums, Kolkata. The renovation work has progressed to a great extent and is scheduled to be completed by 2017.

In terms of activities this financial year has been a year of multidimensional activities at the Sangrahalaya. The Sangrahalaya has ventured in different categories of educational activities this year ranging from scholarly programmes to programmes on community development and from in-house programmes to outreach programmes for schools in rural areas. Mentioned below is a short resume of the activities at the Sangrahalaya in the financial year 2015-16.

**1) Number of Visitors :**

Around 40,000 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:**

- Professor Pradip Bhattacharya, Honourable MP, Government of India.
- Shri A. Annamalai, Director, National Gandhi Museum, New Delhi.
- Shri Pawan Gupta, Eminent Gandhian Scholar, Mussoorie.
- Swami Nityarupananda Maharaj, Secretary, Barrackpore Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission and Vivekananda Math.

- Shri Samar Bagchi, Former Director, Birla Industrial and Technical Museum, Kolkata.
- Dr. Pranabesh Sanyal, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal.
- Professor Chittabrata Palit, Former Professor Department of Modern History, Jadavpur University.
- Professor Sandip Das, Former Professor, Department of Philosophy, Uluberia College.
- Dr. Tarun Kumar Banerjee, Former Professor, Department of Political Science, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore.
- Doctors from the Indian Medical Association, Titagarh Branch, viz. Dr. Sunil Kumar Gope, Former President, Indian Medical Association (Titagarh Branch), Dr. Anadi Nath Biswas, Secretary, Indian Medical Association (Titagarh Branch), Dr. Monoranjan Sarkar and Dr. Shibasish Bhattacharya.

### 3) New Acquisitions :

- (a) Six (6) display panels on Roll-up Standee for Special Exhibition, which are portable and convenient for setting up mobile exhibition.
- (b) One Laptop (DELL) for conducting the educational activities.
- (c) Projector – EPSON with Screen (6” x 8”)  
The Laptop, Projector and Screen are part of Visitor Amenities and used for Film shows as well as presentations during programmes.
- (d) One Laser Printer (3 in one) from HP.

### 4) Exhibition Kit :

The life and philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi with 38 photographs and write-ups has been prepared. This exhibition kit is either exhibited individually or as a part of the bigger exhibition set in roll-up-standee titled *Alokchitre Teen Mahajibon – Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhash Chandra Basu*. The exhibition set is lent out for mobile exhibition on request but with the assurance of safety and security of the exhibits on the part of the receivers.

### 5) Library :

In the present financial year the Library has grown with the addition of new books both by purchase as well as gift 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 Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya is approximately 12000.

### 6) Publications :

The Sangrahalaya has published four (4) issues of its bilingual museum bulletin ‘Gandhi Sangbad / Gandhi News’. The contributors to this journal included the Director-Secretary of the Sangrahalaya as well as other eminent scholars such as Professor Sandip Das, Former Professor, Department of Philosophy, Uluberia College, Tapan Kumar Chattopadhyay and many more.

### 7) Set up of Temporary Mobile Exhibition Set on Mahatma Gandhi and his life and works :

This year witnessed the successful setting up of an exhibition on Mahatma Gandhi and his life and philosophy by the Sangrahalaya. This set is the part of a bigger exhibition set in Roll-up-Standee titled ‘*Alokchitre Teen Mahajibon*’ also prepared by the Sangrahalaya for the purpose of mobile exhibition to be sent for the outreach programmes of the Sangrahalaya.

### 8) Preservation of Library Books :

- Paper Conservation work (Deacidification, Lamination and Binding) of thirty five (35) Volumes of The Indian Quarterly was carried out by Antiquities Preservation and Services Kolkata and
- Binding of 155 Library Books was done by Utsab Book Binders.

### 9) Programmes and Projects :

#### (a) Workshop on the Songs and Paintings of Rabindranath Tagore (19/04/2015) :

A workshop on the songs and paintings of Rabindranath Tagore titled ‘*Rabindranather Chobi O Gaan*’ was organized by the Sangrahalaya in collaboration with Meghamallar Sangeet

Shikshayatan, Barrackpore at the premises of the Sangrahalaya on the 19th April 2015. Professor Somendranath Bandopadhyay, former Professor of Visva Bharati University and Veteran of Shatiniketen Ashram was the Chief Guest.

**(b) Birthday Celebrations of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore (09/05/2015) :**

The Sangrahalaya observed the Birthday Celebrations of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore on the 9th May, 2015 at its premises. A day-long programme was organized which comprised of a temporary exhibition on the



life and works of Tagore, a Spot Quiz, a Debate Competition, a Documentary Film Show on the life and works of Tagore prepared by the Sangrahalaya and the rare documentary 'Rabindranath' directed by Satyajit Ray. The Chairman of the

Sangrahalaya Sri Narayan Basu presided over the programme. Honorable MP, Professor Pradip Bhattacharya acted as the Chief Guest and the welcome address was delivered by the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya. The Programme was well attended by fifty four (54) participants including students and teachers of five reputed



Schools of Barrackpore viz. Modern English Academy, St. Augustine's Day School, Barrackpore Girls' High School, Barrackpore Government High School and Bholananda National Vidyalaya. The topic for



the debate competition was- 'Is the Educational Policy of Rabindranath Relevant Today?' From each of the schools, one student spoke for and one against the motion. Prizes were awarded by the Sangrahalaya to the winners of the Spot Quiz as well as the Debate Competition.

**(c) Celebration of Independence Day (15/08/2015) :**

The Sangrahalaya celebrated the 69th Independence Day on the 15th of August 2015 at its premises in a befitting manner. The National Flag was hoisted by Sri Salil Kumar Gupta, Member of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya, at 9:30 am in the morning. The guests included the local senior citizens. After flag hoisting a discussion was arranged on the topic 'Bharater Swadhinata Andoloner



Prekshapote Bangla O Bangali'. Sri Salil Kumar Gupta presided over the function. The Speakers included Dr. Tarun Kumar Banerjee, Former Professor, Department of Political Science, Vidyasagar University, Midnapore, Prof. Kanaipada Roy, Former Professor, Mahadevananda College,



Barrackpore and Sri Swapan Kumar Mukherjee, Chief Advisor, Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore. All the three speakers put forward their valuable opinion on the theme. The opening and closing songs were rendered by Smt. Sarbani Chatterjee, Librarian

of the Library of the Sangrahalaya.

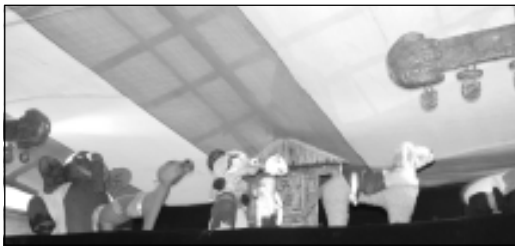
After the discussion ended, a 'Sit and Draw Competition' for children was organized by the Sangrahalaya. The participants included students from the local academic institutions as well as the local art schools. The competition included three categories :

Group A – age 5 years to 7 years, Group B – age 7+ years to 10 years and Group C – 10+ years to 15 years. Group A – had twenty two (22) participants, Group B had forty (40)



participants and Group C had twenty seven (27) participants which imply that a total of eighty nine (89) participants participated in the competition. The judges included Sri Maichel Bose, Principal of Pranavananda Art Institution and Sri Jayanto Ghosh, Art Teacher of Tulika Art Institution, Kasba. Prizes were awarded to three winners in each category whereas consolation prizes were provided to everyone, which included a folder

containing drawing stationary. In the post lunch session, a puppet show on the theme 'Independence Day' was organized for the children. The puppet show was performed by Calcutta Puppet Theatre Group from



Kasba headed by Padmashree Suresh Dutta, a Pioneer in the field of puppets. The show was immensely enjoyed by the children as well as their guardians. Certificates of merit and participation were also awarded to the winners as well as to the other participants who did not win prizes, respectively at the end of the day.

**(d) Observance of Mahatma Gandhi's 146th Birthday and Presentation of the 18th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award and Deliverance of the 17th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration (02/10/2015) :**



The Sangrahalaya observed the 146th Birthday of Mahatma Gandhi on 2nd October, 2015 at its premises. The 18th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award was presented and the 17th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration was delivered on the occasion. In the financial year, 2015-16 the Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award, instituted to

honour those engaged in Gandhian and noble society-enriching activities, etc. was presented to *Gandhi Vichar Parisad*, Bankura a well known Gandhian Voluntary Organization, which is involved in the reconstruction of villages on the line of concept and praxis of "Gram Swaraj" as articulated by Mahatma Gandhi and Acharya Vinoba Bhave, on the occasion. The Award consists of a silver salver, Scroll of Honour and Rupees ten thousand (Rs.10,000/-) and traditional

materials. The award was handed over by Sri Narayan Basu, to Sri Gaur Sundar Rajak of Gandhi Vichar Parisad. Prof. Jahar Sen, Former Professor Department of History, University of Calcutta and also the Members of the Managing





Committee of the Sangrahalaya, read out the Scroll of Honour. Prof. Sandip Das, Former Professor, Department of Philosophy, Uluberia College, delivered the 17th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration. He was felicitated with a Silver Salver and traditional materials. A temporary exhibition on *'Three Great Personalities in Photographs – Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose,'* was inaugurated by Sri Salil Kumar Gupta. The opening song *'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram'* was rendered by the staff members of the Sangrahalaya.



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.

**(e) Celebration of 'Cooperative Day' on the occasion of 'National Cooperative Week' (16/11/2016) :**

Mahatma Gandhi believed in self sufficient village communities and better balance between man and nature. He was interested in the growth of human beings and more significantly the growth of the deprived and underprivileged group of people. He aimed at maximization of welfare and that welfare was required to reach the lowest stratum of society. His idea was 'Sarvodaya' or welfare for all. Gandhiji preferred the idea of formation of cooperatives and stressed on the development of rural industries like Khadi,

handloom, sericulture and handicrafts to solve the problem of rural poverty and unemployment. Inspired by the



Gandhian idea of self-sufficiency, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore celebrated the *'Cooperative Day'* on the occasion of the *'National Cooperative Week'* (celebrated throughout India every year between 14th–20th November) in collaboration with Manirampur Mahila Silpa Samabaya Samity Limited, Barrackpore on the 16th of November, 2015 at the premises of the Sangrahalaya.

The function was attended by a number of cooperative societies and Self Help Groups in North 24 Parganas as well as other districts, such as, Manirampur Mahila Silpa Samabay Samity Limited, Ramakrishna Pally Mahila Samity, Pally Badhu, etc. Three officers of the Department of Cooperatives Government of West Bengal attended the function viz. Smt. Madhumita Ghoshal, Assistant Registrar of Cooperative Societies, Smt. Uma Das, Cooperative Development Officer and Smt. Bisakha Sengupta, Cooperative Development Officer. They spoke on various



significant and relevant topics such as the importance of self sufficiency and empowerment of women, the significance of cooperatives, problems

faced by women while forming Self Help Groups and Cooperatives, how to get loans for small scale ventures etc. The Chief Guest of the function was Swami Nityarupananda Maharaj, Secretary, Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission, Barrackpore. The



opening song was rendered by Smt. Madhuri Sarkar Deb and Smt. Apu Chattopadhyay recited a poem. The welcome address was delivered by Sri Pratik Ghosh, Director-Secretary, Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore and Smt. Tapasi Ghosh, Secretary,

Manirampur Mahila Silpa Samabaya Samity, gave a very informative and relevant speech on the significance of cooperatives in the economy of India and Gandhiji's idea of cooperatives and empowerment of women. A temporary exhibition on 'Three Great Personalities in Photographs—Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore, Mahatma Gandhi and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose,' was put up by the Sangrahalaya at the premises for everyone to see. Beside this stall four (4) more stalls were put up consisting of products manufactured by the different Self Help Groups as well as the Cooperatives. The products included wheat papad, batik products such as sarees, bags and kurtis, stitched articles in Kantha stitch and Gujarati stitch.

The function was attended by nearly one hundred and fifty (150) people and the entire programme was presided over by Sri Narayan Basu, the Chairman of the Managing Committee of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya.

**(f) Workshops, Seminars, Symposiums, etc. :**

During this financial year the Sangrahalaya organized a number of Seminars, Workshops, Symposiums and Camps on a variety of subjects, throughout the year, related to the dissemination of Gandhian ideals and philosophy among every section of the society and the community at large for general awareness about important issues in the present time. A short resume of such events is given below:

**1. Seminar on the 'Message of Gandhiji and its Importance in the Life of A Nation' (19/ 05 /2015) :**

The Sangrahalaya organized a seminar on 19th May, 2015, on the message of Mahatma Gandhi and its importance



in the life of a Nation. The title of the seminar was '*Gandhiji-r Baani O Jatiya Jibane Tar Guruttva*'. The seminar was presided by renowned social activist and the Member of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya Sri Salil Kumar Gupta and Swami Arghananda Maharaj of the Barrackpore Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission and Vivekananda Math was the Chief Guest. The Seminar was attended by thirty (30) students from the vocational training centre of the Barrackpore Ramakrishna Vivekananda Mission and Vivekananda Math.



**2. Day-long Camp on 'Alternative Paradigm of Development—Tagore and Gandhi' (04/07/2015) :**

The Sangrahalaya organized a day-long Camp on 4th of July 2015, on the topic '*Alternative Paradigm of Development—Tagore and Gandhi*'. The camp presented the idea of over exploitation of natural resources for the purpose of development in the modern world, its immediate consequences and how the ideas of Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi can be implemented to avert the imminent natural disasters. The camp was attended by

nineteen (19) students from the Department of Environmental Studies, Rabindra Bharati University as well as the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta, along with two professors each from both the Universities.



The programme began with a presentation on the theme of the Camp by Sri Samar Bagchi, Former Director, Birla Industrial and Technological Museum, Kolkata.



After the presentation was over, there was a group discussion among the participant students on the presentation. The post lunch session included a panel discussion of the students with Mr. Samar Bagchi and Dr. Pranabesh Sanyal, Former Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, Government of West Bengal, on the questions raised by the participants during the group discussion.

### 3. Two (2) Days Workshop on Formation of Self Help Groups and Gandhian Thought (21/09/2015-22/09/2015) :

The Sangrahalaya organized a workshop for two (2) days i.e. 21st and 22nd September, 2015 on 'Formation of Self Help Groups and Gandhian Thought'. The aim of the workshop was to encourage the formation of Self Help



Groups among the needy, local women, to make them self sufficient. This idea of self sufficiency forms the crux of the philosophy of Mahatma Gandhi who advocated socio-economic reconstruction by economic self-sufficiency for the

people of grass root level, especially women. He believed that percolation of the idea of self-sufficiency to the lowest segment of the society was necessary for Sarvodaya or development and well being for all.

The workshop was attended by thirty five (35) local women in the age group 18-55 years. There were unmarried, married as well as widowed ladies all of whom were interested to carve a niche for themselves by means of self sufficiency so that they can stand on an equal footing with men in future. Smt. Anuva Goswami, a trainer of Self Help Groups and an expert in the field, conducted the workshop. On the first day of the workshop the participants were given a preliminary idea about what were Self Help Groups, their aim, characteristics and the mode of savings. There was mutual interaction with participants who questioned Smt. Goswami regarding their doubts and queries.

On the second day of the workshop the financial aspect of Self Help Groups was dealt upon. It included the mode of opening bank accounts for the Self Help Groups, idea about link with the National Bank for Rural Development (NABARD), the process of getting loans from bank for micro



level cottage industries, inter group lending, different government schemes for development of needy women to start ventures on their own etc. Smt. Rita Chanda, manufacturer and supplier of soft toys carried out practical demonstration of soft toys.

**4. Workshop on ‘Contemporary Relevance of Gandhian Values’ (10/10/2015) :**

The Sangrahalaya organized a workshop on ‘Contemporary Relevance of Gandhian Values’ in collaboration with the Department of Political



Science, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College, at the premises of the Sangrahalaya on the 10th October, 2015. The workshop was attended by thirty six (36) students and four (4) faculty members of Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College. The programme began with the welcome address of the Director-Secretary of the Sangrahalaya. Professor Chittabrata Palit, Former Professor Department of Modern History, Jadavpur University, was the Guest of Honour. As an expert, he put forward his valuable comments on the topic of the workshop. After the lecture of Professor Palit, a documentary from the collection of the Sangrahalaya was presented, titled ‘Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom



*Movement in India’.*

In the second half of the programme a debate competition was arranged on the topic of the workshop, in which



the students of Barrackpore, Rastraguru Surendranath College participated. Four (4) students spoke for the motion and four (4) against it. Professor Chittabrata Palit and Professor Madhumita Ghoshal, (Faculty Member, Department of Political Science, Barrackpore Rastraguru Surendranath College) acted as the judges. The team speaking for the motion won. Prizes were awarded both to the winners as well as the runners up. Finally, the workshop came to an end with the song ‘Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram’ rendered by Staff Members of the Sangrahalaya and joined by the participants.

**5. 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 of Mussoorie. 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, and Member of Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya Managing Committee, Shri A. Annamalai and Shri Pawan Gupta. At the end of



the Inaugural Session the Key Note Address was delivered by Shri A. Annamalai.

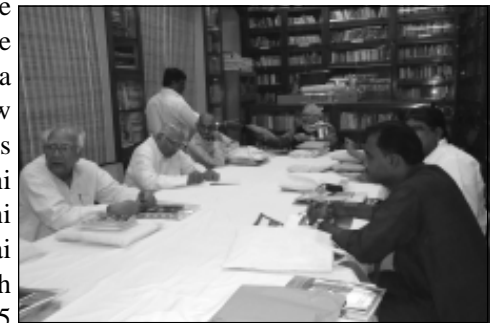


There were a total of three (3) academic sessions following the Inaugural Session, chaired ably by Dr. Shyamalkanti Chakravarti, Professor Sakti Bhattacharya, Retired Director, Institute of English, Kolkata and Shri A. Annamalai. In all ten (10) papers were presented at the Seminar which gave interesting 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 by means of the papers presented in the Seminar.

**(g) Participation in the Secretaries' Conference of All India Gandhi Museum Forum Meeting at Mani Bhawan Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Mumbai (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.

The Secretary of the Mani Bhawan Gandhi Sangrahalaya inaugurated the conference on the 9th December and he presented the prayer songs on Gandhiji. Shri Razi 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.

**(h) Free Health Check-up Camp (17/01/2016) :**

As a part of the community development programme the Sangrahalaya arranged a Free Health Check-up Camp at its premises on the 17th of January, 2016, in association with The Indian Medical Association (IMA), Titagarh Branch, Repose Clinic and Research Centre, Kolkata and Dr. Lal Path Labs, Barrackpore. The Camp was inaugurated by Swami Shibatmananda Maharaj. The camp began with the blood tests (sugar-fasting, PP and random) by Dr. Lal Path Labs, Barrackpore.



The first person to have his blood tested was Swami Shibatmananda Maharaj. The camp included four (4) doctors from the Indian Medical Association, Titagarh Branch, viz. Dr. Sunil Kumar Gope, Former President, IMA, Dr. Anadi Nath Biswas, Dr. Monoranjan Sarkar and Dr. Shibasish Bhattacharya. The doctors and Dr. Lal Path Labs were felicitated at a small function during the camp. Repose Clinic and Research 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. About seventy (70) people attended the camp which proved to be a big success among the local people.



**(i) Participatory Programmes with other Organizations :**

**1. Participation in the Philatelic Exhibition ‘Daker Saaj-2015’ organized by the West Bengal Postal Circle (08/10/2015 – 13/10/2015):**



The West Bengal Postal Circle, Department of Posts, Government of India organized a Philatelic Exhibition – ‘Daker Saaj: 2015’ during the period 08/10/2015 to 13/10/2015. They released one Special Cover on ‘81st Years of Village Industrial Association by Gandhiji’ on 12/10/2015 and for this occasion they invited the Director-Secretary of the Sangrahalaya as Special Guest.

**2. Participation in the International Seminar on ‘Community Participation in Museological Practices’ organized by 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 association with the Gandhi Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore on the 2nd of December, 2015 at the Department of Museology, University of Calcutta, 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’.



**3. Participation at the Symposium organized by Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy Memorial Society, Shimurali in Collaboration with Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya (19/12/2015) :**

The Bidhan Chandra Roy Memorial Society organized a symposium in collaboration with





the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore on the Freedom Movement of India and Mahatma Gandhi, the 'Father of the Nation', on December 19, 2015. The Chairman of the Sangrahalaya, Shri Narayan Basu,

inaugurated the Symposium by lighting the lamp and put forward his valuable comments on the theme of the



Symposium. The Director-Secretary of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Shri Pratik Ghosh, Dr. Maya Ghosh, the Member of the Managing Committee of the Sangrahalaya and eminent social activist Shri Saurav Ghosh too put forward their valuable comments. The entire function was conducted by Shri Pashupati Adhikari, Member of Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy Memorial Society. The Symposium was a success with the presence and cooperation of the local residents.

#### 4. Participation in the Environment Awareness Day Celebration at Barrackpore (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.

#### 5. Lending of Exhibition Materials for Exhibition on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose arranged by Youth Services Department, Office of the Block Youth Officer, Kalna –II, Baidyapur, Burdwan ( 23/01/2016) :

The Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore lent out the Exhibition Set in Roll-up Standee to the Youth Services Department, Office of the Block Youth Officer, Kalna-II for arranging an exhibition on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the Occasion of the Celebration of the Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose on the 23rd January, 2016.

#### 6. Participation in the Programmes of 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 Secretary of the Sangrahalaya was invited as guests of honour and the Secretary put forward his valuable opinion on the occasion.



**(j) Training Programme :**

- **Training on Food Processing & Preservation for Women (09/01/2016 – 31/03/2016) :**



Of late, the Sangrahalaya has started different programmes for community development such as training programmes for underprivileged women of the area to reach out to all sections of people in the society. A training on Food Processing and Preservation has been started by the



Sangrahalaya in collaboration with Manirampur Mahila Shilpa Samabaya Samiti Limited, Barrackpore at the premises of the Sangrahalaya from the 9th of January, 2016 for the women of Barrackpore as well as adjacent areas for their financial empowerment. Women are being taught to prepare articles like jams, pickles, vinegar, different types of squashes and sauces in this training. Classes are being held on Saturdays and Sundays every week between 12:00 noon to 03:00 pm. The participants had to fill up an application form containing personal details as well as the terms and conditions of the training. The educational qualification for the training has been fixed at class eight. The training on Food Processing and Preservation ended in 31st March, 2016. The responsibility of marketing the finished products has been taken up by the Manirampur Mahila Shilpa Samabaya Samity Limited. The Sangrahalaya sales counter has also started to keep the products and the response from the buyers visiting the Sangrahalaya is positive.

**(k) Mobile Exhibitions and Outreach Programmes in the Schools of Remote Areas :**

At present museums do not imply a permanent building that houses definite collections where visitors come during their spare time. There are many people who are not able to visit the museum in person owing to distance, lack of financial ability and such other problems. The museums all over the world have begun the trend of taking the museum to the people in the remote areas so that these people are not deprived from knowing about the museum. Following this trend the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore has recently initiated its Outreach Programmes by visiting different schools in remote areas of West Bengal.

**1. Outreach Programme at Bhadrapara Gilarchhat High School, Raidighi, South 24-Parganas District, West Bengal (22/01/2016) :**



The programme has started with the Sangrahalaya's visit to the Bhadrapara Gilarchhat High School in Raidighi, 24 Parganas South on 22nd January 2016. 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. After the documentary titled 'Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India' was shown. An audio-visual Spot Quiz was consisting of twenty (20)

questions on Mahatma Gandhi was conducted for the students which received a good amount of positive response from the



students. The winners of the quiz were given prizes. The programme also had a section called 'Deshher Kathha Dasher Kathha' for highlighting the environmental aspect of nature. In this segment a documentary prepared by the institution Juktibadi Sanskritik Samsthha, Canning, titled 'Snakes of Sunderban' was presented by the Sangrahalaya. Nearly two thousand five hundred (2500) students of the school and forty eight (48) teachers participated in the programme and the response was overwhelming. The school has also asked the Sangrahalaya for more such programmes in future.

**2. Outreach Programme at Narayanbarh High School, Sabong, West Midnapore District, West Bengal (16/02/2016) :**

The Sangrahalaya visited the Narayanbarh High School, under the Sabang Block of West Midnapore District, on 16th



February, 2016 as a part of its newly launched educational programme for the schools in the remote areas. 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 by the Sangrahalaya at the school premises for the students as well as the staff of the school. After this an animation film on the life and works of Mahatma Gandhi was presented. The audio-visual quiz was conducted consisting of twenty (20)

questions on Mahatma Gandhi was conducted for the students. Next the documentary titled 'Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India' was shown. Finally the winners of the quiz contest were given prizes.

**3. Outreach Programme at P. B. Memorial School, Naihati, North 24-Pargana District, West Bengal (04/03/2016) :**



The Sangrahalaya participated in the *Shishu Utsab* 2016 organized by the NGO Accord in collaboration with the Sangrahalaya, held at P.B. Memorial School, Naihati on March 4, 2016. The 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 by the Sangrahalaya for the audience and the documentary titled 'Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India' was shown.



**4. Outreach Programme at Namkhana Narayan Vidya Mandir, Namkhana, South 24-Pargana District, West Bengal (21/03/2016) :**

On March 21, 2016 the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya Barrackpore visited the Namkhana Narayan Vidya Mandir situated at Namkhana, 24 Parganas South as part of the programme for schools in remote areas. 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 by the Sangrahalaya at the school premises for the students as well as the staff of the school. After this the documentary titled 'Role of Barrackpore in the Freedom Movement of India' was shown which was followed



by the audio-visual quiz consisting of twenty (20) questions on Mahatma Gandhi was conducted for the students. The documentary prepared by the institution Juktibadi Sanskritik Samstha, Canning, titled 'Snakes of Sunderban' was presented by the Sangrahalaya in the second half of the programme in the section called 'Desh Katha Dasher Katha' for highlighting the environmental aspect of nature.



Nearly one thousand one hundred (1500) students and the staff of the school participated in the programme which received an extremely positive response.

**(l) Participation at the Kolkata Book Fair 2016 (27/01/2016 – 08/02/2016) :**

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.

**(m) Academic Interactions :**

**1. Assistance in Research:**

Like the previous years the Sangrahalaya has been successfully providing assistance to a number of research workers of different Universities and Colleges, who are pursuing their Ph.D, M.Phils or Post-Doctoral etc. the topics for which are diverse. They are allowed to use the facilities of the library subject to the library rules and permitted to take necessary photographs following certain conditions.

**2. Internship:**

The Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore is presently considered to be a Model Museum complete with 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.

**(n) Special Visit :**

**1. Eminent Visitors :**

Every year the Sangrahalaya is visited by a number of eminent visitors from every field of the society. They include

scholars, defense 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, Mussoorie.
- Shri K. Jayaraman (IPS), SVS Police Academy, Barrackpore.

**2. Visit by Group of Students:**

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.
- ◆ 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.

- ◆ 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 movie on the 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.
- ◆ Students 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.

**(o) Media Coverage :**

Throughout the year the Sangrahalaya has undertaken a lot of programmes which has received a good amount of media coverage and publicity, the details of which are given below:

1. The issue of *Ei Samay* (Bengali daily published by the Times of India) 31st August, 2015, published the report about the renovation of the Sangrahalaya being carried out by the National Council of Science Museums (NCSM) with the fund sanctioned by the Ministry of Culture, Government of India. The report said that the Sangrahalaya would become better after the technical upgradation is completed after the renovation work is over.
2. The report about the function for the observance of the 69th Independence Day celebration was published by the local periodical *Bibartan* in its issue of October 01, 2015.
3. The Bengali daily *Ei Samay* published the report of the presentation of the 18th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award on October 3, 2015. The report also carried a brief description of the felicitation of Professor Sandip Das, who delivered the 17th Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Oration.
4. The periodical *Bibartan* reported the observance of the Celebration of 'Cooperative Day' on the occasion of 'National Cooperative Week' organized by the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya in association with the Manirampur Mahila Silpa Samabaya Samity Ltd., at the premises of the Sangrahalaya on December 16, 2015.

5. The Newspaper *Nirbhik Kantha* reported the success of the Symposium on The Freedom Struggle of India and Gandhiji organized by Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy Memorial Society, Shimuruli, in collaboration with Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya at the premises of the Shimuruli Nimna Buniyadi Vidyalaya, on December 19, 2015.
  6. The periodical *Bibartan* reported the first Outreach Programme undertaken by the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore for the schools of the remote rural areas, that took place at the premises of the Bhadrpara Gilarchhat High School, Raidighi, District 24 Parganas South on January 22, 2016.
  7. The National Seminar on '*Rethinking Gandhian Thought: Issues and Challenges*' that was organized by the Sangrahalaya at its premises on March 26, 2016 was covered by *DD NEWS Bangla* of Doordarshan Kendra Kolkata in the evening on 26th March, 2016.
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