

**Annual Report of Activities of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, in the financial year 2011-12, from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012.**

Museums are now looked upon as vehicles of Social Change. Social Change pre-supposes and incorporates Value-Education which can be marked reflected in the activities of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, in the financial year 2011-12, i.e., from 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2011 to 31<sup>st</sup> March, 2012, particularly the 'School Programme' that is being organized by the Sangrahalaya since some years including different Seminars and Lectures with inspirational themes at different places of South Bengal. Above all its recent publication 'Swadhinatar Tukro Katha (Stray Glimpses of the Freedom Movement)' incorporating articles on such great Personalities as 'Rastraguru Surendranath Banerjee, 'Frontier Gandhi' Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan, 'Mahatma' Aswini Kumar Dutta, 'Sipahi Mangal Pande' etc.. who cherished and practiced highest human values in their lives and activities, convey the efforts this Sangrahalaya is trying to update itself to the new identity of a museum.

This financial year the Sangrahalaya has been able to arrange playing of soft instrumental music, devotional and patriotic songs in all its five (5) galleries and corridors during the museum – hours daily and showing of four short films on Gandhiji, Indian Freedom Movement, etc., some raised by the Sangrahalaya itself with photo and other necessary materials from its collection. The Sangrahalaya has instituted a 32" L.C.D. screen and DVD player in the Mural gallery for this. A Night-Vision Camera has also been installed in the Bengal Gallery where originally used articles of Gandhiji are displayed, for purposes of surveillance.

The Sangrahalaya has undertaken a thorough repair and renovation of the Staff-Quarters from its own resources, in this financial year under review.

Over all its is a more vibrant place now and its projection by many TV Channels, particularly by 'Aakash Bangla', has made it very popular.

*Mentioned below are some of its activities and programmes:*

**A) No. of Visitors:**

Around 40,000 persons including School-Groups, College and University students and faculties, excluding Library-users and those attended our various programmes organized by the Sangrahalaya.

**B) Publication:**

a) 'Swadhinatar Tukro Katha' (Stray Glimpses of the Indian Freedom Movement)' in Bengali, in remembrance of the Freedom Fighters (Swatantrata Senani Smarane) and their contributions for the freedom of the country and reconstruction – includes articles on Rastraguru Surendranath Banerjee, who used to reside near the Sangrahalaya, where Gandhiji came twice to meet him and on 'Frontier Gandhi' Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan who visited the Sangrahalaya on the 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1969, written by the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya, on 'Mahatma' Aswini Kumar Dutta by Sri Subhenda Kanjilal with assistance from 'Atmashiruti (Memoirs)' by Sri Narayan Basu, our present Chairman, and on 'Binde Tewari and Mangal Pande' by Sri Amitava Karkun, the full text of famous Scientist Albert Einstein's article on Mahatma Gandhi, written in the year 1944 in July and photos of 117 Martyrs who sacrificed their lives for the cause of our Freedom. The book has been priced at Rs. 25/- and although meant for school – students to make them aware about the Freedom Fighters and their Contributions, necessarily to adopt as 'Role – Models', the book is being appreciated and purchased by visitors. The Sangrahalaya is indebted to Sri Subhendu Kanjilal, the dynamic Social Activist, for kind services rendered.

b) *Gandhi Sangbad / Gandhi News* –

The bi-lingual journal published by the Sangrahalaya, usually quarterly since some years, is continuing and 3 numbers have been brought out this year with articles from such eminent Academicians as Prof. Jahar Sen, Prof. Amalendu De, Prof. Tapan Chattopadhyay, Dr. Sajal Basu, Swami Someswarananda, Prof. Shyamalesh Das and many other Scholars. The editorial is written by the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya naturally, being the Editor.

**C) Docu-featrure films:**

i) The Sangrahalaya reached all necessary guidance and support including materials to raise 'Gandhiji Ko Bol Dunga' on 'Child Labour' in Hindi and it is expected to be shown daily at the Sangrahalaya in the afternoon.

ii) Several short films by students of Mass-Communication and also Film-Studies by students of different universities and colleges.

**D) Programmes funded by the Sangrahalaya:**

a) *Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award & Oration of Gandhiji's 143<sup>rd</sup> Birthday on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2011:*

Instituted by the Sangrahalaya since the year 1996-1997 the Award comprises of Rs. 10,000/- in cash, a Silver Salver, a Scroll, etc., and this financial year it was given to Dr. Amuly Kumar

Chakravarty, a leading name in the Gandhian Constructive works-field, Poet and Essayist, etc., at a function organized by the Sangrahalaya on 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 2012. The Oration, comprising a Silver Salver of the same value as for Award, was delivered by Sri Subrata Mukhopadhyay, famous Novelist and Biographer, this financial year. Sri Mukhopadhyay is recipient of the prestigious Bankim Award instituted by the State Government.

The audience included Members of the Sangrahalaya Managing Committee, Academicians, Rotarians, Social Activists, etc..

b) *Release of the book 'Swadhinatar Tukro Katha':*

On the 12<sup>th</sup> February, 2012, the book 'Swadhinatar Tukro Katha' was released by Sri Ajoy Kumar Pal, the Sub-Divisional Officer of Barrackpore, at the Birla Planetarium, Kolkata before a good member of audience drawn from the Head Masters and Head Mistresses belonging to different schools at Barrackpore, Palta, Ichapur and adjoining areas of Barrackpore and Senior Government Officials of the District, Social Activists, etc.. Sri Salil Kumar Gupta, Freedom Fighter and Social Activist and Senior Member of the Sangrahalaya Managing Committee, presided and the Speakers included Sri Subhendu Kanjilal, Dr. D.B.Muzumder, Dr. Debi Prasad Duari, the famous Astro-Physicist and Director, Research of the Birla Planetarium, etc..

c) *Whole day Seminars on Gandhiji & Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore:*

i) At Belda, West Midnapur, in collaboration with Sram Vidyapith, a whole day seminar was organized on 08-04-2011. The main speaker was Prof. Mohit Chakravarty, Educationist and Author and Former Professor & Head, Dept. of Education, Viswabharati University. Prof. Chakravarty has more than 8 Scholarly titles on Mahatma Gandhi in English. The seminar was presided over by Sri Bimal Chandra Pal, President, West Bengal Sarvodaya Mandal and participants included academicians, Government officials, Panchayat Members, representatives from Voluntary and Gandhian organizations.

ii) At the Sangrahalaya on 08-05-2011 the main speakers were Sri Ramesh Sharma of All India Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi, Sri Himangra Haldar, Editor, 'Saptaha' and 'Camera Cholche' a Door Darshan Kolkata daily feature, Sri Chandan Pal, Secretary, West Bengal Peace Foundation and the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya. The participants were mainly drawn from voluntary organizations belonging to different districts of the State.

d) *Whole – day seminar on 'Museum & Memory':*

A whole – day seminar was arranged at the Sangrahalaya on 18-05-2011 to observe the International Museums Day. The international Committee of Museums' India Chapter and Museums Association of West Bengal collaborated. The theme was 'Museum & Memory', as decided by the international Committee of Museums as the theme of this year. Elder Museologists like Dr. Saroj Ghose, former President of International Committee of Museums, Dr. Shyamal Kanti Chakravarty, former Director of Indian Museum, Kolkata, Dr. Arun Chatterjee, President INC-India, Prof. Atul Chandra Bhowmik formerly of the Dept of Museology, Calcutta University, Prof. Sachindranath Bhattacharyya, Professor & Head Dept of Museology, Calcutta University, Dr. Mahua Chakravarty, Reader, Dept of Museology, Calcutta University, Dr. Jagat Pati Sarkar of the Asiatic Society, Kolkata, Sri Pradip Kumar Mandal, Dy. Curator, Rabindra Bhabana, Viswa Bharati University, Santiniketan, Dr. Sankha Basu of the Museum of R.K. Mission Institute of Culture, Golpark, Dr. Malay De of the Dept. of Museology, Rabindra Bharati University, Kolkata, Sri P.K. Palit, ex of Birla Industrial & Tech. Museum, Kolkata, Prof. Suporna Guptoo, Professor, Dept. of History, Calcutta University and host of Research Scholars, Dept. of Museology, Calcutta University deliberated on the theme in 2 Sessions. The Sangrahalaya made 2 presentations – on (i) Gandhiji & Gurudev Rabindranath Tagore and digitalized version of the whole collections in the Sangrahalaya including Library books and archives. The presenter was Sri Pratik Ghose, Asst. Keeper of the Sangrahalaya.

*e) Seminar to observe Birth Centenary of Dr. Phulrenu Guha, legendary Social Activist, former union Minister of Social Welfare and former Chairman of the Sangrahalaya:*

With the collaboration of the Dr. Phulrenu Guha Birth-Centenary Celebration Committee, Kolkata, the Sangrahalaya, among some other voluntary organizations working in the Social Service Sector, organized a seminar on 20-08-2011 at the Asutosh Memorial Hall, Kolkata, to observe the Birth-Centenary of Dr. Phulrenu Guha. Sri Salil Kumar Gupta, Prof. Pradip Bhattacharyya, hon'ble M.P., Dr. Maya Ghose, Prof. Dilip Mukhopadhyay, Sri Debajyoti Dutta, the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya, representatives of different organizations with which Dr. Guha was associated in different capacities, paid high, deserving tributes to Dr. Guha and spoke about her many qualities and contributions. Sri Narayan Basu, Chairman of the Sangrahalaya Managing Committee, was also present.

*f) West Bengal State Constructive Workers' Conference:*

This is an annual feature. The Sangrahalaya, since many years, has helped financially the State Survodaya Mandal to organize State-Level Constructive Workers' Conference to take Stock of the Status of Gandhian constructive works in the state, and motivate people to realize their importance and contributions and devote themselves for social re-construction. Usually it is held at different places in the state and a particular organization engaged in Constructive

works and allied areas, hosts. This financial year it was hosted by the Centre for Total Development on 03-12-2011 and 04-12-2011. Sri Bimal Chandra Pal, President, State Survodaya Mandal presided and the speakers included Sri Narayan Basu, Chairman of the Sangrahalaya, Managing Committee, Prof. D.N. Banerjee, Prof. Sandip Das Prof. Jahanera Begam, etc., and the key-note was given by the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya.

g) *School Programme:*

The Sangrahalaya is continuing its very beneficial, value – oriented educational programme for school students belonging to different schools under the banner ‘Sratantrata Senani Smarane’ (Remembering the contributions of the Freedom Fighters). It is an outreach programme of the Sangrahalaya and usually a school contacts the Sangrahalaya for arranging the programme at the school, as per convenience of the Sangrahalaya. The Sangrahalaya has raised a few films on it and also on our Freedom Movement for this purpose and usually an LCD Projector and screen are sent to the particular school and in the morning on the appointed date the films are shown to the students Later on, in the noon-time, we reach the school and talk about our Freedom Movement, about the romantic and adventurous lives of the Freedom Fighters, their Sacrifices for us and contributions, etc.. Often the schools also organize programmes on different incidents of the freedom movement and great lives involving the students, mainly.

This financial year we have added another dimension ‘Deshar 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 bio diversity and prevent pollution, etc.. For this we are fortunate to have received support of many illustrious Experts on the subjects like Dr. Debi Prasad Duari, the famous Astro-Physicist and Director, Birla Planetarium, Kolkata, Sri Sukumar Sett, Dy. Director, Dept of Forest, West Bengal Government, Dr. Swapan Sur, Director, Mother Dairy and earlier of the Kolkata Zoological Garden, Dr. D.B. Mazumder, reputed Ophthalmologist yet snake – expert, Sri Subhendu Kanjilal and some others who through power-point presentation bring before the students and teachers state of things of the Universe and the Globe, astronomy, bio-diversity, global warming and its effect, etc., after our talks on Freedom Movement.

This financial year the schools where this programme was arranged were:

- a) Ichapur Girls’ High School, North 24 pgs., on 30-08-2011.
- b) Ichapur Boy’s High School on 10-12-2011.
- c) Xt.Xavier’s Institution, Panihati, 24 Pgs (N) on 01-01-2012.
- d) Ariadaha Sarbamangala Girls’ High School, 24 pgs. (N) on 20-01-2012.
- e) Ichapur Morning Girls’ High School, 24 pgs. (N).

#### **E) Seminar on Social Awareness:**

On 22-12-2011 the Sangrahalaya lent its infra-structure and gave financial assistance to ACCORD, a reputed voluntary organization working in different areas of rural development and also net working for many such organizations, arranged a whole-day seminar at the Sangrahalaya itself with participation from Bank Officers, Govt. agencies and various voluntary organizations working in different districts of the state. The secretary of the Sangrahalaya presided.

#### **F) Exhibitions:**

The Sangrahalaya arranged photographic exhibitions on Gandhiji, Tagore and Netaji at

(i) Naihati Bamkim Pathagar on the 13<sup>th</sup> to 15<sup>th</sup> August, 2011.

and

(ii) At Barrackpore Government H.S. School on the 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> December, 2011.

#### **G) Collaborative Programmes:**

a) *Observance of 'Bana Mohasav' or International Forest Day:*

The Sangrahalaya on 08-07-2011 lent its infra-structure to Doglas Memorial School, Barrackpore, to observe the 'Bana Mahotsab' or International Forest Day. Altogether 12 teachers and 200 students participated. The Secretary of the Sangrahalaya spoke about the significance of the programme and planted 2 flower-trees in the Sangrahalaya garden. The students sang, recited and presented skits on relevant topics, etc..

b) *Children's Fair or 'Sishu Mela':*

The Sangrahalaya lent its infra-structure and other necessary supports to Barrackpore Barta' or 08-01-2012 to organize its annual 'Sihu Mela' in the Sangrahalaya premises as earlier years. Altogether around 400 children drawn from schools and clubs participated in the drawing competition. There had been other attractions also like 'Sand – Animation', etc.. The Superintendent of Police, Additional S.P., S.D.O., S.D.P.O. and other dignitaries were present.

c) *'Vijaya Samnelan':*

The Sangrahalaya, in collaboration with the dynamic Social Activist Sri Subhendu Kanjilal and other museum-friends arranged a Get Together on 16-10-2011 at the Sangrahalaya. The speakers included the S.D.O., Barrackpore, the S.D.I & C.O., Dr. P.M. Roy, D.B. Mazumdar, etc.. Mrs Bulbul Sarkar rendered songs and Mrs. Ratna Mazumdar entertained all with her sitar recital.

#### **H) Award for the Secretary:**

Prafulla Chandra Sen Memorial Committee, 59B, Chowringhee Road, Kolkata – 700 020, gave its annual prestigious P.C. Sen Memorial Award for the year 2011 to the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya on 11-04-2011 at the Neheru Children's Museum, Kolkata – 700 020. Prof. Amalendu De was the principal speaker and Sri Ashok Krishna Datta, ex-M.P. & President, P.C. Sen Memorial Committee, presided.

#### **I) Guest Lectureship:**

The Secretary continues to be Guest Lecture at the Dept. of Museology, Calcutta University and also taught at the Vidyasagar University and Rabindra Bharati University, etc..

Beside these he was invited to talk at different seminars organized by many organizations, Universities – departments and U.G.C. sponsored national seminars organized by some college write ups by him on Gandhiji, Freedom Movements Personalities, etc., were also published in various journals including Puja-Numbers.

#### **J) Academic Inter-actions:**

##### *a) Assistance in research:*

This Sangrahalaya is providing guidance to many research workers of different Universities and Colleges, including professors doing their Ph.D., M.Phils, Post-Doctoral, etc.. They are allowed to use the Sangrahalaya's Library, archives, etc., and supplied necessary photographs also. The topic of researches include diverse issues, events and happenings.

##### *b) Internship:*

This Sangrahalaya is presently looked upon as a Model Museum with all necessary museological aspects and services and as such students of Museology of both Calcutta & Rabindra Bharati Universities are sent here for 3 months' Internships after obtaining their Post-Graduate degrees, but before receiving their certificates.

From 1<sup>st</sup> February, 2011, 2 interneers were sent by the Dept. of Museology, Calcutta University.

**K) Library:**

The library has also grown with new books, both purchased and received as gifts. Card catalogues on books by and on Gandhiji is maintained, clippings from newspaper and Journals are carried out regularly. Digitalization of books in the Library are being upgraded now.

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

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

& host of students doing their Ph.D & M.Phils at various Universities.

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