

**Annual Report of Activities of the Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, for
the year 2012-13, from 1st April, 2012 to 31st March, 2013.**

Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore, tried to accomplish its commitments towards – 1) properly preserving the historical materials under its care and 2) projecting the Gandhian Values for benefit of the people in general and students and scholars in particular. However, uppermost was its financial condition and in pursuance of better financial support the Sangrahalaya sought the help of even hon'ble President of India and different printing Media and presently awaiting an encouraging outcome of its efforts, to improve its infra-structural arrangements to revive its earlier beneficial programmes like research, publications, Gandhian Thoughts Course, more collaborative, perititative programmes throughout the South Bengal Districts mainly, etc., helping almost defunct Gandhian institutions undertake various programmes to spread the Message of Gandhiji and other great Personalities for the benefit of the society.

Mentioned below a short resume of activities of the Sangrahalaya during the period under review.

1. Number of visitors – Around 50,000 persons.

2. Preservation of photographs –

The Sangrahalaya has in its collection around nine hundred (900) historic photographs concerning Gandhiji and Indian Freedom Movement and with the assistance of Color Magic, Kolkata, already five hundred fifty (550) photographs have been treated to last at least two hundred years (200). To keep these eighteen (18) acid – free boxes have been brought from England.

3. Arrangement of better and lasting preservation of around 35 Cassetts containing Reminiscences of eminent personalities about Gandhiji have been done with the technical assistance of Aurora Film Studio.

4. Publications –

a) Interpreting Mahatma Gandhiji – a 160 page hard – bound book on Mahatma Gandhi by the Secretary of the Sangrahalaya, released at the Sangrahalaya on the 2nd October, 2012, by eminent Gandhian Padmabhusan Sri Sailesh Kumar Bandopadhyaya and Prof. Dr. Suparna Guptoo, Director, Gandhi Studies Centre, University of Calcutta. The Recipients of the book included the hon'ble President of India, the hon'ble Governor of West Bengal, Smt.

Sonia Gandhi, the Chair Person of UPA II, Sri Rahul Gandhi, Vice – President of the Indian National Congress, etc., all by hand.

b) Two (2) issues of our bi-lingual Journal Gandhi Sangbad / Gandhi News.

5. Major Repairs –

Thorough repairs had been undertaken this financial year of the roof of some portions of the Sangrahalaya building and staff – quarters on Sangrahalaya's own fund.

6. Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award & Oration –

This year Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Award comprising of Rs. 10,000/- (rupees ten thousand) in cash, a Silver Salver and traditional materials including a Citation was given to the eminent Gandhian Padmabhusan Sri Sailesh Kumar Bandopadhyaya and the Oration was given by Prof. Kanai Pada Roy, eminent historian, at a public function held at the Sangrahalaya on the 2nd October, 2012, as part of celebration of Gandhiji's 144th Birthday.

7. Enriching the Calcutta University Gandhi Studies Centre –

The Sangrahalaya, on 1st April, 2012, gifted around 35 rare photographs connected with the Sodepur Khadi Pratisthan and Beliaghata Gandhi Bhaban to the Gandhi Studies Centre.

8. Seminars –

(With financial assistance of the Sangrahalaya and both at the Sangrahalaya or at different places in collaboration of other Gandhian institutions, NGOs and Universities, etc..)

a) *'Globalization & NGO's Role'* –

On 20-04-2012 at Centre for Total Development, Tarakeswar.

b) *'Relevance of Gandhiji in the present juncture'* –

On 21-04-2012 at Srimurali, North 24 Pgs – speakers included Dr. Maya Ghose, Sri Paras Dutta, M.L.A., etc..

c) *'Ganga Mission' - Save Ganga* –

At the Sangrahalaya on 26-05-2012 – speakers included Dr. Kalyan Rudra, the famous Expert on 'River', Sri Uttam Das, Chairman, Barrackpore Municipality, Prof. Kanai Pada Roy, etc.. Power-point presentation and film on the Ganga were arranged.

d) *'Democratic decentralization and Panchayati Raj'* –

On 26-06-2012 at Chandigarh Panchayat, Amdanga, 24 Pgs (N) speakers included Prof. Tapan Chattopadhyay, Sri Amit Basu, B.D.O., etc..

e) *'On Rev. Krishna Mohan Bandopadhyay to observe 200 years of his birth'* –

On 04-08-2012 at the Sangrahalaya speakers included Sri Hemen Mazumdar, Prof. Sachin Bhattacharyay, Dr. Arun Chatterjee, President, I.C.O.M. India, Prof. Atul Bhowmik, etc., and students of the Dept. of Museology, University of Calcutta.

f) *'Gandhiji's Historical Role & his Educational Thoughts'* –

On 29-09-2012 at the Sangrahalaya in collaboration with the Dept. of History and the Gandhi Study Centre, University of Calcutta speakers included Prof. Jahar Sen, Prof. Suparna Guptoo, Prof. Dibyendu Hota, Prof. Srilata Chatterjee and 52 students of the Dept. of History, Calcutta University.

g) *Gandhi Museums Forum Meeting* –

At Magan Sangrahalaya, Wardha, Maharastra on the 4th & 5th January, 2012, Chair Person, Directors & Secretaries of 4 Gandhi Museums met to discuss about persuasion for financial assistance from the Central Government as well as present position of the Sangrahalayas, etc..

Besides these educational programmes at different schools were also arranged and 3 (three) reputed news papers – Times of Indian Bengali Version, Sakal Bela and Hindusthan Times published reportage about the Sangrahalaya. Night Vision Camera is working for security purpose, 4 (four) film – show are being arranged daily and soft music is played throughout the day in all the galleries and corridors.

The Library has also further grown with purchases of new books and pest-control is done systematically. Present number of books is around 12,000.