

Historical Background

On 30th January, 1948, the Prince among men, as described by once adversary of Mahatma Gandhi and former Governor General of South Africa, General Smuts, while paying his tribute to Gandhi on his Martyrdom, was done to death. After normally was restored the then National Leaders, both in the Government and the Constructive work-field, decided to raise a Memorial Fund by public contributions to carry on the national-reconstruction work the Father of the Nation was continuing even after independence. The Gandhi Memorial Fund was thus instituted subsequently and around twelve crore rupees could be raised before long and with this corpus amount Gandhi National Memorial Trust or Gandhi Smarak Nidhi came into being.



Museum Building

Among other programmes the Nidhi decided to establish a Memorial Museum at the national level to collect, preserve and display materials connected with the memory of the Mahatma and in 1949 the first Gandhi Memorial Museum or Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya was inaugurated in New Delhi. Later on, in accordance with Mahatma's idea to reach everybody, it was decided to establish Regional Museums Board or Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya. Gandhi was started and under its four regional Gandhi Memorial Museums or Gandhi Sangrahalaya came up.

The Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya for the Eastern Region came up at Baranagar in the year 1961 and after initial endowments was thrown open to the public on the 7th May, 1966. The gate is not changed here and every service it renders is free of any charge.

The objects are the same as in the case of the first Memorial Museum, i.e., to collect, preserve and display materials connected with the memory of the Mahatma, disseminate his life, thoughts, activities and programmes for public benefit through different means—pictures and display also his relations with the Eastern Regional Parties including the North Eastern States. From the year 1971 the Baranagar Sangrahalaya has become an important institution in the Memorial Committee.

The Collection

The collections here, procured through the efforts of Gandhi Memorial Museum Board, New Delhi, and various other persons connected with Gandhi, particularly concerning Mahatma's connections with Bengal and Orissa, include huge numbers of photographs concerning Gandhi's life and activities and our Freedom Movement, some original and rare, a number of things of his personal use, some originally used articles of the Mahatma, rare negatives, some original letters, plaster-cast replica of his used articles, photocopy of his huge correspondence, his notes and hand writing in different languages, sculptures, models.



The lamp used by Gandhi during Non-cooperation Movement (1920-47)



Gandhi with Babindranath Tagore



Painting on Gandhi of spinning wheels



Model of Satyagrah Ashram



Model of Spinning Wheel

oil paintings including the last work of Late Satish Bhaia, the famous portrait maker—a life size portrait of the Mahatma and a mentioned earlier, a continuous panel of coloured sketches depicting the life and philosophy of Mahatma and different phases of our freedom struggle. Specimens of tribal handicrafts, and a very rare and interesting collection of specimen of hand spun threads by many of our National Leaders including Gandhi and Kamalita Gandhi.

Tape-Records containing Reminiscences of many illustrious persons who came in contact with Gandhi, Disc-Records containing patriotic and devotional songs and some documentary films on Gandhi and Independence movement from another interesting collection of this museum.

The collections, as such are as varied and necessary as to help out the museum of the life and activities of the Mahatma Gandhi.

The Galleries

The Sangrahalaya at Baranagar presently maintains the galleries.

Gallery No. 1

The first one is the



Mural Gallery where the 81 running feet Mural Painting done in Indian Style by Prof. Dharendra Nath Brahma a disciple of Acharya Nandalal Bose, on the life activities and thoughts of Gandhi and all the phases of our Freedom Movement, etc. has been kept. Beside this, in this gallery, are displayed Gandhi's sculpture made of bronze, a scale model of the cottages in which Gandhi lived at the Sabarmati Ashram and Sevagram Ashram and also a plaster cast model of Gandhi column, designed by Acharya Nandalal Bose.

Gallery No. 2

In the second gallery



life activities and programmes of the Mahatma has been presented through photographs, write-ups, maps and charts, etc. The complementary presentation utilizing running wall-showcases and with some interesting visual aids tried to depict the growth and dynamic existence of a perpetual generator of enthusiasm and action leading countless myriads towards a destination of freedom, fearlessness and glory. Some plaster cast relics, which were used by Gandhi, are also displayed in this gallery through an island showcase.

Gallery No. 3

In the third gallery we



have also developed a Portrait Gallery with oil-sketches of 36 of our National Leaders, who were either Gandhi's immediate predecessors or his great contemporaries and associates, some of whose lives and thinking influenced Gandhi, some of whom brought immense glories to our country or some of whom brought about the great Indian Renaissance touching almost all walks of our national life, sustaining and indicating the ancient glories of our Land. Specimens of tribal handicrafts, and a very rare and interesting collection of specimen of hand-spun threads by many of our National Leaders have been displayed here through some table top-showcases.

Gallery No. 4

This gallery depicts Gandhi's relations with Bengal. Through the photographs and write-ups in the wall-showcases, it is told here that Gandhi had a very deep connection with and great respect and appreciation for Bengal and Bengalees. Some materials like Bed Cover, Wooden Span, Palm Leaf Bolepur Topi, Desk, Lantern which were used by Gandhi in Bengal, are also displayed here in a self-standing wall-showcase.

Gallery No. 5

The Noakhali Peace Mission 1946-47 constitutes one of the many glorious events in Mahatma Gandhi's eventful career. This gallery has presented in a slightly played up manner his "Historic Experiment" through some dioramas. Distressed conditions of Orissa and her people moved Gandhi. On many occasions he expressed his desire to start in Orissa to serve the poor. He came to Orissa many a time. The incidents of Orissa has also been highlighted in this gallery through some original photographs.

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Corridors

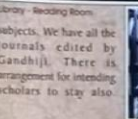
On the corridors the chronology of Indian Independence the highly eventful, inspiring and dynamic life of one of the greatest patriots of history, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose and a short glimpse of Mahatma Gandhi's last peace mission have been exhibited in photographs and write-ups through panel exhibitions.

Present Activities

- There is regular arrangement of Guide Lecture, playing of Tape and Disc Records, Film Shows on Gandhi, Gandhian Themes and Freedom Movement.
- Researches are undertaken and assistance to interested provided on this behalf. We have recently completed a study on Mahatma Gandhi's Economic thoughts in his own words which has been published. Dr. Manoj Prasad, an Italian Scholar, has published a book on Indo-Nation relationship and inter-action with Gandhi after working here for three years in phases.
- We have several publications to our credit and it is an on-going programme. Publication include Booklets on Trusteeship, Gandhi & the Eclipse of the Raj, and a comprehensive Library Catalogue.
- We regularly organise through out the year 8-Day, Classes on Gandhian Thought with eminent Academics and Activities in the Faculty. The course is open to all including foreigners.
- We have undertaken an Action-Research Programme unique in Museum-Parlance "SARWANI" a Children's Preparatory School with children belonging to both economically and culturally poorest families living in the slum areas near Museum, in experiment with or on Gandhi's idea of cultural change.
- We have developed a few photographic Exhibition Sets on the Lives of Gandhi, Tagore, Netaji, Sri Aurobindo and 200+ Hundred Years of the Indian Freedom Movement which are sent to educational institutions, Fairs, situated near and far, on prior arrangements, as Mobile Exhibition.
- Special, Temporary or Occasional Exhibitions are also arranged as and when the necessity is felt. Collaborative Programmes are also organized with N.G.O.s and Voluntary Organisations and Government Departments and Academic Bodies.

Library

To supplement the presentation and for interested readers and research workers the Sangrahalaya maintains a well-organized library with around eleven thousand volumes at present on Gandhi, Gandhi love and allied subjects. We have all the journals edited by Gandhi. There is arrangement for intending scholars to stay also.



Library - Reading Room



Library - Stock Room

Publication

ক্রমিক সংখ্যা	শিরোনাম	লেখক	পৃষ্ঠা সংখ্যা	মুদ্রিত তারিখ
১.	গান্ধী-জীবন পরিচিতি	ডাক্তারী প্রবন্ধ সংগ্রহ	২ টি	২০০৮
২.	গান্ধী-জীবন পরিচিতি	ডাক্তারী প্রবন্ধ সংগ্রহ	১৫ টি	১৯৮০
৩.	গান্ধী-জীবন পরিচিতি	ডাক্তারী প্রবন্ধ সংগ্রহ	১০ টি	১৯৮০
৪.	গান্ধী-জীবন পরিচিতি	ডাক্তারী প্রবন্ধ সংগ্রহ	১০ টি	১৯৮০
৫.	গান্ধী-জীবন পরিচিতি	ডাক্তারী প্রবন্ধ সংগ্রহ	১০০ টি	১৯৮০

SL.NO	NAME OF THE BOOKS	AUTHORS NAME	PRICE
1.	A Living Memory - A Brief Resume about Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya	Prof. Saptarshi Mondal	Rs. 10/-
2.	Gandhi and the Eclipse of the Raj	Prof. Saptarshi Mondal	Rs. 60/-
3.	A Catalogue of Books in the Collection of Gandhi Museum Library	Prof. Saptarshi Mondal	Rs. 75/-
4.	Mahatma Gandhi in Murals	Text: Prof. Saptarshi Mondal Art: Prof. Dharendra Nath Brahma	Rs. 275/-

GENERAL INFORMATION

Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya
(Gandhi Memorial Museum)
14, Riverside Road, Baranagar
Kolkata - 700 120
Tel : (033) 2592-0170
Website : www.gandhimuseum.in

- Open on all days except Wednesday
- Timings : 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- NO ENTRY FEE

ACCESSIBILITY

By Train : SEALDAH (Main Line) to Baranagar Station. From there by Auto or by Bus (No. 81, 85, S34) to Mistriganj More.
HOWRAH (Main Line) to Steamtrap Station & from there to Dhoighat by Ferry.



SITE PLAN OF MUSEUM BUILDING

SPECIAL ATTRACTION

The collection of Voice-records of several of our National Leaders, Patriotic songs and Tape-recorded Reminiscences about Gandhi and attractive Film Shows on Mahatma Gandhi and our Freedom Movement, which are played on request.

Text by: Saptarshi Mondal, Designed by: Pratik Ghosh, Photographs by: Indralyala Banerjee & Published by: Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya

A Living Memory

A Brief Resume about
Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya
and its present Activities



"Generations to come, may he, will never believe that such a one as this ever in flesh and blood walked upon this earth."
A. L. B. L.

"My Life is My Message"
A. L. B. L.

Name of Publication

Museum Folder: *A Living Memory: A Brief Resume about Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya and its Activities*

Author

Text by: Supriya Munshi

Published by

Design by: Pratik Ghosh

Year of Publication

**Gandhi Smarak Sangrahalaya, Barrackpore
2008**

Price

Rs 7.00

Preface

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This is a brochure of the Sangrahalaya, which describes the historical background of the Sangrahalaya, a brief description about its collection, the thematic description of various exhibits in different galleries, information about Sangrahalaya's Library and the different activities, etc. with photographs