

**GANDHI  
MEMORIAL MUSEUM  
MADURAI**



**GUIDE BOOK**



**Pandit Nehru inaugurating  
Madurai Gandhi Museum on 15-04-1959**



**Gandhi Asthi Peedam**

# **GANDHI MEMORIAL MUSEUM MADURAI.**



## **GUIDE BOOK**

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## **INTRODUCTION**

*"Namaste" - Welcome to Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai.*

*Now you are stepping into a Historical and Monumental building housing many articles and replicas and originals of many things connected with Mahatma Gandhi, the Father of our Nation.*

*This building was built around 1670 A.D. by Mangammal of Naik dynasty as her summer resort. It passed through many hands to become finally the residence of District Collectors. After the assassination of Gandhiji it was chosen to form one of the Seven Museums in India to perpetuate the memory and probagate the ideals of Gandhiji.*

*This Museum gives you a vivid picture of the Indian freedom struggle and depicts the pangs of the birth of a nation. The life and sacrifice of Mahatma Gandhi is narrated to the end of his life.*

*We shall be much gratified if the visitors to this Museum could be benefitted by imbibing the spirit and ideology of Gandhiji, one of the greatest personalities of the twentieth century.*

*Madurai,  
01-01-2012*

*Secretary,  
Gandhi Memorial Museum.  
Madurai.*

*" And then Gandhi came. He was like a powerful current of fresh air that made us stretch ourselves and take deep breaths; like a beam of light that pierced the darkness and removed the scales from our eyes; like a whirl wind that upset many things, but most of all the working of people's minds. He did not descend from the top; he seemed to emerge from the millions of India, speaking their language and incessantly drawing attention to them and their appalling conditions. Get off the backs of these peasants and workers, he told us, all you, who live by their exploitation; get rid of the system that produces this poverty and misery. Political freedom took a new shape then and acquired a new content"*

*His voice may not be heard by many in the tumult and shouting of today, but it will have to be heard and understood some time or other if this world is to survive in any civilized form.*

*- Jawaharlal Nehru*

## **Gandhi Memorial Museum Madurai.**

### ***History - purpose and the Exhibits.***

Soon after the assassination of Gandhiji in 1948, an appeal was issued to the public for funds to raise suitable memorial to Gandhiji. The rich and the poor vied with each other in contributing their mite and the Gandhi Memorial Trust, New Delhi (Gandhi Smarak Nidhi) came into being.

The Gandhi Memorial Trust had allocated Rs. 10 millions for the purpose of setting up Gandhi Memorial Museums in select seven places in India associated with the Life and work of Gandhiji.

The Gandhi Memorial Museum at Madurai has been built and organised by the Gandhi Smarak Nidhi. There are innumerable places in South India which are important in relation to Gandhiji, since he visited Tamilnadu 20 times. But, among them all, Madurai City can claim a distinct place of its own. It was in Madurai, in the year 1921, that Gandhiji adopted for the first time the loin cloth as his mode of dress, which made him known throughout the world as the "Half Naked Fakir". It was in Madurai again that the doors of the great Meenakshi Temple were thrown open to Harijians, thus winning a historic battle against Untouchability'

Gandhiji visited the temple in 1946 along with the Harijans as a triumph for the cause of Harijan Temple Entry.

The building that houses the Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai is the historic Tamukkam Palace of Rani Mangammal of Naick dynasty built about 1670 A.D.

The Gandhi Memorial Museum is a living Institution and not merely a Building preserving and showing exhibits, however precious. It seeks to help an ever increasing number of people particularly the youth of the country to understand and value the life, work and teachings of Gandhiji.

The Picture Gallery in the first floor presents a visual biography of Gandhiji. It contains photos, paintings, sculptures, manuscripts, quotations and some original articles used by Gandhiji (Relics and replicas). The exhibits in the Museum may broadly be divided into the following sections.

- ★ Special Exhibition on "India Fights for Freedom" with 265 Illustrations, depicting the history of the Freedom Movement.
- ★ The exhibition of the choice specimens of Handicrafts donated by the Government of Andhra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu.
- ★ This leads to the Pictorial Gallery, depicting a visual biography of Gandhiji by means of Photographs, quotations, painting etc and some of the selected photostat copies of many of Gandhiji's letters.



- ★ Then you enter "The Hall of Relics " where some of Gandhiji's personal belongings (originals and replicas) are preserved.
- ★ The northern wing of the building houses the Library.
- ★ To the south of the building, you will see a big open air theatre with a capacity to accomodate about 8,000 people. Cultural programmes and public meetings on special occasions are held in the theatre.

In front of the main building, a little towards south, you will find the "Gandhi Kutir", an exact replica of Gandhiji's hut in Sevagram and VinobaJothi Hall.

By the side of Gandhi Kutir, the recently renovated Gandhiji Asthi Peedam provides a peaceful venue with serene atmosphere for people to pray and pay their respect to Father of the Nation.

The Gandhi Memorial Museum at Madurai was inaugurated by Shri Jawaharlal Nehru on 15th of April, 1959.

The Museum serves to propagate the ideals of Gandhiji. Special Exhibitions, Lectures, Seminars, Study Circle meetings, Group discussions, Book Reviews, Summer Camps for students and classes on Yogasana and Naturopathy are conducted.

Gandhi Memorial Museum had initiated an Education Programme for the students of the Colleges and High schools of Madurai City. They undergo a

methodical one day study course of 7 hours duration on the history of "Indian Freedom Movement" and on a brief study of "Gandhiji's life". The courses are imparted with specially prepared text books through Class room study, Television and Slide shows and Museum Gallery visit. A Class room is set up with Television for this purpose in the Museum Section. The Educational Programme is a regular activity of the Museum.

On an average the Museum is visited by about 450 persons and the Library is used by about 150 readers daily.

The Gandhi Memorial Museum. Madurai is an autonomous Registered Society and is administered by a committee which includes Gandhian leaders, Educationists, Social Workers and representatives from the Central and the Tamilnadu State Governments.

**SPECIAL EXHIBITION ON  
"INDIA FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM"**

***THE COMING OF THE WHITE MAN - 1498***

The first European seaman to reach India entirely by sea was Vasco-da-Gama in 1498.

The East India Company was formed in London in 1600 to trade with India. Those who came thus to trade found themselves in a country ruled by Rajahs and Nawabs who were quarrelling among themselves. Soon the British were strong enough to interfere in the quarrels of the Indian Princes.

Fort St.George, founded in 1640 grew up into Madras Fort William, built in Bengal in 1697 gave birth to Calcutta.

In 1749, the English helped Mohammed Ali to win the throne of the Carnatic. They completely controlled and reduced him to a state of near vassalage.

Siraj-ud-Dowla, the Nawab of Bengal was defeated in battle at Plassey on 23rd June, 1757. Emperor Shah Alam granted Robert Clive, the victor of Plassey, the Sovereign rights over Bengal. From that fateful date, the conquest of India by the British began.

***THE CHALLENGE FROM TAMIL NADU - 1795***

Veerapandia Kattabomman of Panchalamkurichi was quick to realise that the English aimed at the destruction of the `poligar' (Palayakarar) system and establishment of their direct rule over the whole of the Carnatic. He and his brothers Oomathurai and Sevathiah

began organising the `poligars' of the South against the English.

In 1799, the English attacked Kattabomman's Fort at Panchalam Kurichi (Tirunelveli District) captured and destroyed it. But the English lost heavily in the fight.

Kattabomman was captured by the soldiers of the Rajah of Pudukkottai and hanged by the English at Kayattar. His brothers, Oomathurai and Sevatiah were jailed at Palayamkottai.

The Marudu Brothers of Sivaganga freed Oomathurai and Sevatiah from Jail. They drove away the English from several places in the Southern districts and issued a proclamation in 1801 to the people. It read, "The Europeans have deceitfully made the kingdom their own..... destroy them and continue to do so until they are extirpated".

For 18 months, the South shook with revolts, battles, attacks and counter attacks and capture of forts. The armed revolt however, ended in defeat. The leaders were hanged. Their followers were sentenced to transportation for life.

But in their death and heroism, they left to their country men a precious legacy of a struggle to be resumed and fought to a finish over the year. Their followers were sentenced to transportation for life.

### ***MYSORE RESISTS - 1767***

Hyder Ali made Mysore a major power of India. He fought and defeated the English troops in two wars.

After Hyder's death, his son Tipu, "The Tiger of Mysore", carried on the struggle for three years. In the Third Mysore war, he was overpowered and forced to surrender half of his territories; and agree to pay a compensation of 33 million rupees and to handover two of his sons as hostages to the British.

With renewed vigour Tipu strengthened his defences, modernised his army and took steps for an agreement with France, then under Napoleon. Forewarned, the English started the Fourth Mysore War (1799). They invaded Mysore with their ally the Nizam of Hyderabad. Fighting against odds, Tipu gave his life in the defence of his capital, Seringapatnam.

John Marriot has said, "The death of Tipu Sultan removed from the Indian scene the most inveterate, the most implacable, the most fanatical and perhaps the most formidable enemy encountered by the English".

### ***THE SIKH AND THE MARATHA RESISTANCE - 1775***

A Small rebel kingdom founded in 1674 by Shivaji grew into a great power simultaneously with the growth of the East India Company. An English attempt to get a foot hold in the Maratha Territory during the First Maratha war (1775-1782) had failed.

In two wars, in 1803 and 1818 (the Second and third Maratha Wars) the English defeated the Maratha States. These States had by then become disunited after the death of Nana Fadnavis.

Next the Sikhs fell. Ranjit Singh had by 1801 unified Punjab with one of the best trained armies in India called the "Khalsa".

During the first Sikh war in 1845 the Sikhs proved themselves equal to the English troops. But later the Regent Queen of the Punjab accepted defeat allowing the British to take Kashmir. In the Second Sikh War (1848-1849), the English suffered heavy losses at Chilianwala. But they defeated the Sikhs at Gujarat and captured the Punjab.

The English had already brought the Rajputs under their control. In 1816, they seized Kumaun and Dehra Dun districts from Nepal; in 1826, Assam from Burma and in 1843, Sindh.

The British conquest of India proved the truth of the old saying; "United we stand and divided we fall".

### ***WAGES OF SLAVERY***

The East India Company raised the taxes to increase its profits and to meet the cost of its aggressive wars. Unable to bear the burden, the peasants sold or mortgaged their lands. Farm production fell and famine spread. In Bengal and Bihar, the company forced the peasants to grow indigo free for the English on pain of torture of death.

Cotton, India's wealth, was shipped to England only to return to India in the form of expensive cloth. To sell her goods in India, Britain destroyed India's industries. The plunder of India made English rich.

The Company paid for its purchases made in India from the taxes collected in India itself, not in gold or silver from England.

Dalhousie's Policy of taking over Indian States when their rulers died without direct heirs caused discontent among the princes and people. Disbanded soldiers and dismissed officials of these Indian States added to the misery of the people.

Indians could be beaten to death cruelly by the Company's police or jailed indefinitely without trial.

Their agriculture ruined, industries destroyed, arts and culture neglected and their religion threatened, Indians were simmering with dissatisfaction and anger.

The economic exploitation of India by the English and their attempted cultural conquest made India a key of gun powder.

### ***THE VOLCANO ERUPTS THE FIRST SHOT-1857***

Like a volcano, the long -suppressed anger of the Indian people burst forth. The British called it the "Sepoy Mutiny". But truly, it was a national upsurge, the first of many battles fought to regain a nation's lost honour.

The East India Company's Indian sepoys were treated badly and paid poorly.

Malcolm Lewin said" . . . . . We have denied to the people of the country all that could raise them in society, and elevate them as men; we insulted their caste; we abrogated their laws of inheritance; we have

unsettled the country by our exactions by means of torture....."

John Sullivan has remarked" ..... The Englishman flourishes and acts as a sponge, drawing up riches from the banks of the Ganges and squeezing them upon the banks of the Thames (London)"

'Deen Deen! and Har Har Mahadev!' - the war-cries of the rebels filled the air.

The year 1857 was the centenary of the Battle of Plassey. Through every roar of thundering cannon and the clang of flashing sword, the rumbling voice 'To avenge Plassey' rang forth.

Mangal Pande of the Bengal Infantry fired the first shot of the Great Revolt on 29th March, 1857, as protest against the use of cartridges covered with animal fat. Alarmed, the English disarmed and disbanded all suspected regiments. Mangal Pande was captured and hanged on 8th April.

Killing off their English Officers, the Sepoys at Meerut marched to Delhi and captured it on 10th May. The sepoys at Delhi joined them. They declared the ageing Bahadur Shah, their Emperor. The uprising grew into a national revolt.

The English attacked Delhi and re-captured the city and the Royal Place in September. The absence of effective leadership and organisation among the rebels resulted in their defeat. Bahadur Shah surrendered near Humayun's Tomb in Delhi.

Shooting dead in cold blood the three Princes, who too had surrendered, the English plundered the city,



killing 27,000 civilians. People fled from the city of Horror.

After a mockery of a trial, Bahadur Shah was exiled to Rangoon, where he died and was buried in an unknown grave.

### ***THE REVOLT SPREADS***

From Meerut the flames of the Revolt spread far and wide to Kanpur, Peshawar and Ferozepur. The English, driven to despair, grew ruthless. Suspected sepoys were blown from guns. In and around Benares, even civilians were murdered. In Kanpur and Jhansi, all the English were killed in revenge. On neither side was mercy asked for, nor given.

Nana Saheb led the revolt in Central India, fighting hard like a lion with a wounded rage. He struck terror into the hearts of the English.

The whole of Oudh, was in rebel hands. Its widowed queen, Hazzarat Mahal, swore life-long enmity with the English. She fought them in person and refused to bow down even in defeat.

When the English captured Lucknow, there was wanton destruction and plunder on a very large scale.

"The Plunder, was estimated at over 600,000 (according to the Times of 31st May, 1858) and within a week it had reached a million and quarter sterling"

***Forbes - Mitchell***

### ***DEFEATED, YET VICTORIOUS***

Though the leaders of the Revolt were from different parts of India, following different faiths and sometimes belonging to conflicting classes, they spoke the same language of hatred against their foreign masters. Among them were Rani Lakshmibai, the brave queen of Jhansi, the brilliant guerilla leader Tantya tope, the brave and true hearted Moulvi, Liakat Ali, the seventy year old leaping tiger Kunwar Singh and Nana Saheb, the most hated of all by the English.

Feroze Shah, the Mughal Prince fought the English for two years and died in poverty in self-imposed exile at Mecca.

Rao Sahero of many battles died on the gallows.

Rani Lakshmibai met with death of bravery and patriotism.

As the people of India buried their dead heroes, Queen Victoria by a proclamation in November 1858, took over the administration ending the East India Company's rule.

The Defiant queen Hazrat Mahal issued a spirited counter - proclamation. She asked" . . . . . In the Proclamation (Queen Victoria's) it is written that the Christian religion is true, but no other creed will suffer oppression, and that the Laws will be observed towards all. What has the administration of Justice to do with the truth of falsehood of a religion? . . . . . Let no subject be deceived by the proclamation".

The future seemed dark and uncertain.

### ***THE VOICE OF THE INDIAN RENAISSANCE - 1800***

Raja Ram Mohan Roy (1772 - 1833) welcomed Western education. He was against senseless and inhuman practices like the `Sati'-burning widows alive along with their dead husbands.

Saint Ramalinga Vallalar (1821 - 1874) sang of the equality of all human beings and against caste differences.

Ramakrishna Paramahansa saw God in the lowliest of the low.

Ishwar Chandra Vidya Sagar (1820 - 1891) worked for women's uplift and the spread of education.

Swami Dayanand Saraswathi restored Hinduism to its Vedic vitality enabling it to face the modern challenges.

Swami Vivekananda (1863 - 1902) Shri Ramakrishna's disciple, thundered his message of Vedanta aloud from Kanya Kumri to the cave of Amarnath and even far off in Chicago and Paris.

A network of railways, metalled roads, post and telegraph services, printing presses and newspapers made the quick spread of knowledge and exchange of ideas possible. Political consciousness was dawning among the people.

It was India's spiritual, intellectual and cultural renaissance. Those who nurtured it, had their feet planted firmly on the Indian soil; but willing to learn from the West, nevertheless.

### ***THE BIRTH OF THE INDIAN NATIONAL CONGRESS-1885***

Under the foreign rule, the peasants suffered by the crushing burden of heavy taxes and rentals. The artisans starved. In the newly sprung cities, the British Officers and businessmen and Indian aristocrats lived in luxury. Peasants who had lost their lands toiled as wage labourers in the mills and factories.

Everywhere Indians were treated worse than slaves or dogs. An Englishman could kill an Indian with impunity. No Indian could own a gun without a permit. Indian language newspapers were denied the freedom to speak out public feelings.

English-educated middle-class Indians like Surendranath Bannerjee, an educationist and journalist, Dadabhai Naoroji, an elected member of the British Parliament, and Govind Ranade, friend of the Social Reform Movement, were the first to speak up boldly for the Nation's rights.

The time was ripe for the birth of a common organisation for expressing their views and feelings.

The "Indian National Congress" was founded in December 1885 at Bombay, with W.C.Bannerjee as its first President, and A.O. Hume, an Englishman, as its first General Secretary.

G.Subramania Iyar guided the discussions of the Congress and Pheroze Shah Mehta pleaded for a greater share for Indians in the Administration.

### ***THE MODERATES AND THE EXTREMISTS - 1900***

"Swaraj is my birth right and I shall have it", so said the angry "Messenger of Unrest" - Bal Gangadhar Tilak. The British found him disloyal and sent him in chains to Burma.

The Indian National Congress was soon divided into two-Moderates who pleaded for constitutional reforms within the Empire, and the Extremists who demanded nothing less than Swaraj-Freedom to fashion our own destiny.

Gopal Krishna Gokhale wanted that "Public life must be spiritualised". He was a 'Moderate' in politics.

Lala Lajpat Rai, an 'Extremist' leader, declared, "There could be no willing co-operation between a foreign Government and a subject people".

Slowly at first, but soon fast enough, the spirit of nationalism filled the land. "Vande Mataram" the immortal words of Bakim Chandra Chatterji became the slogan of the national movement.

Subramanya Bharathi awakened his countrymen to a fresh sense of life with his inspiring songs.

V.O. Chidambaram Pillai gave practical expression to the Swadeshi spirit by starting the "Swadeshi Steam Navigation Company" in 1902. He ended up in jail pulling the oil press and breaking stones.

## ***THE PARTITION OF BENGAL AND THE AFTERMATH-1905***

With a view to hit at the Bengalis who were then in the forefront of the national movement, Lord Curzon, the then Viceroy, announced in 1905, a decision to 'Partition' Bengal into two separate provinces. There was a tremendous upsurge of protest against this. Both Hindus and Muslims were united in rising up against the "Divide and Rule" policy of British. Calcutta set an example for a country wide resistance.

Hartals and boycott of British goods were observed. British goods were burnt in public and shops selling them were picketed. Swadeshi mills, match factories, tanneries, potteries etc., sprang up, all over the country.

Poet Rabindranath Tagore's fervent prayer was :

"Where the mind is without fear  
And where the head is held high  
.....  
Into that heaven of Freedom...  
Let my country awake!"

Aurobindo Ghosh showed the youth the path of rebellion against the tyranny of the British.

Angered by the boycott and the burning of British goods, the government arrested and flogged the volunteers publicly.

"Would you make us forget our Mother by flogging?" asked Mukundlal, the Bard of Bengal.

### ***THE CULT OF THE BOMB - 1907***

In 1911, Partition of Bengal was withdrawn. But the Terrorist Movement continued till 1918, under the leadership of Aurobindo Ghosh and his colleagues. Aurobindo Ghosh was tried for conspiracy. Undaunted, he said "If it is an offence to preach the ideal of freedom, I admit having done it".

Deshbandhu Chitta Ranjan Das, a great patriot, visionary and an apostle to revolt, powerfully defended Aurobindo.

Kanhailal Dutta also was an accused in that case. He shot a traitor to death during the trial itself, and was himself later executed.

Secret Societies spread the cult of the bombs and the pistol.

An 18 year old youth-Khudiram Bose-threw a bomb on a British District Judge of Muzaffarpur.

Lala Hardayal and Shyamji Krishna Varma organised anti British activities abroad.

Madanlal Dingra shot dead an English Official in London.

Madam Cama Unfurled the earliest flag of Indian Independence in Germany in 1907.

Veer Savarkar smuggled arms into India.

V.V.Subramania Iyer trained terrorists in Tamilnadu, Vanchi Aiyer shot the British Collector of Tirunelveli to death.

"The only lesson required in India is to learn how to die and the only way to teach it is by dying alone". this was the motto of the terrorists.

Hundreds of these young terrorists were arrested, tortured and hanged.

### ***THE LIMITS OF CONSTITUTIONALISM-1909***

Both the Moderates and the Extremists were thoroughly disappointed with the "divide and rule" game and the 'Morley-Minto' Reforms.

"We want freedom of thought, freedom of action, freedom to fashion our own destiny" said Motilal Nehru.

"No nation can be perfectly well-governed unless it governs itself", spoke Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya.

Srinivasa Shastri said "We will achieve freedom and the whole of it, by entirely peaceful means."

Sarojini Naidu said, "Self Government is the desire and destiny of every human soul". Rajagopalachari was emphatic in his demand for independence.

Annie Besant demanded "Home Rule" - Self Government within the British Commonwealth.

Though Mohammed Ali Jinnah (1876 - 1948) put forward a 'two-nation theory' to back his demand for the



partition of India, he was behind others in demanding self-government.

Returning from Mandalay prison, Tilak joined forces with Besant to rouse the country. Besant declared, "India is no longer on her knees for boons; she is on her feet for her rights."

Besant and other Home Rulers were arrested. The Mass Movement spread all over country. Veteran leaders, Annie Besant, C.R. Das, S.P. Sinha, B.N. Sharma, Srinivasa Shastri, Madan Mohan Malavia, T.B.Sapru, Motilal Nehru, C. Rajagopalachari, Sarojini Naidu, M.A.Jinnah and others, though they came from different political camps, told the British Government with one voice, to confer self-Government on India at an early date.

### ***THE GANDHI ERA BEGINS - 1915***

The Indian freedom struggle was waiting for a mighty revolutionary who knew and could touch the soul of India. Way back in South Africa, Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi, a barrister from India had taken up the cause of Indian settlers there and fought against government's injustice, adopting a new and dynamic method, 'Satyagraha'. He had won many non-violent battles there. It was with such a background that he came back to India.

"I have no doubt that the British Government is a powerful government; but I have no doubt that Satyagraha... is one of the most powerful methods of direct action against evil but not against the evil-doer".

"A Satyagrahi is one who will always try to overcome evil by good, anger by love, untruth by truth, violence by non-violence..."

Thus spoke the prophet of nonviolent politics. It was a new language.

Espousing the cause of the peasants of Champaran in Bihar against the injustice done to them. Gandhiji fought against the government using non-violence. Gandhiji was arrested and released. Finally, he won the fight, as also another peasants' struggle in the Kheda District of Gujarat. As a protest on behalf of the strikers of Ahmedabad Mills, Gandhiji went on a fast-one of the laws of Satyagraha.

Gandhiji identified himself with the masses. People listened to him spell bound and became fearless.

Poet Rabindranath Tagore acclaimed him as "Mahatma" "Great soul"

### ***THE MASSACRE AT JALIANWALA BAGH-1919***

The British passed the Rowlatt Act by which any Indian could be thrown into jail without trial. Shocked at this, Gandhiji gave a call for an all-India 'Hartal'. The Nation responded. Gandhiji was arrested, but released soon afterwards.

A public meeting was held at Jalianwala Bagh in Amritsar. General Dyer ordered firing on this peaceful assembly of over 20,000 people. Hundreds were killed, thousands were injured. The country was shocked at this massacre. Gandhiji who had supported the British during

First world war said "Is this the reward for co-operation during the war. Hereafter we do not co-operate with the rulers". The Calcutta Congress of 1920 endorsed Gandhiji's Non violent Non Co-operation.

Inspired by the Ali Brothers, Swami Shraddhanand and other leaders, the Hindus joined their Muslim brethren in their Non violent Non Co operation against the British.

Many Indian leaders gave up their British honours and titles, professionals left their professions and students their colleges. Jails overflowed with satyagrahis. In reply to the Government's brutality, Gandhiji announced a non-violent mass Civil Disobedience movement. However at Chauri Chaura, 22 Policemen were burnt to death by an angry mob. Shocked at this, Gandhiji suspended the Civil-Disobedience movement and imposed upon himself a five-day fast as a penance. Yet, he was arrested.

This was a turning point in the history of the freedom movement.

### ***THE CHALLENGES OF THE CONSTRUCTIVE PROGRAMME - 1919***

"It is idle to talk of Swaraj so long as we do not protect the weak and the helpless" said Gandhiji.

Eighty percent of the poor villagers in india remained idle for four months in the year for want of work. Gandhiji gave these people the Spinning Wheel. "Charka" - so that they may free themselves from poverty and slavery. The "Charka" became the symbol of

political and economic freedom.

The All-India Spinners Association was founded. Freedom Fighters, dressed in Khadi-handspun and hand woven cloth-went round the villages of India, spreading the message of Khadi and the Constructive Programme. A new sense of self-reliance was added to the freedom struggle.

At Madurai in 1921, Gandhiji took to the loin-cloth and said, "In the context of the conditions of my people, I cannot afford a greater luxury than a loin-cloth".

Condemning untouchability, Gandhiji called on the people. "Remove this injustice of man to man".

Under Gandhiji's guidance, Ezhava leaders and "high caste" Hindu leaders led a successful satyagraha for the right of the untouchables to use the roads around the temple at Vaikom in Kerala. An age-old injustice was removed.

### ***TRYING TIMES - 1923***

Congress volunteers from all over India carried the prohibited national flag and courted arrest

The British Imperialists took advantage of Hindu-Muslim riots. Gandhi fasted for 21 days for communal harmony.

Through a "No tax" Satyagraha in the Bardoli District of Gujarat, Vallabhai Patel succeeded in making the Government withdraw an unjust increase in taxes.

The Simon Commission came to India to find out if India was fit for parliamentary Democracy. But

"Simon, Go Back", were the words that greeted that Commission.

In an anti-Simon demonstration, Lala Lajpat Rai was beaten by the police badly. He died later of the injuries. The youth of Punjab went mad with anger. A police officer was shot in revenge. In turn, the British executed the trio-Bhagat Singh, Sukhdev and Rajguru.

A Round Table Conference was convened in London; but the Congress boycotted it.

The Lahore Congress under Jawaharlal Nehru demanded "Poorna Swaraj", complete Independence.

### ***THE SALT MARCH TO DANDI-1930***

"On bended knees I asked for bread and received a stone instead", said Gandhiji opening a brave new chapter. Gandhiji commanded the people to break the Salt-Law and make salt.

On 12th March 1930, Gandhiji started on the famous "Dandi March" for breaking the Salt Law saying. "Either I shall return with Swaraj or else my body will float on the ocean".

On the way, thousands of people joined the marchers. At the prayer meeting, before breaking the Salt Law, Gandhiji said, "I regard this rule (British rule) as a curse".

The Satyagrahis broke the Salt Law by picking up salt. Gandhiji was arrested. Elsewhere, all over the

country, people broke the Salt Law likewise. In South India C.Rajagopalachari, T.Prakasam, S.Satyamurti, K.Kamaraj and others broke the Salt Law.

Puzzled and angered, British Government hit back mercilessly by killing a hundred and three, injuring thousands and arresting sixty thousand brave fighters.

Impatient youth under Surya Sen captured two government armouries in Chittagong. He went to the gallows shouting `Vande Matharam' till his reverberating voice was stilled for ever.

#### ***THE ROUND TABLE CONFERENCE AND AFTER-1931***

The British Government called for a Round Table Conference in London. To break the unity of the National Movement, the British encouraged communal groups and the rulers of the Native States of India. But at the Conference, Gandhiji stood firmly for a united, free and non-communal India.

Gandhiji failed in his mission but succeeded in making the people of England and the rest of the world to understand the Indian struggle for Independence.

Civil disobedience was started again. Thirty two thousand persons were arrested including Gandhiji.

Gandhiji went on a fast unto death in prison against an attempt to separate the Harijans from the rest of Hindu Society through the Communal Award.

Dr.Ambedkar, leader of the Harijans, signed a bond in the presence of Gandhiji through which many more seats were to be reserved for the Harijans in the

Legislative Assemblies than granted in the Communal Award.

Gandhiji wanted the Hindus themselves to repent and wipe out the age-old sin of untouchability. The response was immediate and countrywide. Temple doors were thrown open to the Harijans all over the country.

### ***CONGRESS MINISTRIES AND THE AFTERMATH-1937***

Poor, ignorant and superstitious, the villagers had not yet taken an active part in the Freedom Struggle. Gandhiji commanded, "Go back to the villages", and thousands of freedom fighters organised swadeshi, Basic Education, Sanitation etc. in the Villages.

In 1939, England dragged India into the war on its own accord. Congress Ministries formed in 1937 through the election, resigned in protest.

Gandhiji launched the individual Satyagraha against the war efforts in India. Vinoba Bhave and other Congress leaders were thrown into prison.

India's eastern frontiers were threatened by the Japanese. The frightened British Government sent Sir Stafford Cripps of India to negotiate a settlement.

The Cripps Mission proposed self-government for India only after the end of the war. Gandhiji rejected, calling it "a post-dated Cheque on a failing bank".

Jinnah's idea of partitioning India was not acceptable to Gandhiji and the Congress.

After the tragedy of the Bengal Famine, popular discontent mounted steadily among the young and old throughout the land.

### ***"QUIT INDIA" - 1942***

The failure of the Cripps Mission had created in the minds of people doubts about winning freedom through Negotiations and Nonviolence.

Food supplies were sent to the war-fronts. People were waiting, discontented, frustrated, starved and desperate. The freedom Struggle needed a final push.

On 8th August 1942, to the British. Gandhiji said, "Quit India-it is good for you and good for us". To the people, he said "Do or Die. Either free India or die in the attempt".

Within hours, the Government arrested Gandhiji and all other leaders down to the village level. Leaderless, the people took vengeance by violent acts of killing and destruction.

The British accused Gandhiji of creating violence. In prison Gandhiji went on a 21 days fast.

Inspite of his advanced age, Gandhiji came out alive from that fiery ordeal. Men of goodwill the world over heaved a sigh of relief. Gandhiji's survival ensured the ultimate friendship between Great Britain and the Free India of the future.

### ***TAMILNADU IN THE 'QUIT INDIA' STRUGGLE-1942***

"Everyone of you should, from this moment onwards, consider yourself a free man and act as if you are free... We shall either free India or die in the attempt" was Gandhiji's call to the people of India!



The people of Tamilnadu were in the thick of the battle, with the students in the forefront.

K.Kamaraj, S.Satyamurthi and other leaders were imprisoned. The police made lathi-charges, burst tear-gas shells and opened fire. This drove the people of fury.

In Coimbatore, a military aerodrome and a camp were burnt down. A British Sergeant shot dead two policemen for refusing to shoot at the striking mill workers.

At Thiruvadanaï in Ramnad District, the people set fire to the Taluq Office, opened the sub jail and set the prisoners free.

At Kulasekarapatnam, a student leader, Rajagopalan, led a raid on a police station. An Assistant Collector of Excise was killed. Rajagopalan along with Kasirajan was sentenced to death. Their sentence was commuted to one for life.

A.Vaidyanatha Iyer. N.M.R.Subbaraman, Chidambara Bharathi and others were arrested. Six students fell to police bullets at a peaceful gathering in the Jhansi Rani Park, Madurai. A curfew was imposed, posting Negro soldiers in the city to terrorise the people.

The police stripped two women-satyagrahis naked and left them at a place far away from the city. Furious young men threw acid on the face of the police officer responsible for this insult to womanhood. They were arrested, tortured and sentenced to various terms of rigorous imprisonment.

By letting loose savage repression everywhere, the British won the day-but only to quit India in a hurry before long.

In the seemingly unending story of the struggle for freedom the scene now shifted to other lands and to other battle fronts.

### ***OTHER VALIANT STRUGGLES - 1942***

Meanwhile, Subhas Chandra Bose escaped to Germany. On the defeat of the British in the Far East, Indian military officers organised themselves into an Indian National Army (I.N.A). When Singapore fell, many prisoners of war joined the I.N.A.

Nethaji Subhas Chandra Bose assumed the leadership of the I.N.A. and Indian Liberation Movement. Patriotic Indian residents of the Far East gave their all to the cause of the liberation of India.

The I.N.A. advanced into Burma, but the Japanese had to withdraw leaving Rangoon in the hands of the I.N.A.

When the British recaptured Burma, the I.N.A. was disarmed and its men were taken prisoners.

Three officers of the I.N.A. - Shah Nawaz Khan, Dhillon and Sehgal - were tried for treason. Defending them, Nehru said. "Those three officers and the I.N.A. became symbol of India fighting for her independence".

People's emotion ran so high that the British Government were forced to release the prisoners. It became clear that freedom was in sight.

### ***ON THE EVE OF INDEPENDENCE - 1945***

The war changed the map of the world and the minds of men. The British Government sent a Cabinet Mission to India for forming a Constituent Assembly and for setting up an Interim Government.

Jinnah advised the Muslim league not to enter the Interim Government and to observe the 16th August as "Direct Action Day". Hindu - Muslim riots followed in which thousands of men, women and children were killed.

Ignoring the Muslim League, an Interim Government with Jawaharlal Nehru, Vallabhai Patel and others was formed. Rajendra Prasad was the President of the Constituent Assembly.

After a month, Muslim League also entered the Interim Government. But it boycotted the Constituent Assembly. "The only alternative to Pakistan is civil war in India" threatened Jinnah.

In the midst of frightful scenes of killing and of houses on fire, Gandhiji walked alone in Noakhali and with Khan Abdul Gaffar Khan by his side in Bihar preaching his message of nonviolence, peace, unity, goodwill and the brotherhood of man. 'Ahimsa and Truth seem to fail'. he said in grief.

### ***INDIA BECOMES FREE - 1947***

Those were hectic days, right then, there was the tryst with destiny - a Nation's :

It was for the freedom of the whole of india that the people had struggled and sacrificed for nearly a century. Gandhiji was against any partition. Faced with

such a situation, the British Government offered to free the country on 15th August 1947 after partitioning it into two - India and Pakistan.

The Congress decided to agree to the inevitable partition. Independence was to be declared. Sardar Vallabhai Patel, the "Iron Man of India" was there to pull native states together into the Indian Union soon after independence.

On that historic occasion, Nehru said, "Long years ago, we made a tryst with destiny and now comes the time when we shall redeem our pledge .... It is fitting, that at this solemn moment we take the pledge of dedication to the service of India and her people and to the larger cause of humanity."

Gandhiji, the Father of the Nation, taught us to fight evil without hating the evildoer. And when we and the British fought each other, we fought with all our strength but without malice or hatred and when we parted, we did so as friends!

It was the end of a long dark night and the beginning of a bright new era. On 15th August 1947. INDIA BECAME FREE.

### ***HANDICRAFTS EXHIBITION***

The selected specimens of Handicrafts donated by Governments of Andhra, Karnataka, Kerala and Tamilnadu are kept here.

### ***INDIA FIGHTS FOR FREEDOM-EXHIBITION-EPILOGUE***

We have been the witness to one of the greatest revolution for freedom in the history of the world, in the

exhibition - panels. Beginning with the Battle of Plassey in 1757 and ending with the declaration of Independence in 1947, these panels cover a period of two centuries in the life of our great nation. As everywhere else, despearate millions fought with whatever weapons they could get, in the earlier periods of this mighty revolution. Then, towards almost at the end, came a man with the message of a method, relentless struggle based on nonviolence and he won the final victory. Gandhian nonviolence, as method of revolution, now stands unchallenged in history. Never was the God of human destiny, involved more closely in a man's struggle for liberation than in India. The Constitution of the Sovereign Indian Republic enshrines within it every profound value of political and economic freedom and even while some clauses of the Constitution may be changed to meet the new challenges, yet the core of it will remain as the shining symbol of human freedom, for all time to time. This places a tremendous responsibility, on every citizen of Free India and that is, each one of us.

***GANDHIJI'S BIOGRAPHY - PICTURE GALLERY  
1869-1893***

"Iused to be very shy and avoided all company"

***Birth and Education***

Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi was born on 2nd October 1869 at Porbandar in Gujarat. The Play of Harischandra captured his heart while young and this inspired him as an ideal for a life of truth. Mised by friends, he fell a victim to meat - eating, smoking and stealing too, but soon he moved his father with tears of penitence while confessing the truth. He and Kasturba

were wedded when both were only thirteen. After Matric he got his mother's permission to go to London (1886) for study, taking the pledge not to touch wine, women and meat. Living a simple life as a student he was called to the bar by the Inner Temple and returned to India to practice as a Barrister.

**1894-1912**

*"I had gone to South Africa for gaining my livelihood but I found myself in search of God and striving for self-realization."*

### **LIBERATION OF INDIAN SETTLERS IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Disappointed in his legal profession in India, Gandhi agreed to go to South Africa as a legal adviser to an Indian firm there. But he had to face many humiliation at the hands of the white race owing to colour discriminations in travel by train and coach and in the day to day life as all the Indian settlers there. He decided to consecrate his life in fighting for the whole Indian Community with the steadfastness in Truth and faith in God. Again, as a lover and servant of humanity he organised Ambulance corps to help the wounded during the Boer War (1890) and the Zulu Rebellion. Inspired by Ruskin's book, "**Unto This Last**" Gandhi founded (1906) the "Phoenix" settlement for community life with the Sarvodaya ideal of welfare of the individual and society through manual labour and sharing. Convinced that God could be realised only through service of mankind, Gandhiji took the vow of a Brahmacharya for life.

### ***1912-1914***

***"I saw that South Africa was no country for a self-respecting Indian and my mind became more and more occupied with the question as to how this state of things might be improved."***

### ***Genesis of Satyagraha***

Gandhi decided on a new weapon of Satyagraha to resist the South Africa Govt's Asiatic Law (Black Act) to humiliate the Indian Community and the whole Indian Community followed Gandhi. Gandhiji was arrested for the first time in 1908. The Nonviolent movement gained strength and it became uncontrollable. Gandhi organised the Tolstoy Farm to shelter and help the volunteers and the families of the Satyagrahis. Breaking the prohibitory law Gandhiji led the great epic march of 7,000 workers mostly from the mines to cross the Transval border. Satyagraha continued for eight years till the South African Government yielded and issued Indian Relief Bill.

### ***1915-1924***

***"Surely Swaraj through the spinning wheel can be the proposition of only a lunatic. But lunatics are unaware of their lunacy. And so I regard myself as one".***

### ***LEADS THE FREEDOM MOVEMENT IN INDIA***

On return to India in 1915 after the first World War broke out, Gandhiji went round the country for a year studying the conditions and meeting the Poet Rabindranath Tagore and all leaders. After founding the Satyagraha Ashram at Kochrab in Ahmedabad, Gandhi led the Champaran Satyagraha of peasants against Indigo Planters and the labourers by the application of Satyagraha (1918) and conducted the Kheda Satyagraha. Though as a loyal citizen Gandhi helped England by recruiting men for the army, the Rowlatt Act of 1919 disillusioned him and he called for a national hartal in protest. The Punjab tragedy and the Khilafat wrong to Muslims made Gandhiji start the noncooperation movement with the triple boycott and he called the nation to spin and wear Khadi for national freedom. Gandhiji was arrested (1922) and convicted to six years, but he was released after an operation. On the outbreak of communal disturbances, Gandhi fasted for twentyone days as a penance in 1924.

### ***1925-1931***

*In my opinion, noncooperation with evil is as much a duty as is cooperation with good.*

### ***DANDI MARCH***

Gandhi toured the country to spread the message of Khadi, Swadeshi and Harijan uplift. The Satyagraha (1928) at Bardoli with "Non-tax" movement ended with a crowning success. Complete Independence was declared



as the goal to be attained by December 31, 1929 at the Congress at Lahore under the guidance of Gandhi, presided over by Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru. The nation took the pledge of Independence on January 26, 1930 and Gandhi launched the Salt Satyagraha by marching to Dandi, 241 miles from Ahmedabad. Gandhi was arrested on May 5, 1930 and kept in Yerawada prison while the nation rose up and carried on the Satyagraha from one end to another. The Government yielded at the end and the Gandhi - Irwin Pact was signed enabling Gandhi to attend the 2nd Round Table Conference in London as the sole representative of the Congress.

### ***1931-1939***

*"My Ambition is no less, than to convert the British People through nonviolence and thus make them see the wrong they have done to India".*

### ***IN QUEST OF FREEDOM***

Gandhi stayed at Kingsley hall and had warm reception given by mill workers and he, in loin cloth, met King George. Gandhi stood for a united, free and non-communal India. The conference having failed, on his return journey to India, Gandhi met Romain Rolland and Mussolini in Europe. Gandhi called the nation to resume Civil disobedience and again he and thousands went to jail. The Communal Award of separate electorate to the Hindus and Harijans by the British Govt. made Gandhi protest against it with a fast unto death. The fast ended soon with the Communal Pact signed by concerned parties; Gandhiji took up the Harijan movement through

the newly formed Harijan Sevak Sangh (1933) and toured throughout the country.

### ***1939-1945***

*"Our quarrel is not with the British People. We fight their imperialism. The proposal for the withdrawal of British power did not come out of anger".*

### ***QUIT INDIA MOVEMENT***

As the Second World War started (1939) Gandhi appealed to Britain and Hitler to stop the war and adopt nonviolence. Gandhi protested against India being involved in the war as a subject nation and he launched Individual Satyagraha through Vinoba, Jawaharlal Nehru, Sarojini Devi, Azad and others. Sir Stafford Cripps came with the British Govt.'s offer for settlement but Gandhi rejected it as a "Post-dated cheque." Gandhi declared that the British should quit India and the Quit India movement was on a mass scale through out the nation from August 1942. Gandhi had to witness the tragic death of Mahadev Desai, his life long Secretary (1942) and Kasturba, his wife in jail (1944). Gandhi took up a fast to vindicate himself against the charge of the Govt. and he was released as his health deteriorated (1944 May).

### ***1945-1946***

*" I am a learner myself, I have no axe to grind and wherever I see a truth, I take it up and try to act upto it."*

### ***ON THE EVE OF INDEPENDENCE***

Gandhi went to Jinnah and talked for Communal settlement, but Jinnah's demand for partition of India was non acceptable to Gandhi and the Congress. Gandhi toured again for the Harijans throughout the country. Hindu - Muslim disturbances broke out in Calcutta as a result of "Direct Action" of Jinnah for the demand of Pakistan. The British Cabinet Mission gave their proposal for the transfer of power to India. Jinnah's demand for Pakistan was unacceptable to Congress and Gandhi. And therefore the political deadlock continued.'

### ***1946-1947***

"The work I am now engaged in here, may be my last act..... My Ahimsa is being tried here through and through, as it was never before....."

### ***PEACE MISSION***

Interim Government was formed with Jawaharlal Nehru as the Prime Minister and with other Ministers loss to life and property. Gandhi appealed incessantly for Hindu - Muslim Unity. Gandhi was greatly moved by the communal riots of Noakhali and he undertook the peace Mission of "Do or Die". Gandhi, though 77 years old, walked 116 miles through 47 villages devastated by communal violence and he restored peace and amity through his message. Gandhi's success in restoring peace at Calcutta draw the eulogy of Mountbatten to Gandhi as 'one man's boundary force.'

**1947-1948**

*" Death is a true friend. It is only our ignorance that causes us grief". 29th January, 1948.*

***END OF A GLORIOUS ERA***

Divided India attained independence on 15th August 1947 and the free Indian Flag was hoisted. But on this day of liberation, Gandhi was at Calcutta silently praying, spinning and fasting in grief as the divided India sunk in communal bloodshed. It was not the India he was dreaming for. Daily Gandhi spoke on the message of communal unity at his prayer meetings. Apprehending communal disturbance he fasted for six day in Delhi till the communities jointly pledged to live in amity (1948 Jan). A bomb was thrown at his prayer meeting on 20th January without hitting any, but later hearing about it, Gandhi said that he wished to meet his end cheerfully with God's name, if a bullet were to hit him. The very same did happen on 30th January 1948 as the bullets hit him. Thus did the mortal frame of Gandhi end leaving the world to mourn his death and treasure Truth and Love, the message of his life.

*"IF SOME ONE WERE TO END MY LIFE BY PUTTING A BULLET THROUGH ME AND I MET HIS BULLET WITHOUT A GROAN AND BREATHED MY LAST TAKING GOD'S NAME THEN ALONE WOULD I HAVE MADE GOOD MY CLAIM"*

*- 29 January 1948*

### ***GANDHI KUTIR***

An exact-size replica of Gandhiji's hut in Sevagram stands midway between the gate and the main building of Gandhi Museum. This was the abode of Gandhiji from 1936 to 1946. From this hut he evolved and conducted his manifold constructive programme and took the historic "*Quit India*" decision in 1942. This will catch every eye unfailingly and numberless visitors will look at this replica of the "Hut of destiny" in the history of India. To stand inside the hut and look at the replica of articles used by Gandhiji is an experience surcharged with profound and reverential emotion. For countless visitors, without a chance to go to Sevagram, this will become increasingly a place of pilgrimage.

### ***Gandhi Asthi Peedam :***

The Sacred ashes of Mahatma Gandhi is preserved here for the visitor to pay homage to the father of the Nation.

### ***VINOBA-JOTHI HALL:***

This is an Exhibition cum Inter-religions Prayer hall.

### ***N.M.R. SUBBARAMAN HALL:***

Khadi and Village Industries Centre is located here.

### ***AUDIO VISUAL HALL***

On request of group of visitors CD, Video shows are arranged here.

### ***AMPHI THEATRE***

This is a big open - air theatre with a built - in stage and terraced seating arrangements for about 8,000 people. Cultural Programmes, Film Shows and public Meetings on special occasions are held here. Visitors will, no doubt, notice the simple but beautiful architectural outlines of this construction.

### ***LIBRARY***

*"My life has been an open book. I have no secrets and I encourage no secrets" - Gandhiji*

The Library occupies the whole of the new north wing of the main building and it is a reference Library. The present collection of books is growing steadily and at present 27,000 books are here. These volumes include books by and on Gandhiji, Gandhiji's life and teachings and books on cultural background of India. The Reading Room on the ground floor, also has a "Children's Section" All Library books are Automachined. Photostat copies of about 29,000 letters of Gandhiji are very important part of the collection in the Library. Back Volumes of weekly & monthly journals and other languages books are in the Library.

### ***RESEARCH AND PUBLICATION WING***

The Research section is functioning as a full-time Centre at Gandhi Memorial Museum, Madurai, from Feb 1997 onwards. This Centre has undertaken Translation work, Documentation and Publication and

is organising Gandhi Memorial Lectures, Seminars and Conferences related to Research activities. 'Book-Review' meetings are held to cover the 100 volumes of Collected works of Mahatma Gandhi.

***INSTITUTE OF GANDHIAN STUDIES AND RESEARCH***

This Institute of Gandhian Studies and Research run by Gandhiji Memorial Museum came into existence from the Academic year of 2003- 2004 as an approved Institute of Madurai Kamaraj University. The following courses are conducted through this Institute.

1. Certificate in Gandhian Thought (CGT)
2. Diploma in Gandhian Thought (DGT)
3. Diploma in Yoga, Meditation and Holistic Health.
4. P.G. Diploma in Yoga, Meditation and Holistic Health.
5. P.G. Diploma in Peace and Value Education.
6. Diploma in Inter Religions Dialogue.

The following courses are conducted by this Institute as an approved centre for Tamilnadu Physical Education and Sports University, Chennai :-

1. B.Sc. Yoga
2. M.Sc. Yoga

## ***CONCLUSION***

Gandhi Memorial Museum is a living Institution carrying the message of Gandhiji to the general Public and the youth and thus bring them closer to the spirit and teachings of Gandhiji whose dreams have yet to come true and take shape in the Free India and the World.

## **HISTORY OF THE ANCIENT "TAMUKKAM" PALACE WHICH HOUSES THE GANDHI MEMORIAL MUSEUM, MADURAI.**

"Tamugamu" which, in Telugu, meant a sports pavillion, a grand and of multi-pillared and arched structure supporting a central dome, which later became in Tamil "Tamukkam", from which gladiatorial exhibitions - elephant fights and such like - might be witnessed, was first built in 1670 A.D. by Rani Mangammal.

Later referred to as "The Choultry called Fort defiance", it became the outpost in the siege of Madurai in 1764.

The Nawab of Arcot who subsequently held sway over this part of the country presented the building in 1782 to Mr. Samuel Johnstone, paymaster of Madurai and it came to be known as "The Johnstoen House".

In 1802, Mr. Hurdis occupied the palace as Collector and added three living rooms on the top of the central dome.



Several years after, on Johnstone's successors in England claiming the property as their own, at a compromise, in 1839, the Government, in deference to the wishes of the earlier Johnstone that the building was to be "Converted into a place for native education", agreed to found the now existing Madras University award called " Johnstone of Carnsalloch Scholarships".

The building was used as court house as well as the residence of the Judges till 1864 and remained vacant thereafter.

In 1877, the southern wing was added and the Collectors of Madurai, came into residence from 1882. It would be interesting to know that the first resident, Collector Crole was discharged from service for his pronounced pro-Indian sympathies.

With the handing over of the buildings by the Government of Tamil Nadu for the purpose of establishing the Gandhi Memorial Museum, on January 30, 1955, the north wing, the central dome, the stadium and other buildings were added to take the present setting.

## **GANDHI MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

*Chairman* : `Arutselvar' Dr. N. MAHALINGAM  
*Vice Chairmen* : Advocate. M. MARIAPPAN  
Thiagi. K. LAKSHMIKANTHAN BHARATI I.A.S (Retd.)  
*Treasurer* : Thiru. T.R. DINAKARAN  
*Secretary* : Prof. R. RENGASAMY

### **MEMBERS**

Thiru. K.M. NATARAJAN (Member)  
Dr. M. MARKANDAN (Member)  
Thiru. N.M.R.K. JAWHAR BAPU (Member)  
Dr. U. GOPAL (Member)  
Dr. R. KOUSALYA DEVI (Member)  
*SECRETARY, Dept. of Culture, New Delhi. (Ex-Officio Member)*

### **STAFF**

#### **MUSEUM**

K.R. NANDARAO Curator  
S. BASHEER AHAMED Sr. Gallery Guide  
S. SABURA BIBI Sr. Gallery Guide  
S. KATHIRESAN Gallery Guide  
M. JEYAKUMAR Attender

#### **OFFICE**

M. SEKAR Accountant  
M. RAJARAJAN Accountant  
R. NITHYA BAI Computer Operator  
V. NAGARAJAN Attender  
D. ASHOK Attender

#### **LIBRARY**

A. RAVICHANDRAN Librarian  
K. ARUNA Asst. Librarian  
P. PANDISELVAM Attender

#### **CAMPUS**

T. VIJAYA KUMAR P.R.O.  
G. NAGASUNDARAM Electrician/Plumber  
S. ANDI Sr. Gardener  
G. MUTHUKUMAR Gardener  
V. SOLAIMALAI Safai Sevak  
P. PAPPA Safai Sevak  
N. LILLI Safai Sevak  
P. DANAPANDI Safai Sevak  
M. KANNAN Safai Sevak  
M. MUTHUKANNAN Safai Sevak

#### **RESEARCH**

Dr. S. JAYARAJ Hony' Research Officer

#### **EDUCATION**

R. NATARAJAN Education Officer



**Amphi Theatre**



**Institute of Gandhian Studies & Research**

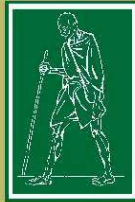


**Gandhi Museum Library**



আমার জীবনই আমার  
বার্তা। মো. ক. গান্ধী

After a month's stay in Calcutta, on the eve of his departure for Delhi, September 17, 1947  
Gandhi wrote down in Bengali : "My life is my message."



## **GANDHI MEMORIAL MUSEUM**

Madurai - 625 020.

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