

**THE AGAKHAN PALACE** is a National Monument of great significance to India's freedom struggle. Following the launch of the Quit India Movement in 1942, Gandhiji, his wife Kasturba, Mahadev Desai, Sarojini Naidu and other national leaders were interned at the Agakhan Palace from 10 August 1942, to 6 May 1944. Mahadev Desai and Kasturba passed away while in detention here, and their Samadhis are located on the Palace grounds.

The Agakhan Palace has developed into a National and International place of Pilgrimage, with over one lakh visitors coming every year to pay their homage at the Samadhis. After the demise of Kasturba, Gandhiji had expressed a wish that the site be developed into a centre for the emancipation of women. On the occasion of the Gandhi Birth Centenary in 1969, H.H. Prince Karim Agakhan donated the Agakhan Palace to the Nation, as a mark of respect to Gandhiji and his philosophy.

On 15 August 1972, a Gandhi Museum cum Picture Gallery was inaugurated at the Agakhan Palace. The management of the Museum, Samadhis, and the palace campus was transferred to the Gandhi National Memorial Society (GNMS) by Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, New Delhi in 1980. As a tribute to the memory of Kasturba, a National Institute for the Development of Women was established here, with an emphasis on the empowerment of women through training and development.

The Gandhi National Memorial Society organizes a number of activities throughout the year in its endeavour to make this complex a living memorial to Ba and Bapu. The Government of India declared Agakhan Palace a National Monument in April 2003.

#### **KASTURBA MAHILA KHADI GRAMODYOG VIDYALAY :**

In 1988, GNMS started Kasturba Mahila Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalay. Its purpose was to bring about rural reconstruction and development in line with the concept of Gram Swaraj, a dream that Gandhiji advocated in his famous book '**Hind Swaraj**'. It has proved to be an effective tool of economic empowerment for rural women, with programmes conducted successfully throughout the year.

The Vidyalaya's objective was to start, encourage, assist, and carry on activities aligned with the development of Khadi and Village Industries.

It was started with only one training programme - spinning and weaving - with 20 trainees. Now there are 28 different programmes related to village industries and more than 3,000 people receive training every year. Since 1988, the Vidyalaya has successfully trained more than 50,000 trainees.

The training centre also conducts training programmes for the Khadi and Village Industries Commission that include Entrepreneurship Development Programme, Sponsored Programme, and an Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme. The Kasturba Mahila Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalay was the recipient of the National Award for the "**Best Training Center**" in 2011.



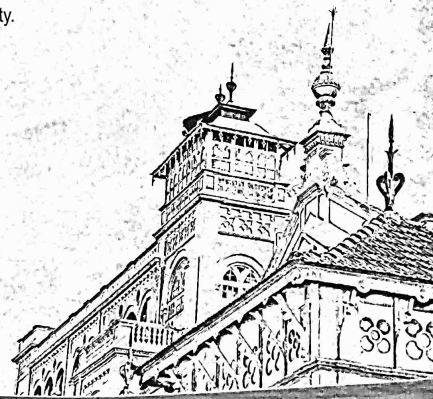
#### **REFUGEE ASSISTANCE CENTRE, PUNE**

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All mandated refugees residing in Maharashtra are enabled to receive direct and timely assistance and do not have to travel to New Delhi. Those identified for naturalization or resettlement are assisted and facilitated with all necessary help. Timely social-legal counselling and legal protection is provided.

The GNMS has been successfully handling a wide spectrum of sensitive and personal matters of different communities from around the world. Gandhiji always spoke about peace, non-violence and world brotherhood. GNMS strives to actualize these stellar concepts of Gandhian philosophy into reality.



**Public Functions and celebrations held during the year :-**

- 26th January - Republic Day
- 30th January - Martyr's Day
- 22nd February or Mahashivratri - Kasturba's Death Anniversary celebrated as Mother's Day
- 15th August - Independence Day
- 2nd October - Gandhi Jayanti

**Present Activities :-**

- Picture Gallery & Museum
- Kasturba Mahila Khadi Gramodyog Vidyalaya
- Refugee Assistance Centre, Pune
- Library & Documentation Centre
- Khadi and Gramodyog Exhibition
- Lecture series on Gandhian Thought
- Gandhi Film Club on request for larger groups

**Present Members / Trustees of the Governing Council of Gandhi National Memorial Society :-**

- Shri. Abhay Firodia - (Chairman)
- Smt. Shobhana Ranade - (Trustee Secretary)
- Smt. Shribala Chordia - (Joint Trustee Secretary)
- Dr. Raghunath Mashelkar - (Member)
- Shri. P. S. Narayanswami - (Member)
- Dr. Armene Modi - (Member)
- Lt. Gen. (Ret) D. B. Shekatkar - (Member)
- Dr. Vibha Gupta - (Member)
- Shri. Pradeep Munot - (Member)
- Shri. Umesh Chandra Sarangi - (Member)

**Past Chairmen :-**

- Shri. K. Arunachalam
- Dr. R. R. Divakar
- Smt. Lakshmi Menon
- Shri. N. K. Firodia

**GANDHI NATIONAL MEMORIAL SOCIETY**

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(Trust Regd. No. F-1897 Pune / 22-9-81)  
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