



**E-NEWSLETTER BY CENTRAL OFFICE OF BIKANER TRUSTS**  
**DECEMBER 2010**

**MAHARAJA GANGA SINGHJI TRUST**



H.H. Maharaja Sir Ganga Singhji Bikaner

Maharaja Ganga Singhji Trust was created by Late Maharaja Dr. Karni Singhji of Bikaner in 1972 for public charitable and philanthropic purposes, to promote the development of the former Bikaner State with a view to promote cultural, educational, medical, and sports facilities.

**During the course of year 2010 the major projects undertaken were: -**

**Exhibition of Sudhir Kasliwal's photographs of his visit to China and the Far East in January 2010 at Sri Sadul Museum:**

Started as a hobby during his school days, photography turned into a consuming passion for Sudhir Kasliwal of the famous house of jewellers Gem Palace in Jaipur.

Sudhir Kasliwal's photographs are people oriented. His forte is capturing piquant situations - A camel groaning under the collective weight of a score of scrambling villagers, a tree sprouting colourful turbans of villages attempting to get a view of a sporting event. These expeditions have yielded some of the best studies of numerous lesser known tribes of Rajasthan such as the Bhils, the Garasiyas and the Gadia Luhars. A skillful use of natural light is another strong feature of his photography.

The exhibition was opened on the 9<sup>th</sup> January 2010 to visitors. Over a thousand people have visited this exhibition during 2010. The exhibition was a great success and the same was reported in various newspapers.



**Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner opening the exhibition of Mr. Sudhir Kasliwal's photographs at Sri Sadul Museum, Bikaner**

## NDTV Good Time - Royal Reservation

NDTV GOOD TIMES has produced two very successful seasons of



**Dr. Amin Jaffer, Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner and Amrita Gandhi at Bikaner**

“Royal Reservations” based on the Princely families of India showcasing their history, heritage and the people behind all the glamour. The team was interested to shoot an episode with the Bikaner Family as well as their heritage properties for their third season.

In January 2010 a NDTV team with Anchor, Amrita Gandhi came to Bikaner for shooting of “Royal Reservation NDTV Good Time” programme. Dr. Amin Jaffer of Christie’s International was invited to give special commentary and the film shoot took place at Junagarh Fort, Sadul Museum, Lallgarh Palace and the personal residence of Princess Rajyashree Kumari. The NDTV team was keen to recreate a dinner at the palace as it used to be during the time of Maharaja Ganga Singh, using the old menus written in French, the high light of this scene was the **Gold Soup Spoon** invented by Maharaja Ganga Singhji for himself.

### **Book Launch function at Crossword Book Store, Jaipur**

The book written by Princess Rajyashree Kumari “The Lallgarh Palace - Home of the Maharajas of Bikaner” was launched by Rani Laxmi Kumariji of Rawatsar at a function organized at Crossword bookstore, Jaipur on 24<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Dr. Rima Hooja and Ms. Dharmander Kanwar were invited as guest speakers. The program was successful and received good coverage in the local press.

### **NDTV Good Time-Royal Reservation at The Imperial Hotel, New Delhi**

In March 2010 the NDTV Good Times hosted a Royal Evening to mark the success of its extremely popular travel series “**Royal Reservation**” at The Imperial Hotel, New Delhi. Surrounded by photographs and memorabilia of their ancestors who attended the Delhi Durbar in the year 1911, families from across Princely India gathered for a portrait session. It was indeed quite an event and was a huge achievement to gather together so many members of the Indian Princely families. An arresting group photograph was taken in the lawns of the Imperial.



*Royal Reservation Panorama - BY AMIT PASRICHA*

**Group photo taken in lawns of the Imperial Hotel New Delhi**

## Book Launch function at Nehru Centre, London



**Dr. Amin Jaffer, Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner and Ms. Anna Jackson at Nehru Centre book launch Function**

“The Lallgarh Palace – Home of the Maharajas of Bikaner” Coffee table book by Princess Rajyashree Kumari of Bikaner was launched by Mrs. Monika Mohta, Director of the Nehru Centre, at the Nehru Centre in London on 29th June 2010. The function was followed by talks given by Dr. Amin Jaffer, International

Director of Asian Art at the Christie’s and Ms. Anna Jackson, Deputy Keeper of the Asian Department at the V & A Museum, London. An exhibition cum sale of water colours by John Drummond was opened to view at the same time.

## Maharajas: The Splendour of India’s Royal Courts exhibition at Munich.

After successful run in London, the exhibition was brought to an end in January 2010. The exhibits were then moved to Munich in Germany where the second round of this exhibition was opened at the Kunsthalle Museum, which ran from 12<sup>th</sup> February 2010 to 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2010. The objects related to Maharaja Ganga Singhji of Bikaner were displayed in the exhibition at Munich which had record attendance and was very popular.

The organizing authority thanked Princess Rajyashree Kumariji and the trust for their important contribution leading to the success of the exhibition. Dr. Christiane Lange, Director Kunsthalle Museum, Munich in his letter to Princess Rajyashree Kumariji wrote:

*“The opening of our exhibition turned out to be magnificent. We wish to express our utmost gratitude for contributing to this splendid exhibition by landing objects relating to Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner. The response of the audience is overwhelming and since the opening, less than a week ago, we already greeted some 7000 visitors,”*

## Baton Relay of Commonwealth Games 2010 at Bikaner



**Mr. Rajyavardan Singh Rathore, Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner and Shri Shrichand Sehag during Queen’s Baton Relay at Bikaner**

The Commonwealth Games held in New Delhi from 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2010, the Queen’s Baton Relay passed through Bikaner on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2010. Shri Janardan Singhji Gehlot, President, Rajasthan Olympic Association invited Princess Rajyashree Kumariji of Bikaner, Arjuna Awardee, to attend the function, which was held at the Dr. Karni Singh Stadium, Bikaner.

## **Makers of the Modern World – Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner**

Dr. Barbara Haus Schwepcke, Publisher, Haus Publishing, London contacted the Maharaja Ganga Singhji trust to inform them that they had commissioned a series of books titled “**The Makers of the Modern World**”, and they had selected 32 outstanding personalities of the world, one of them being the Maharaja of Bikaner – Sir Ganga Singh of Bikaner.

On the request of Mrs. Margaret Percy FRGS, the trust has allowed her to research materials available at our archival research center regarding the role played by Maharaja Ganga Singhji of Bikaner in International Affairs immediately after the First World War.

The book titled “The Makers of the Modern World – The Peace conferences of 1919 – 23 and their aftermath – Maharajah of Bikaner” authored by Mr. Hugh Purcell and published by Haus Publishing has recently been released in the international market.

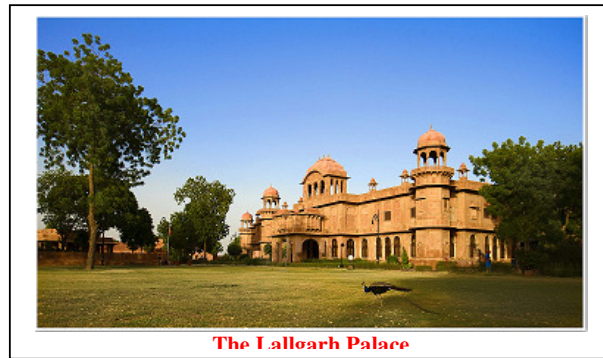
## **Donations by the Trust**

Rs. 22.65 lac has been donated by the trust during the year in various fields for Medical relief, Sports, Education, scholarships for deserving students and other philanthropic activities and developmental works.

## **Help to research scholars and others**

A large number of research scholars from India and abroad came for research on various subjects at the Archival Section of the trust and Anup Sanskrit Library and were very appreciative of the help provided to them by Maharaja Ganga Singhji Trust.

## **THE LALLGARH PALACE - A HERITAGE HOTEL**



The Lallgarh Palace has 50 well-appointed rooms for the guests offering gracious hospitality and a truly royal experience in the best tradition of Rajasthan. During the year many VIPs have stayed at the Hotel and

commented:

## **Up gradation of Sajjan Niwas Wing**

The whole of the Sajjan Niwas wing was taken up for renovation. The rooms are now provided with wooden flooring, modern bathroom with shower cubical, separate dressing room, LCD TV, satellite TV fed, mini bar etc. The rooms are appreciated by the guests staying in them as well as the travel agents and have added to the image and value of the hotel greatly.

### **Installation of Solar Heating System**

Following the government guidelines regarding mandatory solar heating and also to make the hotel eco friendly, a solar heating system has been installed at the Sajjan Wing of the Hotel.

### **Renovation of the Hotel Kitchen**

The hotel kitchen is completely renovated and upgraded with the latest modern equipment and is now fully functional. A qualified Chef has been also hired to provide hotel guest best possible cuisine.

### **SRI SADUL MUSEUM**

Sri Sadul Museum has been open since 1976 and was located on the upper floor of Sadul Niwas wing of Lallgarh Palace. Some years ago the trustees made a decision to shift the museum to a purpose made new building where all the artifacts could be displayed more appropriately. The artifacts were shifted to the new building and museum was opened to the public from 1st October 2008. Since then the Museum has been functioning from this new building and a large numbers of visitors are coming to see the museum daily and is appreciated by the visitors.

Encouraged by the response to the exhibition of photographs by Sudhir Kasliwal, the management has decided to hold running exhibition every year. During the year 2011 exhibition titled “**Fort & Palaces of Bikaner through Art**” will be held. Oil and water colour paintings of Bikaner Fort and Palaces by different artists and also old photographs will be on display for public viewing. The exhibition will be on from mid January to end of Dec. 2011.

### **MAHARAJA DR. KARNI SINGHJI MEMORIAL FOUNDATION**

Princess Rajyashree Kumari of Bikaner created this trust in 1999 in memory of her late father. This trust mainly concentrates in providing vital life saving medical equipment and medicines to the Paediatrics hospital at Bikaner and also to the Veterinary Hospital, Bikaner for animal welfare.

### **Donations made by the Foundation**

To the Prime Minister’s National Relief Fund towards rehabilitation of the affected families of Leh, in the Ladakh area of Jammu & Kashmir which were very badly hit by the floods and suffered tragic loss of lives and unprecedented devastation.

Donation of vital life saving neonatal care Medical equipment to the Paediatrics Department of the P.B.M. Hospital, Bikaner.

Donation of medicines to the Veterinary Hospital, Bikaner for treatment of stray animals.

The Foundation records its gratitude to Mrs. Alape Kaur for her generous donation during the year.

## **RAJYASHREE KUMARI OF BIKANER RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE TRUST**



**Princess Rajyashree Kumari & Princess Madhulika Kumari with girls awarded scholarship**

This trust was created in 1972 by Princess Rajyashree Kumari of Bikaner mainly to grant scholarships to the outstanding School/ College girl students of Bikaner area.

### **Donations made by the Trust**

During the current year 15 girl students from various schools, who had achieved 75% or above marks in

their annual exams were awarded scholarships for higher studies.

## **ANUPAMA KUMARI PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST**

Late Maharaja Dr. Karni Singhji of Bikaner created this Trust in 1986. The main objects of the trust are to provide aid to the handicapped, welfare of animals, birds and other wild life.

### **Donations made by the Trust**

Donation made towards the welfare of animals and upkeep of the Chicken shelter setup up the Trust last year in the memory of Maharaj Raj Singhji of Dungarpur.

**The Bikaner Trusts, the Chairperson, trustees and staff of the trusts would like to thank all our friends, well-wishers and supporters and send them the season's greetings and good wishes for 2011.**

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