



E-NEWSLETTER BY CENTRAL OFFICE OF BIKANER TRUSTS  
DECEMBER 2011

MAHARAJA GANGA SINGHJI TRUST  
KARNI SINGH FOUNDATION TRUST  
KARNI CHARITABLE FUND TRUST  
MAHARAJA DR. KARNI SINGHJI MEMORIAL FOUNDATION  
RAJYASHREE KUMARI OF BIKANER RELIGIOUS & CHARITABLE TRUST  
PRINCESS ANUPAMA KUMARI PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST

During the course of year 2011 the major projects were: -  
Jaipur Literature Festival - January 2011



Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner seen here with Mr. Aman Nath & Dr. Rima Hooja at Jaipur Literature Festival, Diggi Palace, Jaipur.

Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner, Chairperson was invited by the Organisers of Jaipur Literature Festival to speak on "The Idea of Rajasthan". She was one of the five participants who had also written books on Rajasthan. The other speakers were Aman Nath, Lloyd Rudolph, Dr. Rima Hooja, and Susanne Rudolph. Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner's book titled "The Lallgarh Palace - Home of the

Maharajas of Bikaner" was released in the 2009.

"Fort and Palaces of Bikaner in Art and Photography" - Exhibition at Sri Sadul Museum - January 2011

Maharaja Ganga Singhji and Maharaja Sadul Singhji commissioned many artists to paint the Fort & Palaces of Bikaner and a fine collection exists with the Maharaja Ganga Singhji Trust as also with the members of the Bikaner Family. Some of the famous artists who were invited to Bikaner were S.G. Thakar Singh and M K Parandekar. A host of lesser known artists also reproduced charming images of the heritage properties of Bikaner in oil and water colour. More recently Maharaja Dr. Karni Singhji a keen amateur photographer took beautiful black & white and colour photographs of his properties, a selection of which are also part of this exhibition. One of his photographs of Shiv Villas is also been used on the cover of the book "The Lallgarh Palace - Home of the Maharajas of Bikaner". Sudhir Kasliwal of the Gem Palace, Jaipur has loaned some photographs of Lallgarh Palace and Fort, Bikaner for this exhibition. Since most of these paintings and photographs are displayed in private homes or in the Hotel they are not on public view and as such the exhibition has created great interest.



Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner at Sri Sadul Museum. In background Oil Painting of Lallgarh Palace by S.G. Thakar Singh

## Unveiling of Statue of Maharaja Ganga Singhji of Bikaner at Maharaja Ganga Singh University, Bikaner



Life size bronze statue of Maharaja Sri Ganga Singhji at M.G.S. University, Bikaner

Looking to Maharaja Ganga Singhji's great contribution in the development of the education system in Bikaner State and on public demand Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner, Chairperson, Maharaja Ganga Singhji Trust had taken up the task of getting the Bikaner University named after her great grandfather in the year 2002. She wrote letters to many public representatives and public bodies in seeking their support in naming the Bikaner University after Maharaja Ganga Singhji and received unanimous support from all of them. Finally the Government of Rajasthan agreed to name this university "Maharaja Ganga Singh University" and it was publicly announced by the former Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Mrs. Vasundhara Raje on the Independence Day programme at Bikaner Stadium on 15<sup>th</sup> August 2008 which was a great honour for the family and the citizens

of Bikaner paid a just tribute to a worthy son of Bikaner.

In 2010 the Vice Chancellor, Maharaja Ganga Singh University requested the Trustees of Maharaja Rai Singhji Trust to install a bronze statue of Maharaja Ganga Singhji at the entrance circle of the university to which the trustees agreed. The Statue was installed in 2011 at the entrance of the University campus.

Her Excellency Smt. Pratibha Devi Singh Patil, the President of India unveiled the statue at university campus on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2011 in the presence of members of the Bikaner Family, HE the Governor of Rajasthan, Dr. Jitendra Singh, Minister of Energy, Government of Rajasthan and various public representatives, members and students of MGS University and a large number of people of Bikaner. In her speech at the unveiling ceremony of the statue of Maharaja Ganga Singhji the President of India said

*"a little while ago I had the honour to unveil the statue of Maharaja Ganga Singhji at the University campus. It is a matter of pride for university that it is named after Maharaja Ganga Singhji of Bikaner. Maharaja Ganga Singhji was a famous, farsighted and renowned personality and known as makers of Modern Bikaner. He was devoted for the development and welfare of public. It was his desired that the Bikaner has to be developed as an Education Centre and this University is a big step towards his desire. He Had given the gift of Ganga Canal and many Sports Facilities for generation to come."*

## Centenary Celebration of Sri Sadul Niwas wing of Lallgarh Palace, Bikaner



Sadul Niwas - The Western wing of Lallgarh Palace

The western wing of Lallgarh Palace known as Sadul Niwas wing was built by Maharaja Ganga Singhji for his son and Heir Apparent, Maharaj Kumar Sadul Singhji and the building was completed in 1912. The Maharaja Ganga Singhji Trust intends to celebrate its centenary by hosting a number of events during the course of 2012. Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner, Chairperson of the trust, briefed the Rajasthan

Patrika on the forthcoming celebrations which was covered as an article by Rajasthan Patrika in 1 week of November 2011 .

### **Distribution of books to the Libraries of Universities and Colleges etc.**

Maharaja Ganga Singhji Trust has commissioned various books, some of books are - The Regal Patriot – Maharaja Ganga Singh of Bikaner by Prof. L.S. Rathore, A Co-Architect of India’s unity- Biography of Maharaja Sadul Singhji of Bikaner by Prof. L.S. Rathore, Prince, Patriot & Parliamentarian – A biography of Maharaja Dr. Karni Singh by Dr. Rima Hooja. Founder of the Trust, Maharaja Dr. Karni Singhji authored two books – The Relations of the House of Bikaner with Central Powers and From Rome to Moscow – The memoirs of an Olympic Trap Shooter. Recently Chairperson of the Trust, Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner authored a book titled “The Lallgarh Palace – Home of the Maharajas of Bikaner”.

As per the wishes of the Founder of the Trust the Chairperson is in the process of distributing some of these important historical books to the libraries of universities, colleges and schools of former Bikaner State.

The details of publications available for sale with the trust are listed on the trust’s website : [www.maharajagangasinghitrust.org](http://www.maharajagangasinghitrust.org)

### **Visit of H.E. the Governor of Rajasthan to Bikaner - November 2011**

Recently the Maharaja Ganga Singh University held convocation ceremony of the University. Shri Shivraj Patil, H.E. the Governor of Rajasthan, visited Bikaner for the convocation. He stayed at Hotel Lallgarh Palace and visited Sri Sadul Museum and commented as below:



H.E. the Governor of Rajasthan, Shri Shivraj Patil, at the entrance hall of Sri Sadul Museum.

*“The display of photographs, articles, paintings is done in a very artistic manner. It reflects the majesty and aesthetics which they represent. What is displayed is a part of the history of this area, and the culture of India. I am very happy to visit the museum and see the articles displayed. I would like to congratulate all those who are responsible for it. I wish them all, all the best.”*

*Shivraj V Patil  
Governor of Rajasthan  
18.11.2011*

### **Centenary Celebration of the Delhi Durbaar of 1911 by NDTV**

Amrita Gandhi anchored a series of programme called “Royal Reservation” which covered the lives & times of various princely states including Bikaner. The NDTV Good Times team visited Bikaner with Dr. Amin Jaffer and covered Princess Rajyashree Kumari Bikaner, the Fort and Lallgarh Palace.

NDTV Good Times is considering publishing a companion coffee table book to accompany the series. This was recently announced at a function held at the Imperial Hotel, New Delhi which was hosted to celebrate the Centenary of Delhi Durbaar 1911. The book will be released sometime next year.

### **MAHARAJA GANGA SINGHJI TRUST**

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

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

As desired by the founder of the Trust, Maharaja Dr. Karni Singhji, the aid given are as donations across many fields for philanthropic and charitable, scholarships and grants for other developmental works. The Maharaja Ganga Singhji Trust has donated a sum of Rs. 23 Lacs during the course of this year.

### **KARNI SINGH FOUNDATION TRUST**

Maharaja Dr. Karni Singhji of Bikaner created this trust in 1971. The objects of the Trust are to provide help to the people of the Bikaner area, grant scholarships to brilliant students, Financial help to widows, disabled and elderly persons and grants to sportsmen.

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

During the year the trust donated a sum of Rs. 4 Lacs in the field of Education, sports and to under privileged persons of Former Bikaner State.

### **KARNI CHARITABLE FUND TRUST**

Maharaja Dr. Karni Singhji created this trust in 1958. The main objects of the trust are to give maintenance allowance to widows specially in rural areas, to donate money to the poor and needy persons, giving donations to Orphanages, Hospitals, Dispensaries and assist in marriage of poor girls.

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

During the year grants were made towards allowances to the widows in rural areas and aid towards the marriages of young girls from poor background from former Bikaner state.

## **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**

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.

Donation to PETA India towards animal welfare activities.

Donation of medical equipment to handicap society for rehabilitation of young children being treated there.

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

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

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 16 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.

Donation of medicines to the Veterinary Hospital, Bikaner for treatment of stray birds being treated there.

**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 the New Year.**

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[www.maharajagangasinghjitrust.org](http://www.maharajagangasinghjitrust.org)

[www.lallgarhpalace.com](http://www.lallgarhpalace.com)

[www.rajyashreebikaner.com](http://www.rajyashreebikaner.com)

[www.bikanerfoundation.com](http://www.bikanerfoundation.com)