

A Brief Write-up on Sri Sankar Kumar Sanyal



1. Sankar Kumar Sanyal was born on 30th July 1948, passed his BA and LLB from University of Calcutta. He was Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts (FRSA), London in 1975 and a top level Management Course on 'Managing Sustainable Rural Development' (MSRD) at Birmingham University, UK on Government of India Scholarship. He was an **Advocate of Calcutta High Court** and was appointed as **Justice of Peace (J.P.)** in 1972 by Sri A. L. Dias, the then Hon'ble Governor of West Bengal. **Shobhit University** conferred D.Litt. **Doctorate - Honoris Causa** to **Sri Sanyal** on 24th May 2018 by the hands of **Sri Ram Naik, Hon'ble Governor of Uttar Pradesh** for recognition of his works on Gandhian principles and values that sets certain goals for the youth to follow and his intentions and works for the underprivileged and marginalized section of the society.

2. Sankar Kumar Sanyal had been the Hon'y Secretary of the West Bengal Branch of Harijan Sevak Sangh (HSS) founded by Mahatma Gandhi in 1932 from 1978 to 2013 and became the President of HSS in 2013, the post once occupied by national leaders like **Sri G.D. Birla, Mata Rameswari Nehru, Sri Biyogi Hariji, Padmabibhusan Nirmala Deshpande** and other Gandhian stalwarts of the country. Incidentally this is for the first time a person has been elected from Bengal and Eastern and North Eastern India to this exalted post. His principal mentor was **Padma Vibhusan Late Ms. Niramala Deshpandeji**. He undertook a plethora of socio-economic programmes both at the National and State levels for the downtrodden and the marginalized. He got recognition as one of the noted Gandhian activists and gradually became associated with almost all the reputed Gandhian organizations of the nation. He immensely improved the health and hygiene of rural Bengal by **installing 5,31,018 improved smokeless chullahs in various districts and ensured smoke free kitchens**. He constructed **hundreds of low cost houses** for the downtrodden who are living far below poverty line and **installed 595 sanitary latrines for promotion of rural health**. Under his able guidance, HSS, Bengal organized training of young entrepreneurs in Entrepreneurship Development Programme since 2005-2006 and has trained **1,784 entrepreneurs of Howrah and Hooghly districts of West Bengal who have invested Rs. 50,42,90,407.00 financed by nationalized banks**. He helped **establishment of a Free Residential Primary School at Dhugguri, Jalpaiguri and numerous pre-primary education centers throughout West Bengal**, thus providing primary and pre-primary education to more than **75,000 children of poor and backward communities since 1980s**. He also **started Shree Agrasain College in Howrah, the first self-financed institution under the University of Calcutta in its 150 years of existence**.

He was also a **member of the Governing Body and Executive Committee of Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samity, an autonomous body under Ministry of Culture, Government of India headed by the Hon'ble Prime Minister of India as its Chairman**.

3. Sankar Kumar Sanyal was one of the founders of **Howrah Chamber of Commerce & Industry (HCCI)** along with 6 other business professionals and served as its **President for last 16 years being elected consecutively for 5 terms**. Under his leadership HCCI has become a state level

merchants' organization keeping under its fold a large number of entrepreneurs, which have turned the district of Howrah in West Bengal an industrial hub reminiscent of its past glory as *Sheffield of India* and *Birmingham of the East*. His crowning achievement is **establishment and developing of a big Industrial Park with 325 Micro and Small Industries in rural Howrah of West Bengal**. The uniqueness of the project was that the project is overwhelmingly environment friendly encouraging solar energy sector. **This industrial cluster has been included in the National Innovative Council set up by the Hon'ble Prime Minister**. It is the only one of such types of clusters from this state out of 400 clusters established in the country. He was the **Managing Director, Bengal HCCI Infrastructure Limited for more than 10 years**. He was the **Director, State Bank of India, Bengal Circle**.

4. His persevering efforts were rewarded by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India and National Institute of Design (NID), Ahmadabad with the opening of a **Regional Centre of Design Clinic in Eastern Zone** and Sri Sanyal was the **Chairman** of its Monitoring Committee. This has greatly benefited the SMEs of different clusters in the Eastern and North Eastern Region.

5. Sri Sanyal is also associated with various socio-economic organizations as one of their leading figures like **Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, Bengal, Rural Development Consortium (RDC), Loka Kalyan Parisad, Self Help Group Promotional Forum, West Bengal, Vidyashram, Purba Kolkata Gandhi Smarak Samiti**, an organization which is looking after the heritage building 'Beliaghata Gandhi Bhawan', Kolkata and also of **Indian Institute of Public Administration (IIPA), Howrah Branch**. He **organized South Asia Peace Meet and All India Constructive Workers Conference** under the aegis of Akhil Bharat Rachnatmak Samaj at Salt Lake Stadium, Calcutta from 18th to 20th January, 2000, attended by more than 12 thousand delegates from all over the country & abroad and was the first of its kind in Calcutta and another **All India Gandhian Constructive Workers' Conference** in Gandhi Ashram, Delhi on **25th and 26th November 2018** as a part of the preparation of **Mahatma Gandhi and Kasturba's 150th Birth Anniversary in 2019, inaugurated by Sri M. Venkaiah Naidu, Hon'ble Vice President of India** and valedictory session addressed by **H.E. Sri Ramnath Kovind, Hon'ble President of India at Rashtrapati Bhawan**. 5000 Gandhian Constructive Workers & Youth from different corners of the country and abroad and many dignitaries from various walks of life participated

6. Sri Sanyal is the recipient of a number of awards and honours. (a) **Justice of the Peace (J.P.)** in 1972 (b) **'National Unity Award'** from Gyani Zail Singh, former President of India in 1990. (c) **'Non-Conventional Energy Award'** in 1997 (d) **'Moonis Raza Memorial Award'** in 1998. (e) **'International Man of the Year – 1997-98'** in 1998 (f) **'MSPI outstanding Personalities – 1998'** in 1998 (g) **'Award for National Integration and Social Work'** in 2005 (h) **'Bangabandhu Mujibar Rahman International Award'** in 2010 (i) **'Corporate Energy Management Award'** in 2010 (j) **Ganga Award** from H.E. Dr. Krishna Kanta Paul, Governor of Uttarakhand in 2018 (k) **'Ch. Ranabir Singh National Peace & Harmony Award'** in 2018 (l) **'Prafulla Chandra Sen Memorial Award 2018'** in 2018

7. Sankar Kumar Sanyal participated in a number of global missions for peace and development. Among important such activities **(a) National Integration Peace March** in 1983 under the leadership of Late Ms. Nirmala Deshpande and with the blessings of **Srimati Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister**, went to Punjab and deescalated the conflict. **(b)'South Asian Seminar on Legal Aid'** in **Kathmandu, Nepal** in March 1986. **(c)** He led a delegation to **Italy, France, Switzerland** and the **UK** as a member of the '**Gandhi-in-Action**' on the occasion of International year of Peace in 1986 with the blessings of **Sri Rajiv Gandhi, the then Prime Minister**. **(d)** Represented India as a delegate to the **United Kingdom**, jointly nominated by the Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India and British Government as the only NGO representative in a group of seven senior Government officials of India in 1995. **(e)** South West Asia Regional Conference of SERVAS International in **Dhaka, Bangladesh** in 1999. **(f)** Participated in Indian delegation of Association of People of Asia to **China** in 2003 led by Late Ms. Nirmala Deshpande on the invitation of Chinese Association of International Understanding visiting **Beijing** and **Shanghai**, participated in bilateral dialogues with Chinese Association of International Understanding, State Council Leading Group on Poverty Alleviation and Development **(g)** Went to **Pakistan** in 2004 under the leadership of late Ms. Nirmala Deshpande, MP to promote peace, friendship and brotherhood and strengthening goodwill between the two nations. **(h)** Participated as a delegate of Association of People of Asia in the World Social Forum at **Karachi, Pakistan** from in 2006 and chaired a symposium on Nuclear Free South Asia with elimination of nuclear stockpiles and diverting nuclear energy for peaceful purposes **(i)** Went to **Dhaka, Bangladesh** in 2004 to speak on Gandhian values and their contemporary relevance sponsored by Indian Council of Cultural Relations under the Ministry of Cultural Affairs, Government of India. **(j)** Led a delegation at the conference on the centenary celebration of Satyagraha organized by Gandhi Development Trust in association with Kwa-Zulu Natal Government at the Durban University of Technology in **South Africa** in 2006. **(k)** In 2008 he represented India at the 50th Anniversary celebration of the *Lanka Jatika Sarvodaya Shramadana Sangamaya* and a conference on "Concerted Community Action for a Sustainable Life on Earth Fair to All" at Vishva Niketan International Peace and Meditation Center at **Moratuwa, Colombo, Sri Lanka**. **(l)** Led a Gandhian delegation from India to the Parliament of the World's Religions held at Salt Lake city, Utah, USA in 2015, attended by over 10,000 delegates from 80 countries and 50 Heads of different religions, this was the first time that a Gandhian delegation **was invited to attend this illustrious Parliament**. It is worth remembering that the first Parliament was attended by **Swami Vivekananda** in 1893 at Chicago, USA.