

## 6.3.2 PRASANTA CHANDRA MAHALANOBIS MEMORIAL MUSEUM AND ARCHIVES

### GENERAL INFORMATION

<b>Name of In-charge</b>	: Dr. Kishor Chandra Satpathy
<b>Physical Address</b>	: Amrapali, ISI, 204 B T Road, Kolkata-700 108
<b>Founded in</b>	: 29th June, 1993
<b>Founded by</b>	: Indian Statistical Institute

### Brief Overview of the Museum and Archives

The Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis Memorial Museum & Archives (PCMMM&A) was established in 1993 on the occasion of the birth centenary celebration of Professor Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis (PCM), a pioneering statistician and the founder of the Indian Statistical Institute. Its major objective is the collection, preservation, restoration, display, communication and documentation of personalia, memorabilia as well as rare source materials connected with the life and legacy of Mahalanobis, which also encompass the historical growth of the Institute and of statistical science in India.

### The Museum

It is housed in Amrapali, the erstwhile residence of Mahalanobis, located on the campus of the Institute at Kolkata. The ground floor, on the eastern side, has a permanent exhibition on his life and work through photographic displays, spread over five galleries. There are 921 exhibits through 101 panels and a collection of artifacts related to PCM on display in these galleries. An open lounge called the Chatal, his study room and personal areas of residence have been preserved for viewing on the first floor. In 2016, a new gallery (Gallery-VI) on the special relationship of Prasanta Chandra Mahalanobis and his wife, Nirmal Kumari Mahalanobis, with Rabindranath Tagore was inaugurated on the 1st floor.



### Archives

The archival materials trace the history of the development of statistics in the Indian sub-continent during his lifetime and beyond, with special reference to his outstanding contributions in this area. They include official and personal documents, files, correspondence, scientific and literary papers, photographs, newspaper cuttings, diaries, and manuscripts related to Mahalanobis and Nirmal Kumari. Audio-visual materials like sound recordings and film footage, negatives and slides, also form a part of this collection. There are roughly 3 lakh documents, of which around 1.9 lakh have been treated. Digitization of the documents commenced in 2007. To date around 25,000 documents have been digitized and metadata of approximately 20,000 documents have been saved on a customized server, while around 2000 documents have been uploaded to the D-space server.

Presently the Museum & Archives has been shifted to the third floor of the library building temporarily for the renovation work of the museum. The Museum (building) has been closed for the time being for visitors.

### P C Mahalanobis Memorial Museum and Archives: Major Collections

Name of Collection	Brief Overview of Collection
Manuscripts	3,00,000 Manuscripts (Typescript/ Handwritten)
Books	550 approx
Audio-video [Spool, Record, Cassettes]	93 nos., 89 nos., 101 nos.
Photographs	4000 approx
Negatives	5000 approx
Slides	1236 slides approx
Artifacts	1330 approx

### Major Activities

- Conservation and Documentation for the preservation of the collection to ensure availability to present and future researchers. During this financial year, 4290 nos. of archival documentation were treated.
- Reference Services for researchers and scholars desiring to avail the archival collection for reference purposes were provided. Due to pandemic research work was hampered and online reference services were provided to users like Krishna Kumar T, Former Professor of ISI, Bangalore, Robert Yee, Mirko Schwagmann, Kollegiat Albert-Ludwigs-Universität Freiburg and Sakshi Mourya, IIT, Mumbai etc. From the month of January users were allowed to consult the archival document. Argha Manna, Heidelberg Centre for Transcultural Studies visited our archives in January
- Guided tours for visitors were organised.

