

"Self respect and honour cannot be protected by others, they are for each individual, himself or herself to guard."

Mahatma Gandhi



MESSAGE FROM THE VICE CHANCELLOR

I consider it my proud privilege to pen down this message for the “**Handbook on Gyanodaya Educational trip**”.

GYANODAYA was christened and conceptualised as a maiden project by the University of Delhi to broaden the perspective of education and extend it beyond mere geographical boundaries. It was an innovative and novel project which aimed at comprehensive empowerment of the students by endowing them with hands-on knowledge of the world outside the classrooms. The students thus got an opportunity to interact with the outside world, explore the cultural wealth and heritage of our great country, understand the grassroots level issues and also strengthen the bonds within themselves besides developing camaraderie and understanding between each other. The project contributed immensely towards nation building by instilling these students with a pride in our Centres of Excellence viz, **Indian Navy, Indian Space Research Organisation and Sabarmati Ashram** amongst others.



The travel by train and destinations to be visited were specifically chosen as it would provide the students an insight into the life of the **Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi**. **GYANODAYA was inspired by the life of the Mahatma**, where he undertook many an epic journey by train, which changed his outlook towards life. When we read about Gandhi, we realise that a lot of his philosophy emerged during the spare time he had while traveling. The train journeys gave Gandhi an opportunity to think and indulge in introspection. His experiences while travelling through India convinced him that *swaraj* was the only hope. I am indeed glad that this maiden venture achieved much more than what I had planned for it. The feedback from the environment is very encouraging and I now look forward to formalising this activity. I am sanguine that GYANODAYA will go down as a milestone event in the history of this great institution.

I compliment the team of GYANODAYA who have left no stone unturned in ensuring the success of this unique venture.

Jai Hind.


Dinesh Singh



Messages of Good Wishes from Other Officials



PROF. VIVEK SUNEJA

Pro Vice-Chancellor

Gyanodaya represents a journey and an adventure like life itself, it is a voyage into the unknown, and an opportunity to learn, laugh and make new friends.

PROF. SUDHISH PACHAURI

Dean Of Colleges

Gyanodaya a special tribute to the father of the nation. It carried the lamp of knowledge across the length and breadth of our diverse country, enriching the students with its unique culture and heritage.



PROF. UMESH RAI

Director, South Campus

I consider it my proud privilege to pen down this message on the successful conduct of GYANODAYA. I must confess that when we conceived the project, we hardly knew of the humungous response and appreciation it would receive from the environment across all spheres. GYANODAYA has set the bar several notches up by its immaculate planning and flawless execution. Ofcourse this has been possible by the concerted efforts and many days and nights of hardwork and toil by the team including our students.



MS. ALKA SHARMA

Registrar

Thinkers and philosophers, through the ages, have consistently used the metaphor of 'journey' to describe life itself. A physical journey brings forth the anticipation and excitement of new experiences that otherwise remains repressed under the weight of the mundane. I congratulate the travellers of Gyanodaya 1 & 2 on the completion of their successful journeys that combined the sheer joy of visiting new destinations with friends and the thrill of discovery of new knowledge and opening new vistas. I am sure you will cherish these memories and the learnings from this journey will serve you well in life.



PROF. MALASHRI LAL

Dean Academic Activities & Projects

'Gyanodaya', the unique programme of taking about 900 women students on a train journey, relates higher education to the realities of India. Placing the itinerary in the context of Gandhi and hands-on learning, the philosophy urges young people to understand India, to appreciate its diversity, and to carry the message of good will. Through the travels, and sharing space with others, each student would have discovered something of her inner self too. Congratulations on the concept and its implementation.

PROF. CHANDRA SHEKHAR DUBEY

Chairman Core Committee Gyanodaya Trains

Prof. & Head, Dept. Of Geology

The concept of the Gyanodaya train as experiential learning based on Gandhi ji's train visits, by our Vice Chancellor, Professor Dinesh Singh, is a step towards practical innovative education beyond class room study. As a Field Geologist I understand it well.





It reminded me of my student days when we travelled by train to remote areas in Chittorgarh, Udaipur, Singbhum, and long journeys of more than 38 hours to places like Gauhati and New Bogaigaon for field work in Darjeeling, Sikkim and Arunachal Pradesh. I still remember the taste of Chai in a mud kullarh (Hindustan Ki mitti Ki khushboo) and meeting people and making friends with persons of different religion, culture and regions from all parts of India. This was important learning experience as a Naturalist or Environment Geologist and also led to my understanding of the social, culture, historical and regional character. Such human resource development brings emotional attachment and belonging to our great mother India. I am sure that many students on Gyanodaya will adopt Gandhi ji's concepts, become scientists, social scientists, teachers with innovative projects. They will contribute to curriculum development. Their reminiscences of Gyanodaya Express will shape their thoughts.



LT. PARMINDER SEHGAL

Deputy Proctor, Vice-Chancellor's Office

GYANODAYA has been a journey, an insight, an awakening and above all an experience. A novel concept of education beyond the walls of the classroom and into the real world where the students got the feel, the touch, the sight and the smell of our motherland. It threw open a new window and perspective to the open minds, which got to live life from the train, like the way the Mahatma did. They felt enriched with the culture, heritage and splendour of our great country, getting them back to their roots. The GYANODAYA series of educational trips have instilled in the students a deep sense of pride and admiration for our Centres of Excellence, who have done us proud and the Armed Forces, who valiantly guard our borders, while we sleep peacefully. I am grateful to the Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi for conceiving and executing this Wonderful project and letting me a part of the history in the making by our university. I feel extremely privileged in being able to lead this project on behalf of the University.

Jai Hind.



The Gyanodaya Philosophy

The “Gyanodaya Express” emerged as a fascinating concept from Professor Dinesh Singh, Vice Chancellor of the University of Delhi and put into action within a few months. The University of Delhi assisted by the Indian Railways organized a dedicated train “Gyanodaya Express” for an educational journey by 940 NCC and NSS girl students from 32 colleges. Accompanied by 60 teachers, the group embarked on 8th July, 2012 from the Safdarjung railway station to travel through central and western India for 12 days to understand the diversity of the country. Projects were given to the students under supervision of teachers and mentors so they could relate their knowledge to their experience. The students visited a number of historically and culturally important destinations such as Sabarmati, Mumbai Naval Base, Madgaon, ISRO and Wardha. The Vice Chancellor and his team members travelled in some segments of the journey.

For the first time in India, a train carrying almost 1000 university people journeyed through India in the Gandhian spirit of understanding the multifaceted realities of the country. To impart experiential education and bring awareness of nation building, the itinerary was designed to promote confidence, knowledge and empathy in the students. While they were taken to centres of scientific excellence, they were also acquainted with the simplicity of ashram life and the discipline of our military personnel. Through such first-hand contact with a variety of places and people it was expected that the young college students would realize the responsibilities of citizenship and also resonate to the call of their inner voice. Most of all, Gandhi’s ideal of integrating the mind, heart and hands would be practiced during the journey.

The train was provided with laptops, internet connection and a library. Based on the journey, students were encouraged to study compartment design, food habits, and sociological aspects of railway platforms, geography, agriculture, language and literature, ethnicity of people of the region. They were also asked to write book reviews and travelogues. The first train journey was flagged off on 8 July and returned on 19 July 2012. More such educational trips are planned. It is expected that students on Gyanodaya Express would value Gandhi’s ideals of self-help and integrate those principles with the modernising aspects of India.



The Gyanodaya Schedule

DATE DAY Destination Arr./Dep. time Description

08.07.2012

(Sunday) 1 Delhi Safdurjung Dep. – 10.00 Entraining.

09.07.2012

(Monday) 2

Ahmedabad Arr. – 09.00

After wash and Change, proceed for sightseeing of Sabarmati Ashram and Akshardham Temple, evening free at Leisure, night stay at Hotel.

10.07.2012

(Tuesday) 3 Ahmedabad Dep. – 17.00

After wash and Change full day sightseeing of Ahmadabad and visit Gujrat Vidyapeeth, Evening departure to CST/ Mumbai

11.07.2012

(Wednesday) 4 Mumbai/ CST/ LTT Arr. – 05.00

After Wash and Change in Hotel, proceed for Navy base, Evening free at leisure. Night stay in Hotel.

12.07.2012

(Thursday) 5 Mumbai/ CST/ LTT Dep. – 18.00

After wash and Change visit full day sightseeing of Mumbai, afternoon free at Leisure and Shopping.

Departure for Madgaon (Goa)

13.07.2012

(Friday) 6 Madgaon (Goa) Arr. – 1000 hrs.

Proceed for Hotel check in, evening free at leisure, night stay.

14.07.2012

(Saturday) 7 Madgaon (Goa) Dep. – 1900 hrs.

Full day sightseeing of North Goa and South Goa. Evening departure to Bangalore.



15.07.2012

(Sunday) 8 Bangalore Arr. – 09.00

After wash and change in Hotel, Proceed to ISRO and Science Museum.

Evening free at Leisure/shopping. Night Stay at Hotel.

16.07.2012

(Monday) 9 Bangalore Dep. – 23.00

After Breakfast proceed for full day sightseeing of Mysore

Evening Departure for Wardha from Bangalore.

17.07.2012

(Tuesday) 10 TRAIN JOURNEY

18.07.2012

(Wednesday) 11 Nagpur/ Wardha Arr. - 06.00

Dep. – 18.00 Detraining at Nagpur, after wash and change at the hotel proceed for the sightseeing of Sevagram by road. Evening back to Nagpur for entraining and Departure for Delhi.

19.07.2012

(Thursday) 12 Delhi Safadurjung Arr. – 23.00 Detraining. The timing of detraining is subject to change



ROUTE MAP OF GYANODAYA I





Places of Historical & National Significance

AHMEDABAD

SABARMATI ASHRAM:

Sabarmati Ashram (also known as Gandhi Ashram, Harijan Ashram, or Satyagraha Ashram) is located in the Sabarmati suburb of Ahmedabad adjoining to famous Ashram Road, at the bank of River Sabarmati, 4 miles from the town hall. This was one of the residences of Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi. Mahatma Gandhi spent approximately 12 years of his life here. This ashram is now a national monument established by the Government of India due to its significance for the Indian independence movement in the form of the Dandi March in 1930.



ADALAJ GARDEN



Adalaj Stepwell is a unique Hindu 'water building' in the village of Adalaj, close to Ahmedabad town in Gandhinagar district in the Indian state of Gujarat. The stepwell was built in 1499 by Muslim king Mohammed Begda for Queen Rani Roopba, wife of Veer Singh, the Vaghela chieftain.

Source: Wikipedia (en.wikipedia.org/)



ISKCON TEMPLE

ISKCON is the abbreviation for International Society for Krishna Consciousness. This temple depicts Lord Krishna with his beloved lover Radha, who is regarded as the epitome of true love. Also called as the Hare Krishna Temple, ISKCON temple situates in a vast area with lovely trees, which gives a serene and tranquil environ to the devotees. Temple has much spacious interiors compared to its exterior portions. Huge halls decorated with beautiful chandeliers attributes the devoutness of the shrine. Prayer sessions in the temple provide a soothing feeling to the devotees as the entire ambiance would be filled with the chanting of hymns and Keertans. Janmashtami and Nand Mahotsav are the two auspicious days in the temple, which witnesses' great participation of devotees.



VAISHNO DEVI TEMPLE

Situated in the city limits, Vaishno Devi temple in Ahmedabad is a popular shrine among not only the devotees but also the tourists. It's strategic location on Ahmedabad - Gandhinagar road gains it huge crowds all round the year. A true replica of the famed temple in Jammu and Kashmir, this lovely shrine also depicts Vaishno Devi as the principle deity. The only difference between the two is that the latter can be visited with in a couple of hours. The uphill path towards the temple houses so many garden restaurants and so if you embark your trip with in a vehicle, you can have your dinner there and it would be a nice day for your entire family.





AKSHARDHAM TEMPLE

Akshardham andhinagar is one of the largest temples in the Indian state of Gujarat. The temple complex combines devotions, art, architecture, education, exhibitions and research at one place. The temple came to international attention when two heavily armed terrorists attacked it in September 2002. Akshardham Gandhinagar is a predecessor to the Akshardham at Delhi, built by the same religious organisation, *Bochasanwasi Akshar-Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha* (BAPS) led by Pramukh Swami Maharaj. It was inaugurated on November 2, 1992, during the centenary celebrations of Yogiji Maharaj. The complex is very popular among tourists visiting Gujarat.



MUMBAI

INS VIRAT

INS *Viraat* is a *Centaur* class aircraft carrier currently in service with the Indian Navy. *INS Viraat* is the flagship of the Indian Navy, the oldest carrier in service and one of two aircraft carriers based in the Indian Ocean Region. *Viraat* is currently the second largest ship in the Indian Navy after the *INS Jyoti*. *Viraat* was completed and commissioned in 1959 as the Royal Navy's HMS *Hermes* and was transferred to India in 1987. In 2009 there were reports that after that year's refit was concluded, India might keep the aircraft carrier in service until 2020. By then, the warship would have completed 60 years of service, over twice its initially estimated sailing life of 25 years. At that time the two Indigenous Aircraft Carriers (IACs) seemed likely to be fully operational, which was the reason to keep *Viraat* operational until then, according to unnamed Navy officers.





GATEWAY OF INDIA

The **Gateway of India** is a monument built during the British Raj in Mumbai (formerly Bombay), India. Located on the waterfront in the Apollo Bunder area in South Mumbai, the monument overlooks the Arabian Sea. The gateway is a basalt arch, 26 metres (85 feet) high. It lies at the end of *Chhatrapati Shivaji Marg* at the water's edge in the harbor of Bombay. Previously, it was a crude jetty used by the fishing community which was later renovated and used as a landing place for British governors and other prominent people. In earlier times, the



gateway was the monument that visitors arriving by boat would have first seen in Mumbai. The gateway has also been referred to as the Taj Mahal of Mumbai, and is the city's top tourist attraction. The monument was erected to commemorate the landing on the Apollo Bunder of their Majesties King George V and Queen Mary when they visited India in 1911. Built in Indo-Saracenic style, the foundation stone for the Gateway of India was laid on 31 March 1911. The final design of George Wittet was sanctioned in 1914 and the construction of the monument

was completed in 1924. The gateway was latterly the ceremonial entrance to India for Viceroy and the new Governors of Bombay. It served to allow entry and access to India.

HAJI ALI DARGAH

The **Haji Ali Dargah** is a mosque and dargah (tomb) located on an islet^[dubious – discuss] off the coast of Worli in the Southern part of Mumbai. Near the heart of the city proper, the *dargah* is one of the most recognisable landmarks of Mumbai. An exquisite example of Indian Islamic architecture, associated with legends about doomed lovers, the dargah contains the tomb of Sayed Peer Haji Ali Shah Bukhari





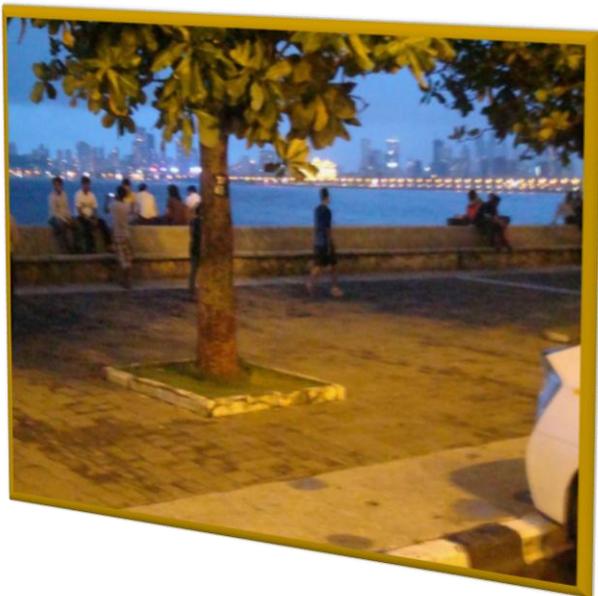
HAJI ALI DARGAH

Juhu Beach is one of the most famous beaches in Mumbai. It may be accessed from the suburbs of Vile Parle, Santacruz and Andheri. Many tourists make it a point to visit the beach when they come to Mumbai, as it is a relatively uncrowded free space in the city, although it does get crowded in the evenings and weekends. It is famous for its Mumbai street food, notably bhelpuri, pani puri, chaats, and pav bhaji. The food stands are relatively hygienic. Italian food is also very popular in Juhu with many restaurants like Little Italy, Penne, Don Giovanni, Mangi Ferra. On the southern end of Juhu beach there are many luxury hotels and apartments. Juhu beach is a very popular place for watching aircraft as planes from Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport usually takeoff directly over the beach towards the sea



MARINE DRIVE

Marine Drive is a 3-kilometre-long boulevard in South Mumbai in the city of Mumbai. It is a 'C'-shaped six-lane concrete road along the coast, which is a natural bay. The road links Nariman Point to Babulnath and Malabar Hill. Marine Drive is situated over reclaimed land facing west-south-west. The bay is part of the Arabian Sea.

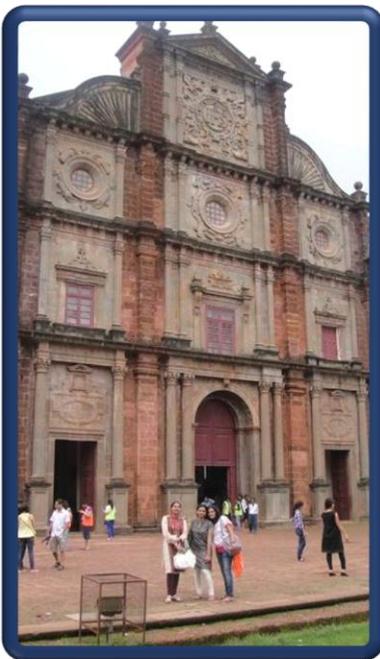




GOA

MANGESHWAR TEMPLE

MANJULAKSHETRA or MANJESHWARA is the name derived from the deity “SRI MANJARISHA” or Srimath Anantheshwara of the sacred Manjeshwar Temple. Considered as the most ancient existing temple of the Gowda Saraswat Brahmins, the known history of the Temple dates back to 8th century A.D. The Temple was last renovated in 1799 – 1804 A.D. after it was demolished by a nearby ruler. H.H Srimath Vibhudendra Tirtha Swamiji, the then Peetadhipathi of the Kashi Math Samsthan took the initiative in resurrecting the Temple and re-installing the presiding deity Shri Bhadra Narasimha.



OLD GOA CHURCH

The **Basilica of Bom Jesus** or **Borea Jezuchi Bajilika** is located in Goa, India, and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The basilica holds the mortal remains of St. Francis Xavier. The church is located in Old Goa, which was the capital of Goa in the early days of Portuguese rule. 'Bom Jesus' (literally, 'Good (or Holy) Jesus') is the name used for the infant Jesus. The Jesuit church is India's first minor basilica, and is considered to be one of the best examples of baroque architecture in India.



COLVA BEACH

Colvá is a white sand beach in the South Goa district of Goa, India. Colvá beach is around 24 km. On the weekend, the crowd explodes with locals as well. The beach also gets particularly busy in October, when hoardes of pilgrims come and visit Colvá Church. The area is well developed with plenty of budget hotels, beach shacks, food stalls, and small restaurants and bars. However, the development hasn't been extended to nightlife, which is minimal apart from a few places. The beach is constantly monitored by the lifeguards and the swimming area is flagged with colored flags.



ANJUNA BEACH

Anjuna is a village in Goa, one of the twelve Brahmin comunidades of Bardez. Its church, St. Michael's Church, Anjuna, founded in 1595, is dedicated to S. Miguel, and celebrates the feasts of S. Miguel (September 29) and Nossa Senhora Advogada (second week of January). There are three large chapels in the parish: the one to S. Antonio (Praias), to Nossa Senhora de Saude (Mazalvaddo), and to Nossa Senhora de Piedade (Grande Chinvar). The chapel at Vagator became the church of the new parish of Vagator, dedicated to S. Antonio, in the twentieth century.





BAGA BEACH

Baga Beach is a popular beach and tourist destination in North Goa, India, located a few kilometers north from the famous and crowded Calangute beach. Dolphins can be located at around 1-2 km from the Baga Beach. The beach contains rows of shacks and fishing



boats, and at high tide the beach is narrow. The beach is named after the Baga Creek, which empties into the Arabian Sea at the north end of the beach. Baga Beach is also famous for its water sports and Dolphin cruises.

BANGALORE

ISRO

The **Indian Space Research Organisation** is the primary space agency of the Indian government. ISRO is amongst the six largest government space agencies in the world, along with NASA, RKA, ESA, CNSA and JAXA. Its primary objective is to advance space technology and use its applications for national benefit.

Established in 1969, ISRO superseded the erstwhile Indian National Committee for Space Research (INCOSPAR).

Headquartered in Bangalore, ISRO is under the administrative control of the Department of Space, Government of India.





LAL BAGH

Lal Bagh or **Lal Bagh Botanical Gardens**, meaning *The Red Garden* in English, is a famous botanical garden in southern Bangalore, India. The garden was originally commissioned by Hyder Ali, the ruler of Mysore, and later finished by his son Tipu Sultan. It has a famous glass house which hosts an annual flower show. Lal Bagh houses India's largest collection of tropical plants, has an aquarium and a lake, and is one of the main tourist attractions in Bangalore.



MYSORE

CHAMUNDI HILLS

The **Chamundi Hills** are located in India, close to the palace city of Mysore. The hills' average elevation is 1,000 meters. According to legend, the demon Mahishasura, king of the area that is currently Mysore, was killed by the Goddess Chamundeswari (also Chamundi) after a fierce battle. The hills are named after the goddess, and a temple honors her in the hills. The temple has a beautiful idol of the goddess. The temple has always been patronised by the rulers of Mysore. In earlier days, the Maharajas of Mysore would ride the ceremonial Dasara elephant during the annual Dasara festival; since the seventies, the idol of Goddess Chamundi is taken on an elephant. A panoramic view of the city is seen from the top of the hills. Among other landmarks, you can see the race course, the Lalitha Mahal palace, Mysore Palace, Karanji and Kukkarahalli lakes.





TIPU SULTAN MUSEUM



It is in memory of a remarkable historical personality, 'Sahib Tipu', the sultan and hero of Mysore, that one must mention this museum. Tipu's father, Hyder Ali of Mysore, fought bravely against the advancing British armies in an effort to protect his kingdom. Set in the former summer palace of Tipu Sultan in Bangalore, the museum mainly

exhibits personal items of Tipu Sultan and his family. Elaborately painted walls and ceilings of this wooden palace depict scenes from wars fought by him, while the interior walls are ornately painted with abstract designs and floral motifs.

CHAMUNDESHWAR TEMPLE

The **Chamundeshwari Temple** is located on the top of Chamundi Hills about 13 km from the palace city of Mysore in the state of Karnataka in India. The temple was named after Chamundeshwari or Durga, the fierce form of Shakti, a tutelary deity held in



reverence for centuries by Mysore Maharajas.



MYSORE PALACE

The **Palace of Mysore** (also known as the *Amba Vilas Palace*) is a palace situated in the city of Mysore in southern India. It is the official residence of the Wodeyars - the erstwhile royal family of Mysore, and also houses two *darbar halls* (ceremonial meeting hall of the royal court). Mysore is commonly described as the *City of Palaces*, however, the term "Mysore Palace" specifically refers to one within the old fort.

The current palace construction was commissioned in 1897, and it was completed in 1912 and expanded later around 1940. Mysore palace is now one of the most famous tourist attractions in India after Taj Mahal with more than 2.7 million visitors.



WARDHA

Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya

Mahatma Gandhi Antarrashtriya Hindi Vishwavidyalaya is a Central University located in Wardha, Maharashtra, India. It came into existence through an Act of Parliament which received the assent of the President on January 08, 1997 and was published in the Gazette of India Extraordinary on the same date. This is an act to establish and incorporate a teaching University for the promotion and development of Hindi language and literature, through teaching and research, with a view to enabling Hindi to achieve greater functional efficiency and recognition as a major international language and to provide for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto. Writer and Indian Police Service officer Vibhuti Narain Rai serves as the present Vice-Chancellor.



SEWA GRAM ASHRAM

Sevagram is Hindi for "A village for service" and the name of a village in the state of Maharashtra, India. This was the place of Mohandas Gandhi's (Gandhiji's) ashram.



DELHI

SAFDARJUNG RAILWAY STATION



The quaint railway station, with a single long platform is named after Safdarjung , the prime minister of Muhammad Shah who was a Mughal emperor from 1719 to 1748. It is organised to cater to special trains and the Gyanodaya Educational journey began and ended

ceremonially from here.

Close to the station is the famous building Safdarjung's Tomb an architectural marvel built in the year 1753-54 by Nawab Shuja-ud-Daulah in memory of his father Mirza Muqim Abul Mansur Khan popularly known as Safdarjung.