



## REPORT: GYANODAYA – II EDUCATIONAL TRIP

### General

1. Delhi University added another chapter to its saga of complete and seamless education beyond geographical boundaries by the successful conduct of GYANODAYA – II Educational Trip, which was a sequel to the maiden venture, GYANODAYA – I Edu Trip. GYANODAYA – II was organised for **NCC cadets (boys as well as girls) and “Specially endowed” children** of the University. **GYANODAYA –II visited the Indian Army formations and units deployed along the western borders of our country.**

2. **Aim.** The aim of this unique venture was to expose, enrich and provide an insight to the students to the Indian Army’s equipment, capabilities, operational preparedness and way –of-life to include *esprit –de- corps and camaraderie*, so unique to this magnificent Institution of our nation. The students visited **Army units and camps at Bikaner, Jaisalmer and Jodhpur** by a special train christened, “**GYANODAYA EXPRESS**”.

3. **Duration.** The trip was organised over a weeks period wef 29 Sep to 05 Oct 12.

4. **Route.** GYANODAYA – II was flagged off from Delhi Cantt Railway Station amongst much fanfare and the special train chugged along the beautiful landscape of the country to Bikaner, onward to Jaisalmer and finally Jodhpur prior to returning to Delhi.

### Locations Visited and Detailed Report on the Conduct of the Visit.

5. **Bikaner.** GYANODAYA – II chugged into Bikaner railway station during the wee hours of 30 Sep 12. Breakfast was served on board the train itself and students proceeded to hotels where they showered and changed prior to starting the day with visit to Armoured (Tank Regiments) and Artillery (Gun Regiments) of the Indian Army located at Udasar (approx 30 kms from Bikaner). The units organised an equipment display showcasing their might and firepower, which was indeed overwhelming. The students were also given an insight to the basic tactics in various operations of war through a lecture- demonstration. The visit was followed by light refreshments at the Army units, which gave an excellent opportunity to the students to informally interact with the officers and men of the Indian Army. Many students felt motivated to join the Army and serve the motherland. The visit was followed by visit to the historical Junagarh Fort. On 01 Oct 12, the students were escorted to an Infantry Battalion (8 GRENADIERS) deployed in exercise area at Ranjitpura and Mahajan Ranges (approx 180 kms from Bikaner), where they were briefed on how an Infantry Battalion is organised to undertake defensive and offensive tasks as part of a Node in deserts. Various equipment available at their disposal viz, Battalion support weapons, Medium Machine guns, Light machine guns, Anti Material rifles, Grenade launchers, Anti tank Guided Missiles, Battle field surveillance system etc were shown to the students through an organised equipment display. Thereafter hot lunch was arranged for the students at 8 GRENADIERS location. The students on their return from the Exercise location visited the famous Karni Mata Temple at Bikaner.



**Students being briefed on Battlefield Surveillance Radar**



**Students being briefed on 105 mm Field Artillery Gun System**



**Students on top of a Infantry Combat Vehicle (ICV) BMP II**



**Visit to Junagarh Fort**



**Students being shown Battalion Support Weapons of an Infantry Battalion**



**Students being explained the Camp Layout and Defenses of an Infantry**



**Mice feasting at Karni Mata Temple**



**Visit to Karni Mata Temple**

**Jaisalmer**. On 02 Oct 12 GYANODAYA –II reached the famous city of sand dunes, Jaisalmer. There was a reception laid out by the Indian Army. The Liaison Officer escorted the buses to BSF Base Camp at Tanaut Temple. After visit of the temple and orientation briefing three busses each proceeded at a time to the Border Out Post (BOP). Packed lunch was catered for by IRCTC at the temple complex. The ambient temperature was very high and children did not get adequate water ex IRCTC and hence consumed local water available at the temple. The trip then moved to Samb Camp on the outskirts of Jaisalmer. IRCTC had organised local cultural events and camel riding facilities at these tourist camps. Students visited the Jaisalmer Fort (Sunar Kila) and Gadisar lake on 03 Oct 12.



**Tanaut Temple, Jaisalmer**



**BSF Base Camp at Tanaut Temple Complex, Jaisalmer**



War Memorial, Tanaut, Jaisalmer



Cultural Prgme Organised by IRCTC at Samb Camp, Jaisalmer

7. **Jodhpur.** In view of the previous days incidents, all students and faculty checked into hotels and rested till mid day of 04 Oct 12. The later part of the day was utilized in visits to Umed Bhawan place, Mehrangarh Fort and Jaswant Thada and the local market, where they indulged in shopping of souvenirs. GYANODAYA EXPRESS departed from Jodhpur on its final lap to Delhi on night of 04 Oct 12.

### Feedback

8. **Selection Criteria and Procedure.** A Core Committee was designated well in advance and the selection process for faculty and staff to accompany the students was deliberately undertaken. This resulted in synergy, team building and coordination amongst the faculty. Careful, diligent and transparent selection ensured that each member of the team was an equal stakeholder and contributed to the success of the mission.

9. **Discipline and Conduct.** The students were led by faculty from the respective colleges. The faculty emerged as role models in their conduct and lead by example through self discipline.

10. **Cooperation from Faculty and Staff.** For the success of projects like GYANODAYA, it is pertinent to have the wholehearted cooperation of the staff and faculty. All members of the team contributed significantly to the project and its success story.



11. **Coordination with IRCTC.** IRCTC has been nominated as the agency responsible for all administrative arrangements during the GYANODAYA –I and II Educational trips. Although the services rendered are fairly satisfactory but minor irritants need to be addressed so as to ensure flawless administrative arrangements. Issues like adequate safe and bottled drinking water, hygienic and hot food both on-board and at hotels where the students are hosted, deluxe air-conditioned buses, provisioning of qualified guides while visiting historical places and quality and service at hotels need to be given ensured by IRCTC. It is essential that these details are tied –up and inspected during the recce of the locations. Further IRCTC must nominate senior Coordinators at the locations being visited to assist the Chief Coordinator during their transit and stay.

### **Conclusion**

12. The GYANODAYA –II was a successful project and the student feedback during the visit was very positive. It was overall an enriching experience where students gained an understanding of their own potential and mutual understanding of each other apart from being associated with and acquiring hands-on knowledge of one of the finest Institutions of our country – the Indian Army.



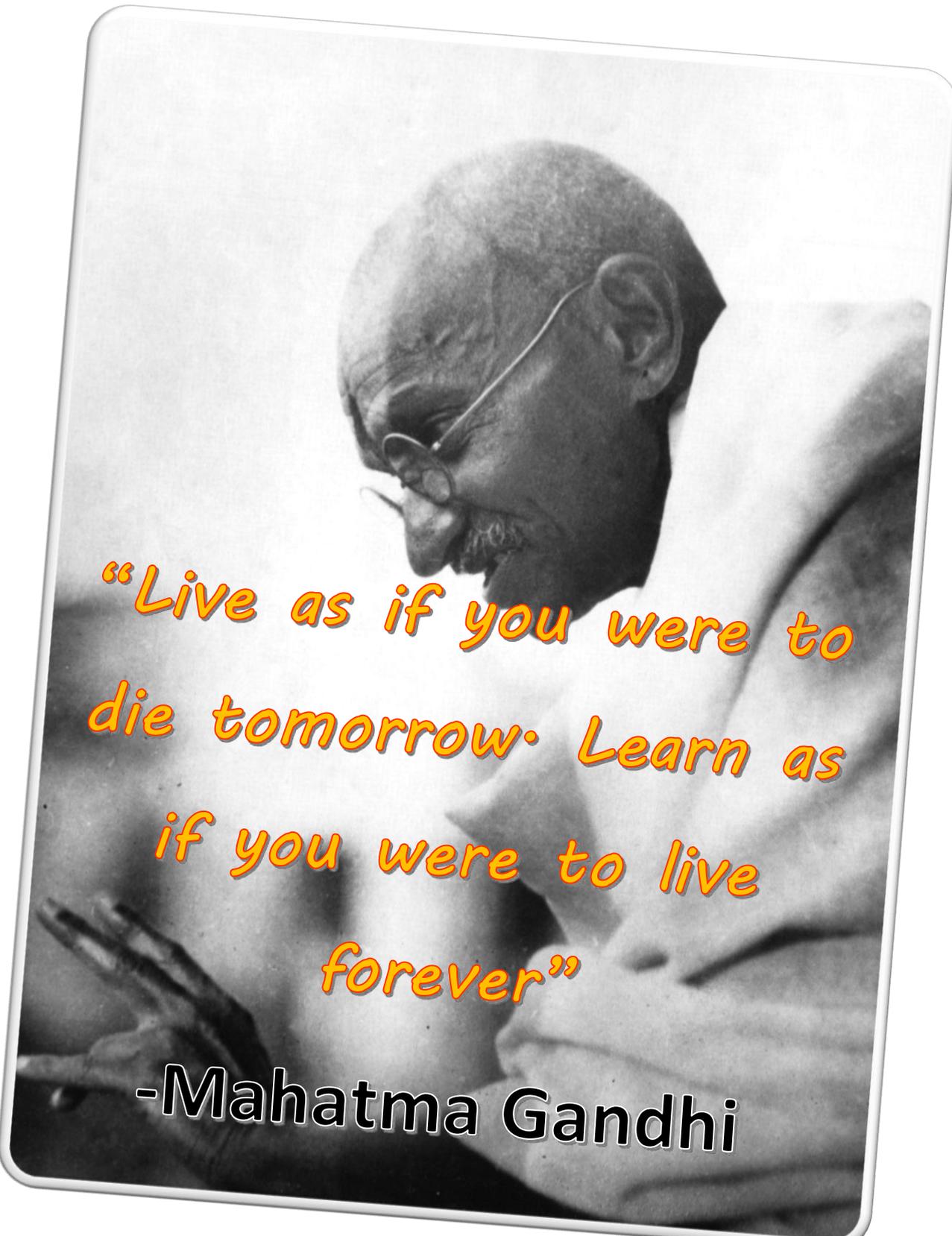
## Acknowledgments

Our greatest thanks are given to our Vice Chancellor, Prof. Dinesh Singh, for his vision of 'Gyanodaya Express' as a meaningful journey of discovering India and discovering ourselves. We thank our Registrar, Ms. Alka Sharma, for linking up Delhi U with Indian Railways so that details could be organised in partnership. Indian Railway Catering and Tourism Corporation Ltd. (IRCTC), a Public Sector Enterprise under Ministry of Railways, arranged the travel, accommodation, hospitality, transportation and security throughout the journey and we are grateful. Vice Chancellor's team members supported the enterprise wholeheartedly and often joined us at various points in our journey for which we offer our deep appreciation.

The Gyanodaya committee led by Prof.C.S.Dubey worked efficiently to attend to every detail of the journey. Dr. Meera Sood, Lt. Parminder Sehgal and their colleagues gave tireless attention to create the map of logistics and to ensure the co-ordination between several units. The computer Centre, health services and security made their contributions to the journey. It was a unique feature of 'Gyanodaya' to have a Library on board, and computers with internet capability.

We thank the Indian Navy, ISRO, Sewagram, Gujarat Vidyapeeth and all organisations who hosted our educational visits to their premises. CNBC is thanked for covering some part of the journey in a documentary "Ghoomna Zaroori Hai"

Teachers, students, staff on Gyanodaya Express have shown exemplary co-ordination and cooperation throughout the programme, for which Vice Chancellor and team leaders are thanked profusely.

A black and white portrait of Mahatma Gandhi, shown from the chest up, wearing his characteristic round glasses and a white shawl. He is looking down and to the left, with his hands clasped in front of him.

*“Live as if you were to  
die tomorrow. Learn as  
if you were to live  
forever”*

**-Mahatma Gandhi**

