



TRAVELOGUE

Gyanodaya

An experience like no other...

As the night descended on 7th July...packing and excitement accelerated with an enthusiasm unknown to me till then. The wait was finally going to be over. The itinerary had already made me fall in love with the programme of the Gyanodaya Express Educational Trip. And I slept smiling waiting eagerly.

Day 1

Boarded the train at 7:30 am. What to expect..unknown! The welcome was warm and so traditional with shehnai playing in the background and each of us taking on the journey adorned with beautiful garlands. Have to admit, it indeed did make me feel very special. And there it was waiting for us, our home for the next 12 days...our dear Gyanodaya Express. No train ever appeared so inviting, even though it was a regular passenger train. I guess the colorful streamers draped on it, specially for us, made it so welcoming.





True, nothing ever exceeds the excitement felt at the first move of the train...especially if it is for such an insightful project we had begun on.

The day on wheels, my longest journey by train, was a mix...of knowing, talking, enjoying, seat selection, baggage adjusting, and getting used to the *train ka khana!*

Day 2

Making peace with the fact that we would be in each other's company for the next 264 hours, we took to the traditional antakshari and dumb-charades for entertainment, apart from the

regular announcements that became an information-cum-fun source for us.

We reached the first destination, Ahmedabad, to start our journey from the Mahatma's own land.

We checked in at Hotel Nest, not to relax, but for a quick shower, and within an hour boarded our buses to Sabarmati Ashram.

Calm and serene, inspiring just as you would think the place should, it really did change something within me. So, Gandhiji's teachings really are practical..I could hear myself say, clearing my doubts of 'its easier to say than do'.

Moving to our journey of the day, we visited the ornamental Dadaj Tri Murti Mandir, the





Vaishno Devi mandir and the beautiful Iskon temple, each a fabulously carved.

Time for some shopping and we savaged the Karnawati Market and Law Garden, giving ourselves a treat to the amazing Gujarat ethnic stuff we never wanted to stop buying. But at the end satisfied, though wanting more we came back to the hotels, retiring for the day.

Day 3

Now, a trip to Ahmedabad is incomplete without a visit to Gujarat Vidyapeeth and the famous Akshardham.



The environment was so inspiring and positive at the Gujarat Vidyapeeth. The students there, head

simple lifestyles, involving activities like computer training as well as kitchen to cleaning tasks along with academics.

Akshardham was visited in the rain, visit increased our joy multifold. The story of Swami Narayan is known to all in Delhi, courtesy the wonderful depiction in Delhi Akshardham temple, but the same story is told in a very different manner in Gujarat. So true, storytelling is an art so well woven with Indian culture. And with that, our stay at our first destination got over, and we proceeded to the station for another night on the train.



Day 4

The next morning brought us to the glamour world, only we were kept away from it for good. Mumbai. Our first visit in Mumbai. It was the prestigious visit to the Naval Base in Mumbai, on the deck of INS Viraat, the largest Aircraft Carrier with INS Indian Navy. The dignity of the Navy life touched us all, and we were all left wanting to stay there for longer. The good lunch and fascinating information made Naval Base unforgettable.

And then, we checked in at our Juhu Hotel, in the same lane as the legendary Kishore Kumar's bungalow. Hotel Atlantic.

Next was the dream visit to Juhu beach...which was not much like the dream due to all the rubbish and odour. But the famous Bombay Street food quickly made up for it.

And the most amazing part was going around the Juhu area with the teachers in search of a cake for a teammate's birthday, drenched in rain. Those pastries'-cum-cake were the most delicious I've ever had as they came from the adventure, excitement, fun and love for each other...together in a room with 15 people, whom I barely knew 3 days earlier!

Day 5

The most satisfying day of all I felt. Visit to Haji Ali. It feels so great when you experience the secularism so talked off, even though I'm aware, it is not prevalent at all places at all times. But



a hint of it shows the hope that it can grow up to be the sole religion of mankind...tolerance and love for everyone around.



And with that, we finished Phase two of the trip and moved to the station for the third.

Day 6

The most awaited destination of all...Goa!

The smell itself was so enticing, we could not help falling in love with it at the very first sight...so fresh, so green! The air had something joyous about it, and it made you dance wherever you were.



Perhaps that was the reason that even so many students filling the small lobby of the Hotel Kolva Kinara, did not stop feeling elated for even a single second. Everybody was in the best mood, more than ever ready to adjust.

And so, the room allotment happened quickest in the Goa hotel.

Without delay, we got ready in an hour for the much awaited beach visit. But then, shopping was an invited replacement. And our visit to Calingut, Vaghator and Anjuna beach gave us all that we needed...beautiful snap scenes, a new cuisine and the most vibrant market of all. And we returned satisfied to our hotels.





Day 7



And yet again, we were beautifully and astonishingly reminded of our spiritual culture, by a visit to the serene and scenic Shri Mangeshwar Temple and Shanta Durga Mandir. Also on list was the Goa's famous St.

Xavier's Church, where the remains of St. Francis' mummy lay to rest, blessing the devotees from their peaceful abode, through the material coffin and remains. And that marked completion of the Goa stay. We, rejoicing with experience and sad at departure, headed for the station for the next halt.



Day 8

Bangalore.

What possibly are we here for on such a trip? First thought when I first came to know of the cities. How wrong I was! ISRO. And that explains it all. The trip to Bangalore was so worth. Rushing from the station to our hotel, Metro View Inn. No time to change.

Just dumping bags and running back to the bus. Just because it was ISRO. ISRO.





Need I say more? One place, we might never have had a chance to visit otherwise, and for which am gladly thankful to Gyanodaya.

Day 9

And we moved to Mysore. What a treat to the eyes! Entire city so beautiful and enchanting.



Our first visit was to Tipu Sultan's Summer Palace. Sheer captivating sight. Lush green gardens. Exquisite paintings on the walls. And a marvelous style of display. Any traveler's dream.

Next in line was Chamunda Devi Mandir. As we visited the last spiritual place of the trip, the amusingness and uniqueness of Indian culture. So many temples, mosques, churches. And each an exclusive design, structure with a spirit of its own, satisfying the visitors in a very different way. Even though the visiting hour at the temple did not allow us to see it from inside, the aura of the place was enough to heed to the atheist in us.





Last on Mysore list, was undoubtedly the Mysore Palace, and the exhibits arrangement, I found, to be the best amongst all that I have visited till date. Needless to mention the charm of the palace, speaking of our well known royal interests.

Engraved for life, we moved to the station.

Day 10+

Time to come a full cycle. Wardha. Bapu's second place. We visited Sevagram. Displays brought out another aspect of Bapu's life, that made me feel proud of being a women.



Enjoyed the best natural Indian food, unadulterated. Simple and, tasty and fulfilling as the beloved ghar-ka-khana.

Our very last destination for the trip was Mahatma Gandhi Hindi Vishwavidyalaya, where we saw Gandhiji's teachings being brought to practical life of 21st century.



With joys of the trip, and yearning to meet our families, we boarded Gyanodaya for the last time from Nagpur Station.



Day 11

With lessons we would to never forget, with time to rejoice for life, and with an experience so dear, we reach Delhi at 10:30 at night at the Safdarjung Railway Station. The sight of my parents and my recent encounter with “India”...I can’t find words, somewhat made me a different person, better I would say.



All I can say is...

‘Thank you Gyanodaya for taking me on a journey...I’ll miss you and cherish you forever’.

~ RITIKA DHAWAN

Shaheed Sukhdev College of Business Studies

[Photo credits : Vasudha Wadehra
and Ritika Dhawan]



भारत दर्शन

करने हम 'ज्ञान उदय'
निकल पड़े घर से दूर
बारह दिन के लंबे सफर पे
देखने पश्चिमी भारत के विभिन्न रूप।।

दिल्ली से चले अहमदाबाद की ओर
लेने मज़ा ढोकला, खाखरे का
और साथ में नमन किया ढेरों देवी-देवताओं का
अक्षरधाम से किया गुजरात को टाटा बाय-बाय।।

फिर पहुँचे मुंबई नगरिया
करने जुहू को हैलो-हाय
समुद्र की लहरों में किया हमने मजा ढेर सारा
और जाना नौसेना का राज़ निराला।।

मज़ा लिया नारियल पानी का
और देखा समुद्र चारों ओर
खरीदा काजू और मिठाई
जिसने गोवा की है शान बढ़ाई।।

चंदन की खुशबू, सिल्क की साड़ी
बंगलौर की तो निराली
मैसूर के विराट महल को देख हुई खलबली
और फिर हमारी ट्रेन वर्धा की तरफ चल दी।।



जल, नभ, ब्रह्मांड से परिचय हुआ हमारा
नये दोस्तों का साथ मिला प्यारा
महसूस किया की टीचर भी मस्ती कर सकते हैं
अनजान लोग भी दोस्त बन सकते हैं
और खट्टी-मीठी यादें लेकर चल दिए घर की ओर
याद आँएंगे ये लम्हें हर पहर हर मोड़।।
- प्राची गुप्ता, कोच न.- S-5, सीट न.-13

किसी की ऊन की तीली में फंदा छोड़ आए हैं

मुहाजिर हैं मगर हम एक दुनिया छोड़ आए हैं,
तुम्हारे पास जितना है हम उतना छोड़ आए हैं।
कहानी का यह हिस्सा आज तक सबसे छुपाया है,
कि हम मिट्टी की खातिर अपना सोना छोड़ आए हैं।
नई दुनिया बसा लेने की एक कमजोर चाहत में,
पुराने घर की दहलीज़ों को सूना छोड़ आए हैं।
अकीदत से कलाई पर जो एक बच्ची ने बाँधी थी,
वो राखी छोड़ आए हैं, वो रिश्ता तोड़ आए हैं।
किसी की आरजू के पाँव में जंजीर डाली थी,



किसी की ऊन की तीली में फंदा छोड़ आए हैं।

पकाकर रोटियाँ रखती थी माँ जिसमें सलीके से,
निकलते वक्त वो रोटी की डलिया छोड़ आए हैं हम!

जो एक पतली सड़क घर से बाहर जाती है,
वहीं हसरत के खवाबों को भटकता छोड़ आए हैं हम।

यकीं आता नहीं, लगता है कच्ची नींद में शायद
हम अपना घर, गली, अपना मुहल्ला छोड़ आए हैं।

हमारे लौट आने की दुआएँ करता रहता हैं,
हम अपनी छत पे जो चिड़ियों की जत्था छोड़ आए हैं हम।

हमें हजरत की इस अंधी गुफा में याद आता है,
अजंता छोड़ आए हैं, एलोरा छोड़ आए हैं।

सभी त्यौहार मिल-जुलकर मनाते थे, वहाँ जब थे
दीवाली छोड़ आए हैं, दशहरा छोड़ आए हैं हम।

हमें सूरज की किरनें इसलिए तकलीफ देती हैं क्योंकि
अवध की शाम, काशी का सवेरा छोड़ आए हैं।

गले मिलती हुई नदियाँ, गले मिलते हुए मज़हब,



इलाहबाद में वो कैसा नज़ारा छोड़ आए हैं।

हम अपने साथ तस्वीरें तो ले आए हैं शादी की,
किसी शायर ने लिखा था, जो सेहरा छोड़ आए हैं हम।।

- पायल शर्मा, सीट नं- S-12, जानकी देवी मेमोरियल कॉलेज

डगमगाती नाव से टकराती लहरों से कुछ सीखा मैंने

बिखरते अहंकार को स्वीकारते उन्हें देखा मैंने

अनन्त समुद्र की इस बाला को
विषहीन हाला में बदलते देखा मैंने...

प्रौढ़ समुद्र भी इठलाता
गर्व करता अपनी लहरों का
ऐसा वर्चस्व होने पर भी
हर्षित स्वागत करता सबका...

देख दूर तक ढूँढ़ मैं
कोई इशारा उन्मत्ता का
उठती लहरें फिर झुक जातीं
कर विनाश मेरी मादकता का...



दो कदम में आगे जाती
फिर आती मुस्कान मेरे अधरों पर
पाता स्थिरता मन मेरा
नज़र घुमा उस सुदूर समुद्र पर...

- अनघा अनिल किंजवडेकर, दिल्ली कॉलेज ऑफ आर्ट्स एंड कॉमर्स

हिंसा और अहिंसा

इंसान हूँ मैं
हैवान नहीं
किसी के खून से जन्मा
किसी का खून हूँ मैं
खून बहाना मेरा काम नहीं।

अहिंसा का रखवाला हूँ
हिंसा के प्रकोप से लिपटा हूँ
छलनी हुआ है सीना मेरा
आज कफन में मैं लिपटा हूँ।

सिर रखने को जगह नहीं
उसकी खोज में निकला हूँ
जगह-जगह है शव के टुकड़े
हिंसक के हथियारों से।



सोच रहा हूँ इंसान क्यों हूँ
पंछी होता अच्छा था
न सरहद न सीमा होती
दोनों जहाँ... बस! अपना होता।

धरती सबकी अंबर सबका
जिसकी सीमा न है कोई
फिर इंसान की चंद लकीरें
कैसे बाँटें सबकी तकदीरें!

बेटा हूँ मैं अपनी धरती माँ का
माँ है मेरी धरती माता
सबके जीवन की वो दाता
उसका ही हूँ मैं रखवाला।

- सुनीता कुमारी, कोच- S-2, सीट नं- 47, गार्गी कॉलेज

आज मैं क्या लिखूँ...

कुछ जीत लिखूँ या हार लिखूँ या दिल का सारा प्यार लिखूँ
वो पल में बीते साल लिखूँ या सदियों लंबी रात लिखूँ
मैं तुमको अपने पास लिखूँ या दूरी का एहसास लिखूँ



वो गुलाब की खुशबू का एहसास लिखूँ या धूप में ठंडी छाँव लिखूँ
आज मैं क्या लिखूँ...

वो सावन की बरसात लिखूँ या सहारा की वो प्यास लिखूँ
चेहरे की मुस्कान लिखूँ या दिल के सारे ज़ख्म लिखूँ
नज़रों की वो शर्म लिखूँ या नज़रों के तीखे वार लिखूँ
फूलों की बहार लिखूँ या पतझड़ के पत्तों की आवाज़ लिखूँ
आज मैं क्या लिखूँ...

कुछ जीत लिखूँ या हार लिखूँ या दिल का सारा प्यार लिखूँ
वो पल में बीते साल लिखूँ या सदियों लंबी रात लिखूँ
आज मैं क्या लिखूँ...

- मीनू सूद, श्यामलाल कॉलेज



A Long- Lost Friend

Wanderer, I call myself,
You know me like that as well.
Remember, when we were out there together?
When you wanted to taste the rain on your tongue...
When we wanted to eat a cloud...
When we wanted to hear the sea sing...

Remember when you told me, “Friend, let’s go a wandering forever”?
Remember the day of the Sun, when the moon refused to answer our call?
The tides were so high, I still chuckle at the image of waves pulling you in....
Remember our breath when it was snatched away by nature’s beauty?
Remember the numbers when sight overwhelmed all?
Remember the smallness we felt when we tried to capture the world?
When we thought one day, hand-span by hand-span,
We will mark the globe with our feet...
It was never just leisure for us, was it?
The world is still unmapped in our atlas,
Its beauty still virgin to our eyes.



You promised forever, forever still has long to go....

My comrade, my guide, my motivator, my Man Friday.

How will my scuffed red travel book ever get filled without you, then?...

Outside the windows there still exists that world.

The one you and I abandoned.

I will add another confession to your bank of many,

I am too scared to go out alone.

I need your assuring smile;

I need the warmth of your hand on my shoulder.

Enthusiasm and Youth are names you call yourself.

Passion is what I know you as.

Ages have passed and we have drifted apart.

I call out to the sky every day,

Maybe my voice will carry to wherever you've been.

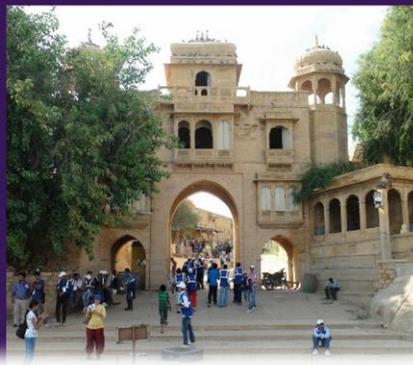
Maybe, you will taste my name on the wind...

- Nitum Jain, IP College for Women



GYANODAYA





GYANODAYA



LIST OF PARTICIPATING COLLEGES

S.No.	NAME OF COLLEGES
1.	Acharaya Narendra Dev College
2.	Aditi Mahavidyalaya
3.	Bhagini Nivedita College
4.	B R Ambedkar College
5.	Daulat Ram College
6.	Deen Dyal Upadhyaya College
7.	Delhi College of Arts and Commerce
8.	Deshbandhu College
9.	Gargi College
10.	Hansraj College
11.	Indraprastha College for Women
12.	Janki Devi Memorial College
13.	Kalindi College
14.	Kamla Nehru College
15.	Kirorimal College
16.	Lady Irwin College
17.	Lakshmibai College
18.	Maitreyi College
19.	Miranda House
20.	PGDAV College
21.	Ramanujan College
22.	Ramjas College
23.	Satyawati College
24.	SGND Khalsa College
25.	SGTB Khalsa
26.	Shaheed Bhagat Singh College
27.	Shaheed Bhagat Singh College(Even)
28.	Shaheed Sukhdav College of Bussiness Studies
29.	Shyam Lal College
30.	Shyama Prasad Mukherji College
31.	Sri Aurobindo College(Evening)
32.	Sri Guru Gobind Singh College of Commerce
33.	Vivekanand College



Code of Conduct

- Students will not be allowed to meet or visit any relative or friend at any of the destinations.
- Students will go for shopping in groups only with prior permission from the accompanying teacher of the concerned college. Teachers should also try go with the group of girls.
- No student shall be allowed to go out for shopping after 8:30 p.m.
- Students must refrain from misbehaviour towards the staff and fellow students.
- Smoking, drinking, gambling and drug-taking in any form is not allowed.
- Bathing on beaches is not allowed.
- Students must always carry their ID card issued to them.
- Students have to wear the special jackets and cap whenever they go out.
- Students must conduct themselves with dignity whenever they are outside at places of attraction or at the hotel.
- Students are expected to maintain a high standard of discipline and should endeavour to promote and enhance the honour and image of the University of Delhi and its colleges. The students are also expected to inculcate healthy fellow feelings towards other students.
- Violation of any of these norms shall attract disciplinary action by the concerned college.
- The bathroom and the compartment of the train have to be kept clean by the students.



Travel Kit

Dresses for 12 Days

Shoes (comfortable), Slippers and Socks

Towels, Toiletries (Soap, Shampoo, Oil, Comb, Mirror, Tissue Paper, S. T.s etc.)

Safety Pins/Sewing Kit

Medicine as per requirement and other first aid stuff:

Dettol, Bandage

Digene/Rentadine

Crocin/ Disprin/Combiflam

Bed Sheets- 2

Stationary (Paper, Pen, Sketch Pen, etc.), Note Pad/Note Sheet under 25 pages

Mobile Phone with Roaming

Umbrella & Torch

Eatables- No Fluid/Liquid

Small Lock

Water Bottle with Sling

Suitcase (1 Big/Small)- Maximum 2 pieces are allowed

Note:

- 1) Take only that much stuff which you can manage on your own. You will be responsible carrying it yourself and also keeping it safe.
- 2) It is advisable not to carry any valuable items.



UNIVERSITY OF DELHI

CONSENT OF PARENT

This is to certify that my daughter, student of _____ at _____
____ College is going on GYANODAYA EDUCATIONAL CUM EXCURSION TOUR from 1st July to 12th
July,

2012 organized by the University of Delhi. I hereby give my consent for the same and I shall be
solely responsible for any untoward incident or eventuality and the College/University of Delhi
shall not be held responsible for any of the consequences. I further undertake to state that my
daughter is medically fit to travel and does not suffer from any disease which requires immediate
medical attention. Her blood group is

Signature of the parent/Guardian:

Name of Parent/Guardian:

Mobile number:

Dated:

VERIFIED BY

Signature of Medical Officer

Name

Registration number and seal

Associate NCC Officer/Caretaker

Signature of Principal

With Rubber stamp.



REPORT ON GYANODAYA – I EDUCATIONAL TRIP

General

1. **GYANODAYA – I Educational Trip was a first of many kinds.** It was a maiden venture of the University of Delhi undertaking an educational trip of such magnitude across our vast country. It was *conceptualised and designed as a train journey with a learning experience*. **Thirty three colleges of the University participated in the event.** To add another first was that it was an entirely girls' trip with about 900 plus girl NCC and NSS students accompanied by 72 experienced female faculty comprising of teachers and University staff. There was also an in- house University lady doctor and nurse on board the GYANODAYA Special train.

2. **Aim.** The aim of GYANODAYA –I Educational trip was to *accord the students an experience on the Centres of Excellence, viz, Indian Navy and Indian Space and Research Organisation (ISRO) and also expose the students to the rich cultural and heritage of our country by visit to various historical places, viz, Sabarmati Ashram, Akshardham Temple and Sevagram.*

3. **Duration.** The trip was organised over a period of 10 days wef 08 Jul to 19 Jul 12.

4. **Route.** GYANODAYA –I was flagged off from Safdarjung Railway Station, new Delhi amongst much fanfare by then Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi. The route of the special train was Delhi – Ahmedabad- Mumbai- Goa- Bangalore – Nagpur – Delhi.

5. A large no of activities were conducted on – board the train to gainfully utilise the time spent by the students during the journey. Various projects were assigned to groups of students in addition to it being mandatory for each student to write a book review on book oh her choice, from the on-board library, which carried a chest of knowledge bank of books on- wheels. The students also submitted a travel report at the end of the journey, penning down their individual experiences and feedback.

Feedback

6. GYANODAYA I achieved more than the goals it set itself for. The trip not only showcased the **discipline, teamwork, camaraderie and lively spirit of the students of the University of Delhi but also the indomitable will to explore and learn.** This was a *unique method of teaching through hands-on experience which developed a new insight of the students into their understanding of our Country and a sense of pride in its diversity of culture, heritage*



and language . The students understood that learning could be so much fun, if they had an open mindset and are not fixated to classrooms and books alone.

7. The **projects undertaken by the students while on-board the train were creative, intellectual and full of ingenuity**. The **book reviews that they wrote helped inculcate in them the habit of reading and developing an understanding of the books and their respective authors**.

8. Apart from learning, **GYANODAYA also offered the students a platform to express themselves in other domains**. Many of them emerged as natural leaders, who got the flock under them and assisted the teachers in coordinating the visit.

9. **GYANODAYA –I 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.