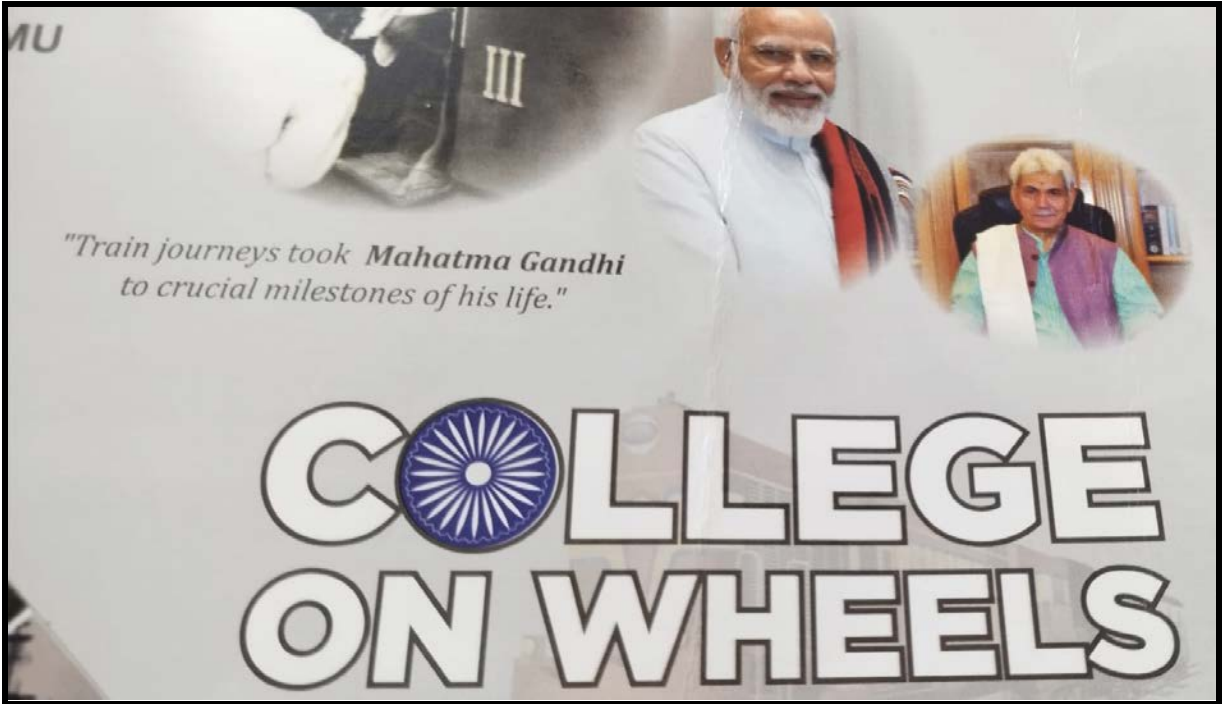




COLLEGE ON WHEELS : **A Journey of Discovery**

Odyssey Report on the whole tour's Journey

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Personal Reflection

A Journey of Discovery: College on Wheels Expedition

In the realm of education, some lessons extend beyond the confines of textbooks and classrooms. My participation in the College on Wheels trip was an enlightening odyssey, offering a unique blend of adventure, history, and culture. This remarkable journey allowed me to explore the heart of India, unraveling the nation's iconic and historical treasures.

Our expedition commenced in Delhi, where we stood in awe of the majestic Parliament of India and the grandeur of the President's House. The capital's rich history echoed through its architectural marvels, setting the tone for the enlightening experiences that lay ahead.

The following day led us to the serene Sabarmati Ashram and the tranquil waters of the Sabarmati River in Gujarat. Immersed in the teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, we found inspiration and introspection within the ashram's walls. Adalaj Ki Vav, a stepwell in Gujarat, unveiled the artistry and engineering prowess of ancient India, leaving an indelible mark on our understanding of the country's cultural heritage.

As we ventured further, the Naval Base and Dockyard of Mumbai provided us a glimpse into the maritime strength of the nation. The Gateway of India in Mumbai, standing as a sentinel overlooking the Arabian Sea, symbolized the amalgamation of past and present.

Moving down the western coast, the journey unfolded at Karwar Naval Base INS Kadamba in Karnataka. The picturesque Calangute Beach in Goa offered a moment of relaxation amidst the expedition. The Naval Air Base INS Hansa and Goa Shipyard Ltd showcased India's technological prowess in defense and shipbuilding.

In the academic realm, our visit to the Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore and the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) broadened our horizons. Witnessing cutting-edge research and innovation firsthand, we marveled at the strides India has taken in the fields of science and technology.

The journey took an introspective turn at Sevagram Ashram in Wardha, Nagpur, where the spirit of service and simplicity embodied by Mahatma Gandhi continued to resonate. The final leg of our expedition culminated with a visit to the ashram, leaving us with a profound appreciation for the principles that shaped India's independence movement.

In retrospect, the College on Wheels trip stands out as an unparalleled experience, blending adventure, cultural immersion, and academic enrichment. The diverse landscapes and historical landmarks we encountered provided a holistic understanding of India's multifaceted identity. This journey not only fueled our thirst for knowledge but also instilled a deep sense of pride in being part of a nation with such a rich tapestry of history and heritage.

As we reflect on our expedition, let's unpack the unique experiences and recount the activities we partook in at each place we had the privilege to visit

(1.)

Parliament of India



On November 20, at the commencement of the journey, we joined the College on Wheels expedition along with participants from Jammu and Kashmir at **Delhi Safdarjung Station.** From there, we set out to explore the Parliament and the President's House, marking the initiation of our journey. After reaching there, In segregated groups, we systematically visited each of the Parliament buildings, meticulously observing and taking in the intricacies of their architecture and design and each information in more detail as like given below :

The Parliament of India, the supreme legislative body of the country, holds a central role in shaping the nation's democratic governance. Situated in New Delhi, the Parliament consists of two houses: the Lok Sabha (House of the People) and the Rajya Sabha (Council of States). The old Parliament building, an

architectural marvel with a blend of Western and Indian styles, has witnessed key moments in India's history. Recently, the new Parliament building has been envisioned as a symbol of modernity and inclusivity, reflecting the evolving dynamics of the nation. Together, these structures serve as the epicenter where elected representatives deliberate on legislative matters, contributing to the democratic foundation of the world's largest democracy.

Old Parliament Building

The old Parliament building, located in the heart of New Delhi, is an architectural gem that stands as a symbol of India's democratic journey. Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens and Sir Herbert Baker, the structure showcases a harmonious blend of Western and Indian architectural styles. The central dome, inspired by the Rashtrapati Bhavan, is a prominent feature.



Old Parliament's Artistic Treasures:

Within the old Parliament building, artistic expressions play a significant role. The walls are adorned with paintings that narrate the story of India's struggle for

independence and the framing of the Constitution. Themes of unity in diversity, social justice, and the spirit of democracy are prominently featured. The art serves as a visual chronicle, immersing visitors in the historical journey of the nation. Portraits of key figures like Mahatma Gandhi and Jawaharlal Nehru adorn the corridors, providing a visual link to the past.

Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha Chambers - Symbolic Spaces:

The Old Parliament Building, a testament to colonial and Indian architectural fusion, presents subtle design differences between the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha chambers. The Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha chambers are integral to the functioning of the Parliament.



The Lok Sabha, often referred to as the "House of the People," is where elected representatives deliberate on national issues. In the Lok Sabha, the circular space is adorned with a larger dome and intricate detailing, symbolizing the people's direct representation. The Lok Sabha chamber is characterized by intricate carvings, traditional motifs, and a pronounced sense of historical continuity.



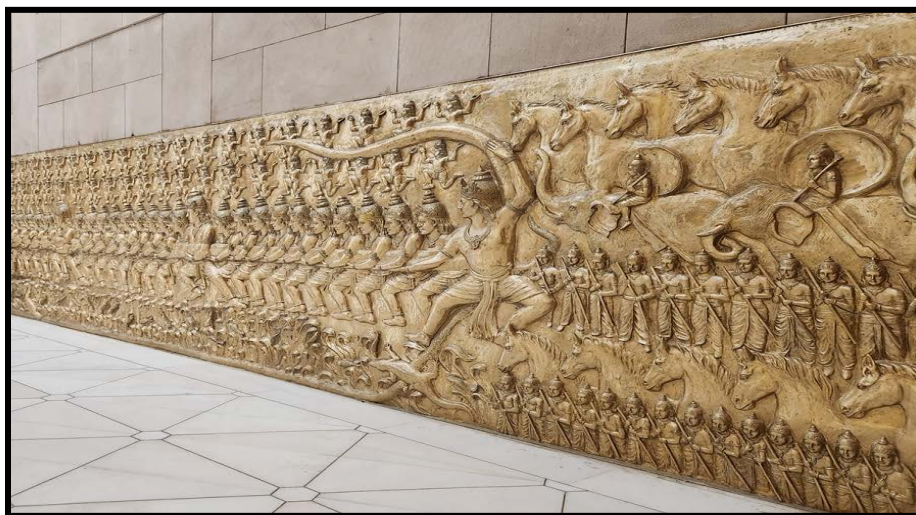
On the other hand ,the Rajya Sabha chamber maintains a sense of tradition, emphasizing the continuity of the Council of States' role in India's democratic framework. The Rajya Sabha, or the "Council of States," represents the federal structure of India. The circular design of these chambers symbolizes equality and the absence of any hierarchical seating arrangement, fostering a democratic spirit. The Rajya Sabha chamber, although circular like the Lok Sabha, is marked by a distinctive smaller dome, reflecting its role as the Council of States. The subtle variations in dome sizes subtly emphasize the different roles these chambers play in the legislative process. The Rajya Sabha chamber exudes colonial charm with its detailed craftsmanship.

New Parliament Building - Amrit Manthan and Symbolic Corridors



The new Parliament building is a testament to modernity while paying homage to India's rich heritage. The concept of "Amrit Manthan" is embodied in the design, representing the churning of the ocean of knowledge. Symbolic corridors showcase the diverse cultural and religious landscape of India.

The Amrit Manthan theme in the new Parliament building serves as a profound symbol of intellectual and spiritual exploration. Derived from Hindu mythology, Amrit Manthan, or the Churning of the Ocean of Milk, represents the pursuit of knowledge and the quest for enlightenment. In the context of the new Parliament, this theme is ingeniously integrated into the architectural design.



The concept is visually embodied in the central structure, representing the churning process itself. The pillars and motifs surrounding the central chamber evoke the imagery of the Mandara mountain, the mythical churning rod used in the legend. The dynamic and spiraling design of the building reflects the cosmic dance of creation and renewal, capturing the essence of constant transformation and evolution. Each state's famous temples and religious places are highlighted, creating a unique gallery corridor that serves as a cultural panorama, promoting unity in diversity.

Astrological Representation: Stars and Planets in the Center



At the heart of the new Parliament building lies an astrophysical marvel – a representation of stars and planets. This celestial representation aligns with India's ancient tradition of connecting earthly endeavors with cosmic influences. The movement of celestial bodies becomes a metaphor for the dynamic and interconnected nature of the political and cosmic realms.

Gallery Corridor



The gallery corridor in the new Parliament building acts as a showcase of India's cultural mosaic. Each state is represented through examples like the Badrinath

Temple in Uttarakhand, the Meenakshi Temple in Tamil Nadu, and the Golden Temple in Punjab, Ashoka chakra. This symbolic representation emphasizes the cultural richness of every region, fostering a sense of national pride and unity.

The gallery corridor becomes a visual tapestry, weaving together the diverse threads of India's cultural heritage.

New Parliament Building - Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha

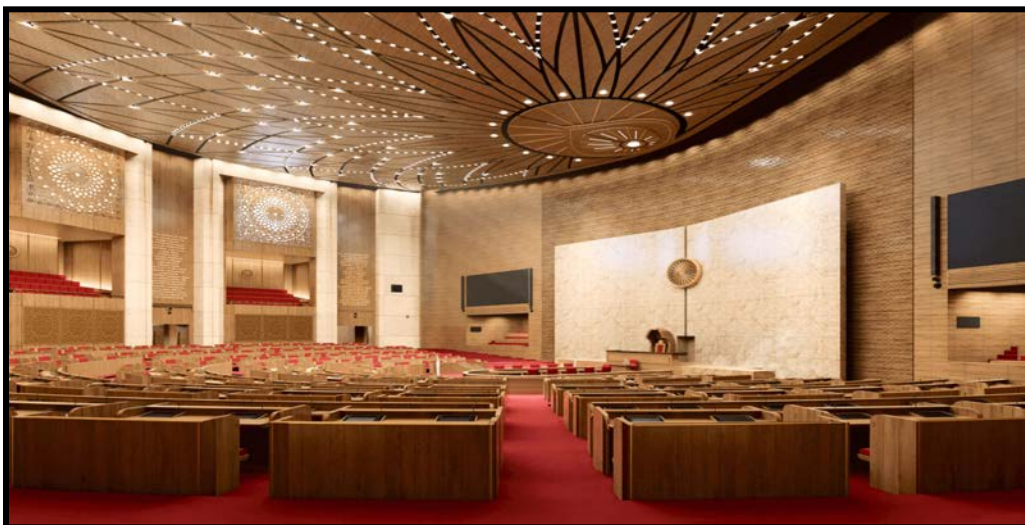
In the new Parliament building, the Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha continue to maintain distinctive themes while evolving in design.

The Lok Sabha chamber incorporates modern elements, embracing a futuristic aesthetic that symbolizes the House of the People's forward-looking approach. The Lok Sabha chamber embraces a contemporary design that incorporates technological advancements and a more streamlined aesthetic. **The Lok Sabha chamber, featuring a peacock-inspired theme, draw from the vibrant colors and elegance of the Indian Peafowl, India's national bird. The peacock is a symbol of beauty, grace, and vibrancy in Indian traditions. It is often associated with Saraswati, the goddess of wisdom, and represents qualities like integrity and benevolence.**



The Lok Sabha chamber features a green carpet, symbolizing harmony, growth, and balance. Green is often associated with the verdant landscapes of India and represents vitality. The Lok Sabha members' chambers are arranged in a semi-circular fashion, emphasizing a sense of unity and collaboration. This design choice fosters a dynamic and interactive space, encouraging open dialogue and collective decision-making.

On the other hand, **The new Rajya Sabha** chamber integrates these traditional elements with a more modern and efficient design. The design evolution reflects the Rajya Sabha's adaptability to changing times while preserving its essential character as a revising chamber. **The Rajya Sabha chamber in the new Parliament building embraces the lotus theme, aligning with the national flower's symbolic significance. The lotus represents purity, growth, and the unfolding of spiritual potential.** The integration of these motifs in the Rajya Sabha chamber reflects a harmonious blend of cultural symbolism and democratic ideals, creating an atmosphere that resonates with the nation's ethos.



The interior design of the Rajya Sabha chamber features a regal red carpet, symbolizing dignity and authority. The red carpet,

traditionally associated with ceremonial and important spaces, adds a touch of grandeur to the proceedings. The members' chambers are arranged in a circular fashion, fostering an inclusive environment where every member has an equal visual presence. The circular seating arrangement in the chamber represents the federal nature of the Rajya Sabha, ensuring every state is equally represented.

(2.)

Rashtrapati Bhavan (President House)

After witnessing the Parliament, we proceeded to visit the **Rashtrapati Bhawan (President's House)**. Marveling at its grandeur, we explored the intricate details of this iconic structure. The visit to the Rashtrapati Bhavan was a captivating experience, offering insights into the nation's political and historical significance and observed some details which mention below :

Rashtrapati Bhavan, the official residence of the President of India, is a masterpiece of architecture and design, representing the country's grandeur and democratic ethos. **Designed by Sir Edwin Lutyens, the building is a blend of Indian and Western architectural styles.**



Entrance and Flag Waving System

The entrance of Rashtrapati Bhavan, flanked by the Jaipur Column, provides a majestic welcome. The grandeur extends to the flag-changing ceremony. When the President is present, the flag is unfurled to signify their occupancy. In their absence, a sentry guards the flagpole, symbolizing the President's perpetual authority. The architectural elegance thus intertwines with protocol, creating a seamless display of India's democratic continuity.



Banquet Hall - A Gift from the British Monarch

The Banquet Hall within Rashtrapati Bhavan is a gift from the British monarch. The Banquet Hall serves as a venue for state banquets, diplomatic receptions, and significant national events. It encapsulates the historical connection between the two nations while also embodying the ceremonial role of the President. **The Dining Hall** itself hosts dignitaries and guests, becoming a venue for diplomatic discourse amidst an atmosphere of cultural richness.

Among the notable elements in Rashtrapati Bhavan is a **colossal painting gifted to India by Nepal's King Tribhuvan**. This artwork, a testament to diplomatic relations, graces the walls, adding cultural depth to the residence.

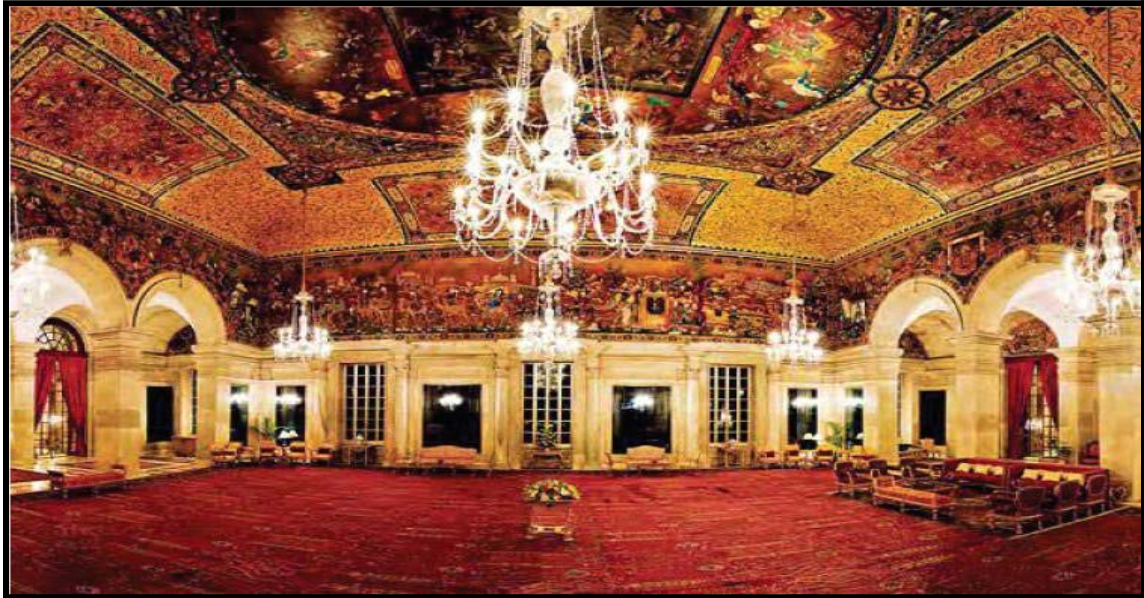
Additionally, the floor tiles in some areas, particularly **the Durbar Hall**, are sourced from Rajasthan, infusing regional craftsmanship into the building's interior aesthetic.



Ashoka Hall

The Ashoka Hall in Rashtrapati Bhavan is the venue for prestigious award ceremonies, including the presentation of the Padma Awards. Notably, **Rashtrapati Bhavan's elevation is above that of India Gate, providing**

a visual spectacle from a higher vantage point. The astral connections are further accentuated with paintings and representations in various halls depicting celestial motifs and astrological symbols.



Also the **Rashtrapati Bhavan's Ballroom** features a magnificent dance floor, attesting to its versatility as a venue for cultural events. The meticulous serving system, adhering to the highest standards, complements the grandeur of state banquets.

Continuing our journey, on November 21, we had the opportunity to visit Sabarmati Ashram, the Sabarmati River, and Kankaria Lake. Exploring these sites provided us with a glimpse into the cultural and natural wonders, enriching our journey with meaningful experiences and learnt many things which shared in detail below:

(3.)

Sabarmati Ashram - Gandhi's Haven of Peace



Sabarmati Ashram, located on the banks of the Sabarmati River in Ahmedabad, is a serene abode associated with Mahatma Gandhi. The simple yet powerful architecture of the ashram, designed by Charles Correa, mirrors Gandhiji's philosophy of simplicity and self-sufficiency. **The "Hriday Kunj,"** Gandhi's living quarters, showcases minimalism, emphasizing the essentials of life. The ashram also houses a museum exhibiting letters, manuscripts, and artifacts, offering a glimpse into the life and teachings of the Father of the Nation.



Sabarmati Ashram - Magan Niwas and Vinoba Kutir

Within the Sabarmati Ashram, Magan Niwas, a simple cottage, was home to Maganlal Gandhi, a close associate of Mahatma Gandhi. Vinoba Kutir, named after Acharya Vinoba Bhave, another disciple of Gandhi, is a quaint cottage that served as his residence. The architecture of these structures reflects a harmonious blend of traditional Indian design and Gandhian principles of simplicity and sustainability.

Sabarmati Ashram - Upasana Mandir:



Upasana Mandir at Sabarmati Ashram is a prayer ground where Gandhiji conducted daily prayers and gatherings. The simplicity of the design fosters a contemplative atmosphere.

Sabarmati river :



The Sabarmati River is a significant river in India, flowing through the western state of Gujarat. The river is closely linked to the history of Gujarat and the life of its people. Along its banks lies the city of Ahmedabad, one of Gujarat's major cities. The Sabarmati River has gained historical importance due to the Sabarmati Ashram, established by Mahatma Gandhi on its banks during the

Indian independence movement. The river not only serves as a source of water for agriculture and drinking but also plays a role in the cultural and spiritual life of the region.

(4.)

Kankaria Lake - A Historical Waterbody

After visiting the ashram and river during the day, we were afforded the chance to explore **Kankaria Lake** in the evening. The allure of the lake captivated us, adding an enchanting dimension to our nighttime experience. **Kankaria Lake is situated in Gujarat, Ahmedabad , historically known as Hauz-e-Qutub, was constructed in the 15th century by Sultan Qutb-ud-Din.** It is not merely a water body but a sprawling oasis of tranquility and recreation, transforming into a popular destination for both locals and tourists. The lake is enveloped by well-maintained gardens, offering a picturesque setting for leisurely strolls and family picnics. **A highlight of Kankaria Lake is Nagina Wadi, an island palace within the lake,** adorned with intricate carvings and historical significance, adding to the architectural charm.



One of the fascinating features of Kankaria Lake is the yearly **Kankaria Carnival**, a vibrant celebration that transforms the area into a lively entertainment hub.

Kankaria carnival



The carnival showcases a multitude of events and activities, including cultural performances, concerts, and a variety of stalls offering local delicacies. Boating facilities are available on the lake, allowing visitors to explore its waters and enjoy the scenic surroundings. The lake's history is intertwined with Ahmedabad's evolution, serving as a water reservoir to meet the city's needs. Today, Kankaria Lake stands as a serene retreat, providing a perfect blend of nature, culture, and entertainment for those seeking respite from the hustle and bustle of city life.

After this , **On 22 Nov , we had the chance to visit Adalaj Ki Vav, and the experience was truly meaningful and profound. The intricate architecture and historical significance left a lasting impression, adding depth to our journey.**

(5.)

Adalaj Ki Vav



Adalaj Ki Vav, an intricately designed stepwell located near Ahmedabad, is a UNESCO World Heritage site. The stepwell consists of five levels adorned with exquisite carvings and sculptures. The intricate detailing of the walls and columns narrates mythological stories and showcases the cultural richness of the era. The columns and walls are adorned with delicate carvings, depicting scenes from epics like Ramayana and Mahabharata, floral motifs, and geometric patterns. Adalaj Ki Vav not only served as a utilitarian structure for water conservation but also held cultural and religious significance. The stepwell represents a blend of spiritual and functional design, emphasizing the importance of water in the arid regions of Gujarat.



On 23 Nov, we visited the Naval Base and Naval Dockyard in Mumbai and got the hand-on-experience of exploring and learning about the ships and submarines and how their system works made our journey more knowledgeable.

(6.)

Naval Base and Naval Dockyard in Mumbai



Mumbai, being a coastal city, hosts a crucial naval base and dockyard that play a pivotal role in India's maritime defense. The naval base serves as a strategic headquarters for the Western Naval Command, responsible for safeguarding India's vast maritime interests in the Arabian Sea. The Naval Dockyard, located in Mumbai, is a key facility for the maintenance, repair, and construction of naval vessels, including warships and submarines.

Fighter Ships - Guardians of the Seas:

The Mumbai naval base is home to a formidable fleet of fighter ships, showcasing India's naval strength. Among them is the INS Kolkata, a guided-missile destroyer equipped with advanced weaponry and technologies. Another notable presence is the INS Viraat, a former aircraft carrier that served the Indian Navy with distinction. These ships are not only symbols of naval power but also play a crucial role in safeguarding the country's maritime borders.

Submarines - Silent Guardians Beneath the Waves:

The naval dockyard in Mumbai hosts a fleet of submarines, including the INS Kalvari, a Scorpene-class submarine known for its stealth capabilities. The dockyard is instrumental in the maintenance and upgrading of these submarines, ensuring their readiness for critical naval operations. The presence of submarines in Mumbai signifies the Indian Navy's commitment to maintaining a robust and versatile maritime defense force.

Mumbai's naval base and dockyard are integral components of India's maritime defense strategy. The presence of fighter ships like the INS Kolkata and submarines like the INS Kalvari underscores the nation's commitment to securing its maritime borders. These facilities, with their advanced technologies and engineering capabilities, contribute significantly to the effectiveness and readiness of the Indian Navy in the Arabian Sea and beyond.

Afterwards at night,we explore the local beauty of Mumbai,and also enjoyed the nightbeauty of Gateway of India on the same day.

(7.)

Gateway of India



The Gateway of India, an iconic monument situated in Mumbai, stands as a majestic symbol of the city's historical and architectural significance. Constructed during the British colonial era, it greets visitors at the waterfront with its grand arch, intricate detailing, and a commanding presence against the backdrop of the Arabian Sea. The warm glow of lights accentuates the intricate carvings and architectural nuances, casting a mesmerizing reflection in the waters below. The night time ambiance enhances the regal charm of this landmark, making it a captivating sight for both locals and tourists who gather along the waterfront to witness the Gateway of India's captivating nocturnal allure.

After this,our journey took us towards Goa and karnataka,where On 25 Nov,we visited the Karwar Naval Base, Karwar Naval Beach,Karnatka and Calingute Beac, Goa.

(8.)

Karwar Naval Base



Karwar Naval Base, located in Karnataka, is a strategically important naval installation on the west coast of India. Known for its natural harbor, it serves as a vital operational base for the Indian Navy. The base supports various naval activities, including maintenance and deployment of warships and submarines. Karwar Naval Base serves as a hub for various maritime operations, including anti-submarine warfare exercises, fleet reviews, and amphibious operations. The base's strategic location enhances the Indian Navy's operational flexibility along the western seaboard.

INS Kadamba - Guardian of Karwar



INS Kadamba is the naval base at Karwar, named after a naval city in ancient Karnataka. It is the homeport for several frontline warships, including aircraft carriers and destroyers. INS Kadamba enhances the Indian Navy's operational capabilities in the Arabian Sea.

Karwar Naval Beach:



The Karwar Naval Beach is a picturesque stretch of coastline adjacent to the naval base. With its serene surroundings and clear waters, it provides a tranquil setting for naval personnel and their families. The beach often witnesses various naval events and exercises.

Calangute Beach:



Calangute Beach, located in North Goa, is renowned as the "Queen of Beaches" and stands as one of the most popular and vibrant coastal destinations in India. With its expansive stretch of golden sands, gently lapping waves, and an array of water sports, Known for its lively atmosphere, Calangute is a hub of activity with beach games, music, and a plethora of entertainment options. Whether for relaxation, water adventures, or enjoying the bustling beachside culture, Calangute Beach remains a focal point of Goa's coastal allure.

On 26 Nov we visited Naval Air Base - INS Hansa,Goa and Goa Shipyard Ltd.

Naval Air Base - INS Hansa: INS Hansa, a naval air station located in Goa, plays a crucial role in maritime aviation. It operates as a base for various aircraft, including maritime reconnaissance planes and carrier-based aircraft. INS Hansa significantly contributes to the Indian Navy's aerial capabilities.

INS Hansa's Aerial Dominance: INS Hansa, as a naval air base, ensures that the Indian Navy maintains dominance not only at sea but also in the skies. The base supports a variety of aircraft, contributing to maritime reconnaissance, surveillance, and strategic air operations.



Goa Shipyard Ltd



Goa Shipyard Ltd, situated in Vasco da Gama, Goa, is a major shipyard catering to both naval and commercial vessels. It is involved in shipbuilding, repair, and maintenance. The shipyard contributes significantly to India's maritime defense capabilities and the development of a robust naval fleet.

On 27 Nov and 28 Nov we got the opportunity to visit the Indian Institute of Science (IISc), and ISRO, National Space Agency, Bangalore and learnt about many more science related concepts and how things work in space as well.

(9.)

Indian Institute of Science (IISc), Bangalore



The Indian Institute of Science (IISc) in Bangalore is a premier institution for higher education and research in science and engineering. Established in 1909, IISc is renowned for its contributions to scientific research and development. The sprawling campus houses various departments, research centers, and

state-of-the-art laboratories. IISc has played a pivotal role in advancing scientific knowledge, fostering innovation, and producing a cadre of skilled professionals. The institute's emphasis on interdisciplinary research, cutting-edge facilities, and collaboration with industries and global research institutions has positioned IISc as a hub for academic excellence and technological advancement in India.

(10.)

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), Bangalore



The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is the national space agency of India, headquartered in Bangalore. Established in 1969, ISRO has evolved into a leading player in space exploration, satellite technology, and space research. The

agency is known for its successful satellite launches, interplanetary missions, and contributions to space science. The ISRO campus in Bangalore serves as the nerve center for designing, testing, and launching satellites, rockets, and space probes. The organization has garnered global recognition for its cost-effective and innovative approach to space exploration. ISRO's achievements, including the Mars Orbiter Mission, Chandrayaan missions, and a multitude of satellite launches, underscore India's capabilities in space technology and exploration. The collaborative efforts between ISRO and academic institutions like IISc further strengthen the nation's prowess in space research and technology.

In the final leg of our expedition, we made our way to Sevagram Ashram on 30 Nov in Wardha,Nagpur,Maharashtra.

(11.)

Sevagram Ashram,Wardha



Sevagram Ashram, located in Wardha, Maharashtra, holds historical significance as Mahatma Gandhi's residence and center for the Indian freedom struggle. The ashram's architecture and interior design reflect simplicity, emphasizing functionality and sustainability. Gandhi's living quarters and communal spaces within the ashram were designed to promote a frugal lifestyle and self-sufficiency, mirroring his philosophy of simple living and high thinking.

The structures feature low roofs and open spaces, fostering natural ventilation and an eco-friendly ambiance. The interior spaces are minimalistic, with basic furnishings and an emphasis on open areas for communal gatherings, prayer meetings, and discussions. One of the notable aspects of Sevagram Ashram is its focus on promoting self-reliance and sustainable livelihoods.

Thank you !

I extend my heartfelt gratitude for the incredible opportunity to embark on the College on Wheels journey, a transformative experience that enriched our lives with profound insights and cultural exploration. Visiting remarkable places such as the Parliament, President's House, Sabarmati Ashram, Adalaj Ki Vav, Naval Dockyard, and concluding at Sevagram Ashram was truly a privilege. The depth of knowledge gained and the memories created during this journey are invaluable. This experience has not only broadened our perspectives but has also instilled a deep appreciation for the rich tapestry of history and heritage that our country holds. Thank you for COLLEGE ON WHEELS making this unforgettable expedition possible, fostering a spirit of curiosity and learning that will undoubtedly stay with us for a lifetime.

