

VIRASAT BHABAN



Heritage is the shared wealth of human kind. It is the legacy of physical artifacts and intangible attributes of a society that are inherited from past generations, maintained in the present and bestowed for the benefit of the future generations. Protecting and preserving this valuable asset demands the collective efforts of the human kind.

Adra Division of South Eastern Railway is among the oldest divisions of Indian Railway. Its antiquity is seen in the numerous precious Heritage items as well as historical relics scattered throughout the division since its colonial days.

Preservation of Environment and Heritage is enshrined in our corporate culture, bound with many Directives, Circulars etc. Even our Service Conduct Rule emphasizes on preservation of heritage and environment. On this pretext we started collecting and nurturing pebbles of our glorious heritage and preserving them from the year 1992.

On 03.11.2002, the Divisional Traffic Training Center had put up a proposal to set up 'VIRASAT BHABAN' in the adjoining bungalow No-L/69. In 2004 Adra division celebrated its centenary year and in the festivity this bungalow was earmarked as Heritage Building and the glorious beginning of 'VIRASAT BHABAN' was ushered.

With passage of time this pious movement gathered support from different quarters. Sri V.K.Raina, General Manager. S.E.Railway on 26.02.2007 formally inaugurated the 'VIRASAT BHABAN' as a Rail Museum. The present General Manager Shri A.K.Verma, recently visited 'VIRASAT BHABAN'. He admired the ambience of Divisional Traffic Training Center and the effort made by it towards preservation of our heritage. He has also given his kind permission to keep an antique narrow gauge loco in the premise of 'VIRASAT BHABAN'. This rail museum has also been visited and admired by visitors from Germany, Australia, UK, and Belgium.

The 'VIRASAT BHABAN' has an array of antique items related to railways working. It ranges from the rare Wireless System which was initially used by US army during the Second World War and later adopted by railways to Mechanical calculator which was used by Britishers for calculation purposes. Working Time Table of 1939, 112 years old signal lamp, portable telephone with MOH's key arrangement, rare bone china crockery's, very old forms used by BNR railway, spring balance made in England, chlorinator made in Europe, power boiler of 1916 and many more rare artifacts that were used by this railways are being preserved here.

"Heritage is an integral part of the dignity and identity of its people," said UNESCO Director-General Irina Bokova, "and it is our responsibility to restore it."

