

Sound & Light Show at Delhi U **- Dr. Anu Kapur, Dept of Geography**

The Viceregal lodge became the office of the University of Delhi in 1933. Situated at the foot of the Aravali range, the Viceregal lodge is a spacious building, where the columns and verandhas confirm it is an elegant structure and a 'regal' lodge. Its origins date back when it was a hunting lodge, to then become a circuit house, followed by a temporary residence for the Viceroy of India before the latter moved to the Raisina hill. But more than a home or even a mortar, brick and cement structure painted in broken white cream colour, the Viceregal Lodge has been a site for significant historical events of India.

The Viceregal Lodge has witnessed the Uprising of 1857, the Gandhi Irwin Pact, the court hearings of the Bhagat Singh trial and more. It is within its premises that Mountbatten had proposed to Edwina; a chamber within its premises was used to 'jail' Bhagat Singh.

Resonating with the history of India's freedom movement, when the Viceregal Lodge was declared as the office of the University of Delhi, it went on to make the most lasting impress on the higher education and the life of students of India. Attracting students from across the country the university of the capital became a microcosm of India. Aligning with and redefining the aspirations and needs of young India the University of Delhi grew in leaps and bounds to become today the largest and first ranking university of the country. University of Delhi is a Legend. It has legends.

What is the history that played itself out on the space in and around the Viceregal Lodge? Which among the stalwart leaders of India's freedom movement have taken important decisions in the Viceregal lodge? When and why was the University of Delhi created? Why and how did the Viceregal lodge become the permanent office of the University of Delhi? What has been the trajectory of growth and expansion of the University?

To recreate time and space, the University of Delhi has chosen for itself the medium of the Sound and Light show. The idea was conceived by Professor Dinesh Singh, Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi.

The world over legendary Sound and Light shows are presented at the sites of different monuments such as the world renowned Pyramids of Giza, Temples of Karnak, Cellular Jail at Port Blair, the Red Fort in Delhi, Golconda Fort, and so many more. But the University of Delhi is the first to experiment with the idea of a sound and light show for a University. The initiative was taken because the University of Delhi can recall many legends, many historical events that have been discussed and decided within its portals.

Today the University of Delhi ranks as the number one University of India. It is a legend.

Sounds, lights, music with the audio visual props and technologies of lighting bring to life the mysteries and histories of a site. The Sound and Light Show is a special feature of 2014 Antardhvani, the grand annual cultural festival of the University of Delhi held on 14, 15 and 16th February. Running four shows each day at 6:30, 7:30, 8:30 and 9:30 pm, at the premises of the Viceregal lodge, the programme was designed to reach the students of the University of Delhi to engage with their own alma mater. A three day experiment could become a permanent feature with public support.