

Script for Information Leaflet

Yesterday this place was a stable with horses and coaches. Today I am going to tell my story here. I am your Rashtrapati Bhavan, Some writers fondly call me 'the dome over India'.

I am located on the Raisina Hills, a part of De-h-li, a seat of seven cities over the centuries, Rai Pithora to Shahjahanabad, with empires rich of wealth that lured many people from the west.

My story starts in 1911 with Delhi Durbar announcing the shifting of the British India capital from Calcutta . Edwin Lutyens and Herbert Baker conceived and built me with the grandeur of the British Empire. My rooms, the loggia, corridors, staircases and furniture bear the testimony of their imagination.

I witnessed many historic events. Soon after the inauguration of this palace, Gandhi-Irwin pact was signed here in 1931. In a small room around a small table the fate of the subcontinent was decided on 2nd June 1947 by partition of India .

On 15 August, 1947, Jawaharlal Nehru took oath as the first Prime Minister of free India in the historic Durbar Hall. The Cabinet Room hosted many cabinet meetings during the tenure of Lord Mountbatten and Chakravarty Raja Gopalachari, the two Governors General after independence .

Babu Rajendra Prasad took oath as the first President of the Republic in 1950 in Durbar Hall. I have seen successive Presidents taking decisions, that shape the future of the country. I have seen Presidents providing leadership, imagination and inspiration.

After story-telling, I will open my treasures to one and all. In this museum, you will walk through a simulated battlefield with arms, from my collection, mounted on the warriors. Your treasure hunt will continue in the furniture room, with items of furniture designed by Lutyens himself and in subsequent period.

At the end you will witness the activities of the President's Body Guards.

The Gifts Corner shows fascinating paintings and handicrafts offered as gifts to successive Presidents.

But this is only a short glimpse of a much larger story-telling museum in the offing. There I will unfold myself with sound-light-video animations, virtual reality and animatronics.