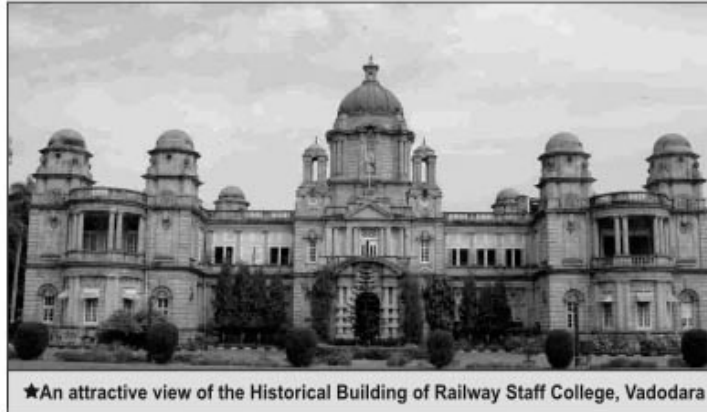


### RAILWAY STAFF COLLEGE, VADODARA CELEBRATES DIAMOND JUBILEE

**Background:** The Railway Staff College is the apex training and management development institute for the officers of the Indian Railways. The College trains not only newly appointed officers but also senior managers and executives. The college also trains officers of other Group A services of the Government of India besides officers of other organizations, and officers from foreign Railways. The college was founded in 1930 at Premnagar, Dehradun, and then shifted to its present regal sylvan surroundings at Vadodara in 1952. It is housed in the Pratap Vilas Palace (built in 1914 AD) surrounded by lush green lawns and designed by C.F. Stevens in the renaissance style. The property comprising 55 acres (220,000 m<sup>2</sup>) of garden and wooded land, enlivened by the calls of peacocks and migratory birds, was originally owned by the Gaikwads (erstwhile rulers) of Vadodara.



★An attractive view of the Historical Building of Railway Staff College, Vadodara

The College with its vintage name and pristine repute celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012. However, the unique identity of the College besides its contribution to the Indian Railways and in nation building has been 'Prastuti', the Palace, the Pratap Vilas Palace, which chiefly house the alma-mater of Railway officers. It would be very hard and even unthinkable to visualise the very existence of the College without the silent yet towering presence of the Palace. Since its foundation the Railway Staff College and the Pratap Vilas Palace have been synonymous. In fact, the Palace has been the soulful image of the whole Indian Railways, a pride, an identity par excellence.

Formerly known as Prince Palace, the Pratap Vilas Palace would witness its centennial birthday on 30<sup>th</sup> July, 2014. With erection of Gate Lodges and Sub stations its construction was finally completed in the year 1918 with cost Rs. Nine lakh (approx) during the reign of one of the greatest visionary kings of India, His Highness Maharaja Sayajirao Gaekwad III of Baroda. Since then till the year 1939, it witnessed princely life of Pratapsingh Gaekwad, popularly known as Major General Farzand-I-Khas-Daulat-I-Inglishta Shrimant Maharaja Sir Pratapsinghrao Gaekwad Sena Khas Khel Shamsher Bahadur, who was coronated as the thirteenth Maharaja of Baroda in the year 1939. As the name implies, the Pratap Vilas Palace was not only the Palace of the Prince, but also a special home of the Gaekwads, where Her Highness Maharani Shrimant Akhand Shaubhagyavati Shanta Devi, wife of the Prince came first as a bride in the year 1929, and made it her marital abode. The royal couple's son and the fourteenth Maharaja of Baroda, His Highness Shrimant Maharaja Fatehsinghrao Gaekwad was born in this Palace on 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 1930 besides their two daughters.

The Palace constructed on plinth area of 2118.70 sq. meter was planned by Architect Mr Charles Stevens and designed by Mr C.F. Stevens ably supported by Mr A.H.Coyle, Chief Engineer. It is a unique piece of construction in renaissance style. It has European architecture with Indian Carvings, which gives it a

totally awesome appearance. Originally, its cover area was around 720 acres with many gardens and a golf course. However, since 1952, the foundation year of the Railway Staff College, the Palace property under Railways is spread over 55 acres comprising wooded land and gardens, enlivened by the calls of peacocks and many migratory birds. Even today, one can witness stunning airborne exercise displayed by birds, and listen to their

chirping during their home coming in the College campus when the sky turns red with the sun going down the west.

★ **Training & Development:** The Indian Railways is a very important segment of the country's transport infrastructure, and is considered as the Lifeline of the country. The Indian Railways have a competent, hard working and highly skilled workforce of about 1.4 million with tremendous potential to excel in almost all the professional areas even on a global basis.

An efficient transport infrastructure is a very crucial asset for social and economic development of a country. Personal mobility for work, study and leisure, efficient and economical distribution of resources and produce are the essential requirements of modern day living.

Human resource is the most important resource of any organisation whose efficiency determines success. Therefore, development of this resource is of prime concern for Indian Railways. The Indian Railways employs around 1.4 million employees, out of which around 15,000 group 'A' and group 'B' officers including over 3000 medical officers are regularly trained in the College in all basic and advanced management courses. Railway Staff College is thus the Alma mater of all officers of the Indian Railways. The College has excellent facilities in terms of Class Room environment, Library, Computers, Sports, Hostel, Mess, etc for the trainee officers, the members of the faculty and other Guest Officers. The details of Railway Staff College and its training calendar are available on its official website, [www.rscbrc.ac.in](http://www.rscbrc.ac.in).

★ **Diamond Jubilee Celebrations:** Having been set up at its present location on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 1952, the Railway Staff College celebrated its Diamond Jubilee on 31<sup>st</sup> January, 2012 with great enthusiasm and joy. Shri Vinod Rai, Comptroller & Auditor General of India was the Chief Guest and delivered the Keynote Address. Shri Yoginder K. Alagh, Chairman, IRMA was the Guest of Honour. During the Foundation Day Program, various medals and trophies were presented to Railway Officers, who displayed outstanding performances during various training programs in 2011. Besides this, Distinguished Alumnus Award was also presented to Dr Jagdeep S. Chhokar, an ex-officer of the Indian Railways and an alumnus of the Railway Staff College, who later shifted as faculty in IIM Ahmedabad, and is now a renowned social activist. On this occasion the Department of Post, Gujrat circle also issued a special cover commemorating the Diamond Jubilee of the College.