

First Garden of the Republic: Nature on the President's Estate

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Abstract: This edited volume focuses on the making of the President's Estate's grounds and gardens from colonial times to the present. Its central theme is 'nature and culture': how cultivated and wild areas on the Estate emerge from the interaction between 'natural' elements such as topography, climate, soil and water, and the 'cultural' work of landscaping and gardening which is informed by systems of thought, technologies and organization. The volume documents the flora and fauna of the Rashtrapati Bhavan in the context of the history of gardening and contemporary horticultural practices, and looks critically at the political, ecological and aesthetic aspects of conservation on this renowned site.