

#RESTRO-REVIEW

The Dome

On top of a heritage building at Panch Batti is The Dome - a restaurant that derived its name from the two domes on its roof.



Sadhana Garg

Monuments they say have life woven into them. In Jaipur Panch Batti is a landmark that for Jaipurites has a coveted cultural and historical importance. It is not only the intersection between MI Road on two sides, New Colony on one side and Bhagwandas road on the opposite side but is most central and approachable.

On top of a heritage building at Panch Batti is The Dome - a restaurant that derived its name from the two domes on its roof.

On the 1st floor is a well-stocked bar. You name it and they have it all. Beer, red wine, white wine, sparkling and buzzers. What is unique is the royal heritage "princely liqueurs" - mocktails and heritage recipes fermented with wood, spices, herbs, nuts, dry foods, seeds, barks roots, and dairy products.

Royal Chandra Hass Gulab, paan, saunf, kesar kauri are some of the favourites that are guzzled by jaipurites. In the menu you will find out them in the "Heavy Mahal Cocktail" section. Chandra Hass coffee and lime confection listed as "Dome Special" is an all-time summer cooler and is only matched by Panch Batti Special somaras, mixed fruit served with caramel.

The Dome's all-plant based menu is both inventive and intriguing. So a simple Palakpatti chat has acquired a specialty status because of the works that go into it - masala, potatoes, chutney fresh pomegranate seeds and zero number save. It is a near ritual for Dome guests to reveal in it.

The Tandour section that long went global is dominated by the variety of Paneer Tikkas of different flavours, baby corn and dhania chaap are also good to go. In the main course section you have the Mexican and Chinese sizzlers.

Having tried the former, it was more of Indian Mexican, than Mexican Mexican. No menu seems to be complete without the Italian pastas and so is the case with the Dome.

The Lasagne Shots - an inventive starter that has lasagne sheet fried and rolled with green vegetables and herbs served with cheese is also a signature dish. Mushroom kurkure, Lebanese Hummus platter and grilled barbecue cheese steak are a meal in a dish category.

For those who still love their desi roti subzi - don't be apologetic about it. Thanks to our Indian chefs in every



nook and corner "Ohaas phoos" a derogatory term once used for all plant based diet is a fad in high places. Not only are the vegetarians in big league but their food is in demand.

The plant forward menu is the new anthem of foodies. The Dome too is not far behind. Not only has it given an Indian flavour to Western dishes but has also been creative in serving Indian food.

For those who still need the roti sabzi to have a good night sleep, there's the Main Course section. The Dual Kofta served in spinach and tomato is a good variant to try and for those who love their veggies, there is spicy Subz Kolhapuri, Exotic Veg Masala - imported vegetables cooked in onion, tomato masala gravy. There are more vegetables on the menu just as there are three different dals to choose from.

At The Dome food globalization as everywhere else has all kinds of Pastas, the more popular salads like Couscous, Green and Chef Salad in garlic lemon honey dressing. Bell peppers, cucumber, carrot, onion, tomato iceberg lettuce, paneer and cheese served with garlic lemon honey dressing makes it refreshing and healthy. Variety of soups find a place though the cream of broccoli could do with less of white sauce.

So next time you are in the city and wish to treat yourself to a plant-based meal The Dome could be an option.



Siberian Cranes, the most prized winter visitor to Keoladeo swamps. Photo: S.S.

A newly wedded person in me was looked forward to taking out my wife Archana who was studying in MSC Final at Kanpur, to Ghana bird sanctuary. During Christmas Vacation, Archana, a Botany student, showed keen interest in observing both flora and fauna of Ghana on her very first outing. Finally, she joined the family after exams in summer of 1969. But summer outings in Ghana were few and far between.

Indira Gandhi Had The Ugly looking Facilities

At Ghana Demolished At once



IC Srivastava
IAS (Retd) and former
Barmer District
Magistrate (1970-72)

Memory clearly recalls early winter days in November of 1968 when Deputy Conservator of Forest, Bharatpur Shri VS Saxena invited me to visit Paradise of Birds in Ghana Sanctuary, after I had settled down to my first independent charge of SDO/SDM Bharatpur as IAS Officer.

Though main breeding season of the 13 piscivorous birds was over yet some late breeders from painted storks, the most fascinating one among these colony breeders, were hanging on the nests with their chicks, while others were busy in training their grown up young ones to catch fishes from the wide spread lakes of this wonderland.

Several species of emergent vegetation had created green prairies in various patches over these lakes, providing perches to egrets and herons while the jet black pan kauvas (cormorants) were displaying their swimming talent in open waters. They have developed a unique technique of fishing through surrounding and trapping them in a corner and then to devour them. The large cormorant, as big as a duck in size works like a killing machine while fishing.

This bird sanctuary working as a central station on the Central Asian flyway for migratory birds, attracts thousands and thousands of ducks, geese and cranes every winter.

By this time lakes were full of

#BIRDS

these charming winged creatures on visit to this magic land, taking trans Himalayan arduous journey of over thousands of miles.

Mesmerizing sights of nesting and gliding birds all the way up to Keoladeo temple were a feast to the eye. A newly wedded person in me was looked forward to taking out my wife Archana who was studying in MSC Final at Kanpur, to Ghana bird sanctuary. During Christmas Vacation, Archana, a Botany student, showed keen interest in observing both flora and fauna of Ghana on her very first outing. Finally, she joined the family after exams in summer of 1969. But summer outings in Ghana were few and far between.

With the arrival of winter we had frequent outings on our small two light wheeler motorcycle. A sudden weekend trip added another story to our kitty. Mr JK Sharma ADM invited both of us to Maharaja's Kothi Kadamb Kunj in the interior of Ghana. In hush tone we quietly sat on the edge of small bund also locally called 'bundiy'.

Lo and behold! Our eyes caught a glimpse of some 60-70 Siberian Cranes, snow white feathered with typical red beak and face from a distance of 50-60 metres and we snapped them in the old time black and white camera. Such a large number of rare Siberian Cranes were never witnessed again in our unimpeachable visits to our very own Ghana as it was locally and colloquially called.

We had several trips to Ghana and enjoyed the Birds' heaven in its

different moods, till I got transferred from here, but luck brought me again to this paradise.

In February 1976 as State Protocol Officer, I had the historic opportunity to make all arrangements for the all powerful PM Indira Gandhi and family on a scheduled visit to Ghana Sanctuary and Deeg Palaces. Mrs. Gandhi stayed in the newly constructed ITDC Lodge along with her entire family comprising her sons Rajiv, Sanjay with their wives and both the grand children Rahul and Priyanka.

Haridev Joshi, the then Chief Minister of Rajasthan stayed at Shanti Kutir Forest Rest House. Early morning before dawn, we were witness to Shri VS Saxena EX-DFO Bharatpur on driver's seat of the station wagon kind of a vehicle and Padma Vibhushan recipient the great ornithologist and naturalist Dr Salim Ali, popularly known as 'Birdman of India', standing behind Mrs. Gandhi as her guide. Mr. Joshi was a mute spectator from the roof top of Shanti Kutir like us.

Apart from the sanctuary personnel, much to the disappointment of her own Party's leaders of the region, no one was allowed to be seen roaming around in the sanctuary throughout the Prime Minister's visit. The party also availed the boat ride after breakfast. The Prime Minister in particular showed great interest in the Siberian Crane as well as other migratory and heronry birds.

With Salim Ali she had an excellent guided tour as her face beamed with joy even as myriad problems posed varied challenges in the ongoing Emergency.

She wrote in the visitor's book, 'A delightful and peaceful experience, made enjoyable and interesting by having Shri Salim Ali with us. I



In Feb 76, Mrs. Indira Gandhi visited Ghana with family. Haridev Joshi, then CM Raj, presenting a gift to Madam Sonia Gandhi.

hope something will be done about the arterial road, which brings buses and noise into the middle of the sanctuary.

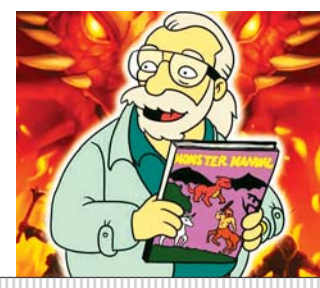
It was her visit that paved the way for the closure of the arterial road passing through the heart of the sanctuary, for all kinds of traffic except with the permission of the sanctuary management.

Unsurpassable Joy

The afternoon trip to Deeg Palaces with family members accompanying Mrs. Gandhi was followed by high tea and snacks personally supervised by the Kashmiri, Shri VN Kak, Chairman Hotel Corporation and served in the courtyard along the main Palace overlooking lake waters in the backdrop. As I walked along just to oversee arrangements, I thought of politely addressing Rajivji as a gesture of courtesy but I refrained from doing so as it might be intrusive.

In the evening before dinner, two large paintings were presented to Mrs. Gandhi by CM Joshi. We were also witness to the occasion.

Mrs. Gandhi directed that apparently ugly looking Facilities newly built between ITDC lodge and Shanti Kutir road should be demolished. Orders were complied with



Gary Gygax Day

ary Gygax, along with Dave Arneson, was the creator of Dungeons and Dragons, also affectionately known as D&D. This game was first introduced to the world in 1974 as one of the first tabletop fantasy role-playing games, and it has only grown in popularity over almost five decades of play. Now, with an estimated three million tabletop Dungeon Masters located all over the world, and approximately 50 million active players, Dungeons and Dragons is a game to be taken very seriously!



Painted Storks Feeding on fishes.

As flood receded time passed slowly and steadily with the hearing balm of chirping of lakhs of birds with painted storks dominating the landscape with nesting and nurturing their young ones.

Shri Saini and team including robust Hukum Singh, boat in charge oozing confidence were encouraging tourists to go out in boats to enjoy sighting of storks, geese, herons, egrets, spoonbill, pochards, pintail, coot, teal, shoveller and Surkhbab aka Brahmini ducks.

The pinnacle of Param Anand came when my father in law Shri PC Saxena, an IAS Officer and then Commissioner Rural Development in UP visited Mallah area talab in December 1977 filled to full capacity with Surkhbab shining in the morning sunlight and their golden hue wings flapping with joy and filling us with unsurpassable joy - once a life time experience.

Shri Saxena expressed his joy thus "Dinesh! (my nickname) Aisa Anand kabhi nahin mila or n kabhi milega. Kaise kahoon?"

I too was overwhelmed with joy embodied and we became emotional with words failing to express our consummate delight and feast to the eye.

Revival of Ghana

My relationship with this birds' paradise continued even after my transfer from here. With my posting at Jaipur as a concomitant of Secretary's job at State level one is required to visit District headquarters in connection with inspections or periodic meetings for various purposes. Thus I continued to visit Bharatpur with mandatory outing to Ghana Sanctuary as Secretary Tourism and Social Welfare. But as Divisional Commissioner Jaipur I more frequently toured districts including Bharatpur and Dholpur. Every visit had some new stories in our kitty with Snigdha and Palash, my children, making them more enjoyable and fruitful.

It was this time in 1990 that during one of my visits to Ghana I met Sunjan Sharma, a young dynamic forest officer. His knowledge was amazing about the entire ecosystem of this World famed reserve. It was his passion for nature that in 2006 when Ghana was dying for want of water and choking of the lakes by the fast spreading weed Prosopis juliflora, popularly known as Vilayati Babool, he accepted the challenge of its revival as Director of the Park. He created new resources of water by tapping flood waters of Chikksana canal and Govardhan Drain. Today these are lifelines to the Park. Prosopis juliflora shrubs to huge trees all were uprooted through people's participation, without spending a single penny from the Government



Intermediate Egrets in breeding plumage during courtship. Photo: SS



Alert flock of Lesser Whistling Teals.



Spotbill ducks.

exchequer. The joint World Heritage Centre/IUCN Mission immensely appreciated this innovative initiative in their report.

Revival of Ghana was hailed by birders World over and was a matter of special joy to us as we were deeply passionate about this paradise.

However memories of 65-70 snow white Siberian Cranes in 1969 and of Brahmini ducks in 1977 with golden Surkhbab wings have lingered long to make life more joyful and worth living.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

#ARCHITECTURE

Why Do Archaeologists Rebury Their Excavations?

The practice helps preserve the site for future researchers, who might be able to assess the site with more modern tools and techniques



Hadrian's Wall in northern England is a popular tourist spot for those interested in British history. This year visitors will get the chance to see the Roman bathhouse at Birdswald Roman Fort before it is reburied by archaeologists.

Birdswald was a Roman military base on Hadrian's Wall, which was built in the 120s C.E., during the reign of Emperor Hadrian. At the time of its construction, it occupied the northernmost reaches of the Roman Empire, stretching some 73 miles from east to west.

The bathhouse, which was discovered in 2021, is just outside of the Roman fort and is in an area known as an extramural settlement. These areas are thought to have housed a mixture of families of soldiers, civilians, traders and service providers. They commonly contained houses, communal spaces, workshops, taverns and other facilities you would find in a sprawling military town.

Two years after making the discovery the excavating team has announced it will be reburying the bathhouse, which might seem odd to many. I've worked on several excavations on Hadrian's Wall, and I'm the regional editor for reports on discoveries there. The bathhouse is not the first find to be buried again, and it won't be the last.

Reburial is a common archaeological practice that happens once researchers have found and excavated as much as they had planned to. It will help preserve the site for future archaeologists who might have updated methods and can study the evidence better or ask new questions.

A Destructive Process The excavation at Birdswald aims to put the occupation of the military forts on Hadrian's Wall into a wider perspective and provide

a rare look at the lives of ordinary people living around the wall in Roman times. The bathhouse is preserved in parts to a height of around 6.5 feet and contains a heated room known as a hypocaust. This is a system of water supply, which most likely led to a water heating system.

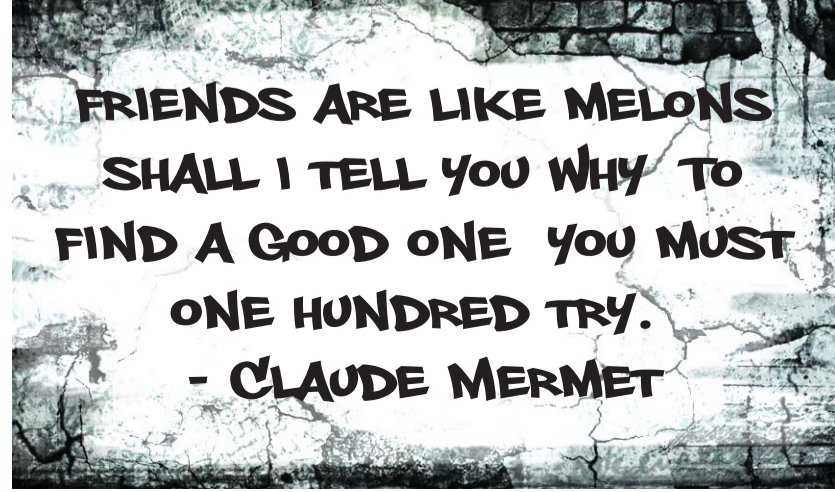
Parts of every excavation—for example, soil deposited within the bathhouse interior, a Roman floor or contents of a storage pit—are effectively being destroyed when archaeologists dig through them. Once something has been dug out, it cannot be excavated again. For this reason, archaeologists must meticulously record the excavation, publish its results and preserve what's been dug out and what remains in place—or as archaeologists say, using a Latin phrase, what remains "in situ."

Because of the destructive nature of excavations, archaeologists rarely excavate whole buildings or sites. Instead, a careful excavation strategy is made to target the areas that are likely to yield the most useful information.

At Birdswald, several areas outside the fort were targeted for excavation, including the bathhouse and the main road leading out of the fort. It's common practice to only dig out half of the features, because a sample of recovered material is generally enough to get an idea of the function of what's being excavated. Also, much of the physical labor of fieldwork is manual, so it takes a lot of time.

Unless a site is threatened with destruction due to development work or erosion, the dig team leaves sites with much of the archaeology pretty much intact. This allows future archaeologists to revisit the site and gain new information from the parts of it that remain undisturbed.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman