

## #CURTAIN RAISER

# Delphic Games of Rajasthan

In the month of February, the Pink City will witness the first-ever Delphic Games of Rajasthan. To be held from 9 February to 12 February at Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur, the event will feature a multitude of activities such as cultural competitions in music, dance and photography, an art camp, craft demonstrations, interactive seminars as well as talk shows.



Chetan Kumar Javda.



Tusharika Singh  
Freelance  
writer and  
city blogger

Just like the Olympic Games promote sports, the Delphic Games aspire to unite nations and cultures across the globe through a common platform for arts. From 382 BC to 394 AD, these Games were conducted every four years, one year prior to the Olympic Games. The International Delphic Council was founded in Germany in 1994 to revive the Delphic Games and provide a platform for people of all ages and nationalities that gives access to art and culture while creating a base for emotional understanding. Taking ahead this vision, the Delphic Council of Rajasthan (DCR) was set up in July 2021. In fact, it was the first State Council



Ranjana Gauhar.

to be set up in India and since then has been working to promote the art and culture of Rajasthan with special focus on showcasing the talent amongst the youth.

### An array of art and cultural activities

To further give an impetus to the art and culture in the state, the DCR is organizing the first-ever Delphic Games of Rajasthan. To be held from 9 February to 12 February at Jawahar Kala Kendra in Jaipur, the event will feature a multitude of activities such as cultural competitions in music, dance and photography, an art camp, craft demonstrations, interactive seminars as well as talk shows. Sharing more details about the event, President, Delphic Council of Rajasthan, Sreya Guha said: "Since we are a huge country with diverse

cultural traditions, the Indian Delphic Council is setting up state chapters. Rajasthan was the first State Council to be set up in July 2021 and it is a matter of great pride that the state will also be the first to hold the Regional Delphic Games which so far have been held only at international level. We will showcase the six art forms that the Delphic Movement stands for - Musical Arts & Sounds, Performing Arts & Acrobatics, Language Arts & Eloquence, Visual Arts & Handicrafts, Social Arts & Communications and Ecological Arts & Architecture." The Games will open with "Nriyadhara" a presentation by renowned Odissi dancer Padmashree, Ranjana Gauhar. Over the course of the next 3 days, there will be symposiums on various topics such as Dhrupad, Media & Communication for Heritage Conservation and The Fabric of Folk Tradition. There will also be an art camp, Photo Exhibition as well as music and dance competitions etc. The event will conclude with a performance by eminent kathak exponent, Chetan Kumar Javda & Group.

### Actively Promoting Art and Culture

It is worth noting that the Delphic Council of Rajasthan has been actively promoting art and culture in the state of Rajasthan through its initiatives. One such effort is the weekly online shows called Delphic Dialogue, which organizes insightful conversations with artists and experts from diverse fields. The DCR has successfully established its presence in the art and cultural sphere of Rajasthan through these online events.

With the easing of Covid-19 restrictions, the DCR has taken further steps to enhance the promotion of art and culture by organizing physical events. These events are of high quality and showcase the talented artists and cultural performers of the state. By hosting such events, the DCR aims to provide a platform for artists and cultural enthusiasts, especially the youth to connect and share their passion and skills.

**When:** 9 February to 12 February  
**Where:** Jawahar Kala Kendra  
**Entry:** Free and open to all

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Brigadier Sant Singh, MVC



Maj Gen Jagatbir Singh VSM (RETD)

Brigadier Sant Singh is affectionately known as 'Sant Sipahi', the 'Saint Soldier'. He was Son of AS Gill, born on 12 July 1921 in a Sikh family in Panjgrain Kalan village of the erstwhile princely State of Faridkot (now Faridkot district) in Punjab to Sardar AS Gill. He did his initial schooling from the Government Middle School at Kot Kapura, walking to school for ten kms each way despite occasional encounters with wolves, and thereby developed self-confidence and fearlessness. He completed his Matriculation in the Brijendra High School and Intermediate in RSD College, Ferozpur. With no career guidance available, Sant enlisted in July 1941 as a clerk in the Faridkot State Forces Engineer Field Company, (which later merged into the Bengal Engineer Group) when World War II was in full swing.

During the Japanese siege of Imphal in March-June 1944, his Commanding Officer Lieutenant Colonel BAP Maude, recommended him for an Officers' Commission. Called for an interview, after several unsuccessful attempts, he was examined by the SSB Centre, Singapore, in February 1946. He was then selected for the Short Service Regular Commission and

trained at the Officers Training School, Bangalore, he was commissioned on 16 February 1947, in 1/14 Punjab Regiment and was deployed in the Northwest Frontier Province (NWFP), where he gained first-hand experience in guerrilla warfare. On partition, with 1/14 Punjab Regiment having been allotted to Pakistan, Sant was then posted to 2 SIKH LI at Rajkot, in Gujarat in November 1947, in time for the Junagadh state operations. During the Junagadh operation in November 1947, Second Lieutenant Sant Singh, as Intelligence Officer of the Battalion, at personal risk, provided vital information about the moves of the Junagadh forces that resulted in an almost bloodless takeover, and smooth amalgamation of Junagadh into the Indian dominion. On completion of the Junagadh operations, he reported to 1 SIKH LI, and participated in operations in the Naushera-Jhangar Sector from January 1948 to April 1953. His bravery resulted in his first recommendation for the award of the MVC even though he ended up with a Mention-in-Dispatches (Gallantry).

As a Lieutenant Colonel Sant Singh, went on to command the 5 SIKH LI from 1964-68. It was during his command that in 1965, against all possible odds, the battalion captured the most formidable, all-defying and heavily defended Chuh-i-Nar feature on Balnoi Ridge in the morning hours of 03 November 1965.

# 'Sant Sipahi'

Granted Permanent Commission on 15 August 1951, Captain Sant, with just six years of service, secured a competitive vacancy for the 7th Defence Services Staff College Course at Wellington in 1953-54. He was then posted to WE Directorate, and was later Company Commander in 2 SIKH LI in Samba, J&K. After a much-desired Military Operations Directorate tenure at Army HQ, he was posted as 2IC 6 SIKH LI. He then commanded 5 SIKH LI from October 1964 to April 1968 in the Naushera-Jhangar Sector in 120 Infantry Brigade, part of 25 Infantry Division during which he was awarded the MVC for brilliant leadership at OP HILL. Post command, he was posted as Instructor Class 'A' at the Indian Military Academy (IMA) and later as General Staff Officer Grade 1 (GSO1). Appointed temporary Brigadier before the Bangladesh War in 1971, he commanded the FJ Sector, tasked to enrol, train, equip and arm nearly 1,500 Mukti Bahini guerrillas every month and direct their operational employment.

As a Lieutenant Colonel Sant Singh, went on to command the 5 SIKH LI from 1964-68. It was during his command that in 1965, against all possible odds, the battalion captured the most formidable, all-defying and heavily defended Chuh-i-Nar feature on Balnoi Ridge in the morning hours of 03 November 1965. Chuh-i-Nar, the most dominant feature, is located south-west of the Mendaha-Balnoi road in the Poonch sector. It was used as a border post by the Indian troops till 1956. Thereafter, it remained unoccupied. On 10 August 1965, it was discovered that the Pakistanis had not only occupied but also developed it into a strongly-defended area. An attempt was made to get the post vacated through the good offices of the UN observers as the ceasefire was in force since 22 September.

The feature dominated the LoC between Bhimber Gali, Mendhar and Balnoi and its occupation by the Pakistan army would result in total isolation of Balnoi from Mendhar and Krishna Ghati. Therefore, Chuh-i-Nar had to be captured at any cost. Since this would be a major ceasefire violation, there was the risk of restarting the war. But seeing the importance of the feature, the recourse to war was considered acceptable. Attempts by earlier two battalions of Poonch-based 93 Brigade to dislodge the enemy from Chuh-i-Nar had not succeeded. The attacks and counter-attacks, partial successes and failures commenced in early October 1965 and continued for over a month, with the casualties mounting and no end result. Finally, in the first week of November, the seemingly impossible task of capturing Chuh-i-Nar was handed down to 5 SIKH LI.

On 02 November, on receiving the 10th Gurur's holy verse "Nischay Kar Apni Jeet Karoon" from Lieutenant General Harbaksh Singh, the Army Commander, the battalion commenced advance to the Forming Up Place (FUP) with its Commanding Officer, Lt Col Sant Singh, in the lead. Under the dynamic leadership of their CO, famous for leading the battalion always from the front during attacks, the Panjvin (6th) did what the Sikh Light Infantry is known for 'fateh' at any cost. The Indian post on the Balnoi Ridge, occupied



The Bar to MVC from President VV Giri after the 1971 war.

by Pakistanis and named Chuh-i-Nar, was recaptured by 5 SIKH LI and the feature was named 'OP HILL'. During the Bangladesh Liberation War, Brigadier Sant Singh's yeoman efforts for creating the Mukti Bahini, will be long remembered. 'Op Searchlight' was a genocide perpetrated by the West Pakistanis against their own citizens accounting for three million Bangladeshis dead and two lakh women raped, as per a 2019 UN General Assembly statement by the Bangladesh Prime Minister. The carnage reached its climax in mid-May 1971. As Commander FJ Sector, Sant was called to Headquarters (HQ) Eastern Command on 03 May 1971, and briefed about the need to create a cohesive Bangladesh force to defeat the Pakistan Army in concert with India's Armed Forces. He identified Tura in Meghalaya to set up training camps alongside the Border Security Force (BSF); thereby forming the nucleus of the "Mukti Bahini" or Liberation Army. He worked out a practical syllabus of four weeks which converted the inexperienced but passionate Bangladeshis into a force the Pakistanis came to dread. They made up equipment deficiencies with their infectious patriotism. Sant divided the Mukti Bahini training into three linked parts; Small arms, field craft and explosives training; Civil administration imperatives for liberated zones and Communication training using combat radio.

Mid-November 1971 onwards, the Mukti Bahini guerrillas carried out sabotage activities on Pakistanis



Brigadier Sant Singh.

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lines of communication, blasting bridges/culverts, uprooting railway tracks, thereby forcing the Pakistanis to their increasingly cut-off bases, particularly in the Mymensingh area. For the Indian Air Force (IAF), Sant managed detailed intelligence information about Pakistani air bases, formation's/units/weapon identification, infrastructure, topography and terrain details. The Dhaka air bases' technical information was of great operational use for the HQ Eastern Army and Air Commands. Sant shared the privations of his men in FJ Sector, living and operating from a small tent in Tura.

When war broke out on 03 December, this amazingly gifted officer commanding an Ad Hoc Sector did operational wonders with improvisation and tactical acumen. He had just one regular infantry battalion besides the Mukti Bahini and BSF but crossed three rivers, despite their bridges being blasted, to capture Mymensingh, thus helping to disintegrate the enemy 93 Infantry Brigade as a fighting entity in concert with own 95 Infantry Brigade.



Brig Sant Singh (then Lt Col) receives the MVC from former President of India, Dr S Radhakrishnan, after the Indo-Pak War 1965.

Seeing an opportunity, Brigadier Sant advanced to Madhupur, 50 km south of Mymensingh, sensing that fellow formation, 95 Infantry Brigade Group was held up at Jamalpur. With no transport allotted, Sant improvised with local resources, himself using a bicycle to exercise command. Brigadier Sant Singh, MVC, while commanding an Eastern Front sector, achieved outstanding success with a mixed force, moving 38 miles (60.8 km) almost entirely on foot, to secure Mymensingh and Madhupur in eight days. Despite intense opposition from the enemy, he cleared highly defended positions at several points during the advance. Brigadier Sant Singh personally led and supervised the men throughout these operations, exposing himself to enemy MMG fire and shelling. His personal heroism, leadership, efficient handling of meagre resources, daring, improvisation, and maximal use of local resources were responsible for the successful and swift advance against a considerably greater adversary in well-prepared defensive positions. Throughout, Brigadier Sant Singh exhibited remarkable valour and inspired leadership in keeping with the Army's greatest traditions. He was awarded a second MVC for the capture of Mymensingh and Madhupur. In 1972, Sant became a substantive Brigadier, commanding 68 Infantry Brigade as part of 15



Brigadier Sant Singh.

Corps. Post retirement in 1973, he was seconded to the BSF and had several tenures as Deputy Inspector General (DIG). In 1984, Brigadier Sant Singh Sant, settled down in Chandigarh. He and likeminded veterans set up an The All-India Association of gallantry awardees Non-Governmental Organisation called The War Decorated of India in which he served three tenures as President. He was also President of the Indian Ex-Services League, Chandigarh, from 1987 onward, besides holding eminent civic positions. Serving the ex-servicemen was his lifelong passion, committing his time, money and life towards promoting their cause and pushing their cases forward above all else.

He held that honesty, integrity, loyalty, compassion and trust were non-negotiable values; showing the right way himself. A lifelong teetotaler, he never got visibly angry but ensured his feelings were conveyed without abuse or recrimination. He had a fabulous memory for the faces and incidents he encountered in the wars. A deeply religious man, "Deh Shiva Varmoh" and "Jo Bole So Nilhal" were his favourite quotes as he lived his life like the saint-soldier that he was in word and deed. He lived up to the SIKH LI Regimental motto of 'Deg Tegh Fateh', meaning prosperity in peace and victory in war.

write@arbit@rashtradoot.com

## Doggy Date Night

Dogs have been the sidekicks of people for thousands of years. Dogs are certainly worth all of the love and attention they can receive. Taking that little canine buddy out on a date night is a fun reminder of how much love and delight dogs can bring to their human families. Doggy Date Night was founded to show appreciation for pups of all shapes and sizes, while encouraging their owners to take them out and spend some quality time with them.

## #AROUND-D-WORLD

Hiking these beautiful trails can turn out to be one of the most exciting moments a person will ever have.

# Most Beautiful Hiking Trails



Milford Track, New Zealand

One of the best ways to enjoy nature is by taking a hike and there are plenty of hiking trails around the world that have been created to meet the needs of different adventurers. Whether one seeks extreme difficulty or extremely long distance, there are trails that would fit into every adventurer's bucket list, including those seeking scenery.

For adventurers that fall into the category of those seeking scenery, here are some of the world's most beautiful hiking trails that are worth exploring in 2023.

### The Inca Trail, Peru



The Inca Trail appeals to the world with many attributes. It is historic, thrilling, and also incredibly beautiful. The trail leads hikers through Andean mountain paths all the way to Machu Picchu - the world-famous Inca site that has become the most popular creation of the Inca Empire. The Inca Trail is considered difficult because of the elevation gain, and distance hikers have to cover. It takes between 3 and 4 days to complete this hike, but despite the difficulty, every step taken here is worth it, as there are plenty of interesting things to see along the way.

### Kalalau Trail, Hawaii, United States

Many people skip the beauty of Kalalau Trail and focus more on the difficulty. But this trail, despite being one of the most difficult and dangerous hikes in the US, still comes with plenty of scenery. Located in Kauai, this thrilling 11-mile trail takes one through the incredible Napali Coast, where there will be sights of beautiful beaches, dense forest areas, waterfalls, and stunning cliffs.

For most of the hike, there will be incredible views of the coast which means plenty of opportunities for nature photography.

### The Narrows, Utah, United States

The Narrows is a unique 2-mile

round trip hike in Utah's Zion National Park that takes hikers through a beautiful canyon. Besides the incredible canyon views, one other unique thing about the narrows is that hikers will be ankle-deep, knee-deep, and sometimes shoulder-deep in the Virgin River while walking long distance. This makes the hike both beautiful and refreshing.

### Rio Celeste Hike, Costa Rica

Costa Rica is an amazing place for all things adventures, from white-water rafting to surfing. It is also a great place for hiking, and although there are plenty of trails in the country, Rio Celeste

Costa Rica is an amazing place for all things adventures, from white-water rafting to surfing. It is also a great place for hiking, and although there are plenty of trails in the country, Rio Celeste offers a great opportunity to see the stunning Milford Sound - one of the several fjords located in Fiordland National Park. The track is considered to be a moderate hike, although it takes up to 4 days to complete. Throughout the adventure, hikers will be met with scenic views of lakes, waterfalls, towering peaks, and incredible views of the fjord. It is an experience of a lifetime.

### Skyline Trail, Nova Scotia

Canada has some awe-inspiring trails, but Skyline Trail is one of the most beautiful. This coastal hike located in Cape Breton Highlands National Park stretches for 4 miles on a cliff and overlooks some of the area's spectacular scenery. Throughout the adventures, hikers can expect to be presented with mesmerizing views of the ocean and mountains.

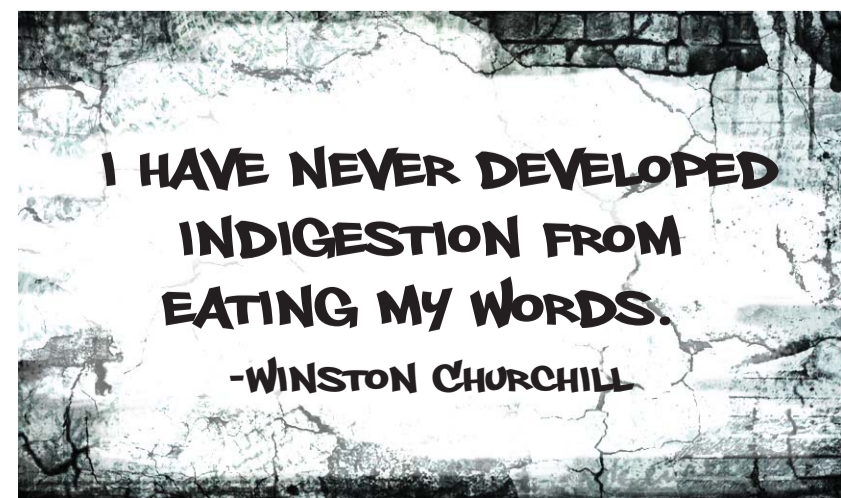
### Great Ocean Walk, Australia

The Great Ocean Road is a highly sought-after attraction in Australia, and one of the best ways to enjoy it is by hiking along its 60 miles path. Such a long distance requires that one spends between 6 and 8 days on the adventure as there are plenty of things to see and do.

On the Great Ocean Walk, hikers will be taken through dense forest areas and presented with incredible uninterrupted views of the ocean and the cliffs. This hike is an opportunity to see the popular Twelve Apostles and a wide variety of wildlife, including birds and reptiles.



## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

**DELPHIC GAMES OF RAJASTHAN**

9-12 FEB 2023 • JHK, JAIPUR

COMPETITIONS: Music • Dance • Photography

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