

#TRIED&TASTED

Bhog To Offer

Through the 10-day extravaganza devotees prepare bhog/prasad daily to please their beloved God.

The 10-day long extravaganza is here. Ganesh Chaturthi, one of the most widely celebrated festivals across the subcontinent, especially in Maharashtra and Karnataka. Devotees will bring home beautifully sculpted and painted Ganesh idols

Satori

Ingredients

- 1 cup Milk
- 1 cup Ghee
- 1 1/2 cup Sooji
- 1/2 cup Maida
- 1/2 cup Sugar, powdered
- 1/4 tsp Elaichi powder
- A pinch of salt
- 5-6 Raisins



- Preparation**
- Combine half cup sooji, maida, half cup ghee, a dash of salt. Mix till the flour turns sticky. Then add half cup milk to knead dough. Add some warm water, if required. Let it rest for half an hour.
 - Roast one cup sooji in half cup ghee. When it turns

brown, add elaichi powder, raisins and milk. Let it all cook till it becomes sticky.

- Let the sooji mixture cool down then make small ladoos out of them.
- Roll small rotis from the dough and enclose the ladoos in each of them.
- Deep fry as is or roll again to make puris before frying.

Dry Fruit Modak

Ingredients

- 6 Figs
- 8 Seedless Dates
- 15-16 Almonds
- 1 tsp Walnuts
- 12-13 Peanuts
- 5-6 Pistachios
- 9-10 Cashewnuts
- 1 tsp Sesame Seeds
- 1 tsp Chironji
- 1 tsp Khuskhus
- 1 tsp Dried Coconut
- 1 tsp Ghee
- 10 Raisins (chopped)
- 5 Apricots (chopped)
- 1 tsp Cardamom Powder



- Preparation**
- Soak figs for two hours.
 - Also soak dates for two hours.
 - Take almonds, peanuts, walnuts, pistachios and cashewnuts in a grinder.
 - Grind all the nuts together.
 - Put the ground nuts on a pan and sauté well.
 - Now in another pan take sesame seeds, chironji, khuskhus and dried coconut. Dry roast them well.
 - Take soaked figs and dates

in a grinder.

- Grind them to form a paste.
- Now take ghee in a pan, add the figs-dates paste to it.
- Sauté it well and add chopped raisins and apricots.
- Mix thoroughly and add ground fry fruits. Mix the dry fruits well in order to infuse them perfectly with the paste.
- Now add the coconut mixture and cardamom powder.
- Mix the ingredients well with the paste to form a thick mixture.
- Take a modak shaped mould and apply ghee on it. Put the mixture in the mould to give the perfect shape of a modak.
- Serve them after the puja.

Boondi Ke Ladoo



Ingredients

- 500 gms gram flour
- 1 litre water or milk
- 750 gms ghee (for frying)
- 750 gms sugar
- 3 1/2 cups water
- 10-12 drops orange colour
- 10-12 saffron flakes, soaked
- 50 gms cashew nuts, chopped
- 50 gms raisins
- 10 cardamoms (peeled)

Boondi strainer or fryer of medium sized holes

- Preparation**
- Prepare a thin batter with gram flour and water or milk. Heat ghee in a pan.
 - Fill the fryer or strainer with the batter up to the half.
 - Position it over pan and drain boondis in hot ghee by hitting the strainer on side of the pan, lifting up then again hitting. This process should be finished very quickly.
 - Fry them to golden colour,

drain and remove. Use up all the batter.

- Prepare sugar syrup of one and a half thread consistency by boiling sugar and water.
- Add saffron water and colour to the syrup. Mix the boondis, syrup, dry fruits and cardamom.
- After 10 minutes, sprinkle over a little hot water, cover and keep for 1 1/2 hour.
- Prepare round balls with moist hands and serve.

And here the Home Minister pounced upon this God sent opportunity to settle his course with Rathore, his old enemy. He poisoned the ears of the Chief Minister. The Chief Secretary of the state along with several other powerful bureaucrats too joined him in the attack as they too were more than keen to teach Rathore a lesson for life. Their rivalry went back some 5-6 years, when Mr Rathore became instrumental in getting the then District Collector of Sawai Madhopur suspended against the all out support of the entire higher bureaucracy at state and central level. It was mandatory for the bureaucracy to protect the pride of fellow officer, after-all they were the coveted IAS. In fact, the Collector was unhappy with Rathore.



While I was lost in the tranquilizing world of multi-coloured song birds at the World famed Keoladeo National Park, Bharatpur, posted as the Research Officer; I woke up to my posting orders as Field Director of the much famous tiger reserve of Sariska. Though I was quite reluctant to leave this heaven of feathered friends but this order could not be avoided as it was a posting on promotion.

I was planning to move when the Chief Wildlife Warden Rajasthan, telephonically instructed me to join the new office immediately giving me no time for even essential preparations. I was instructed to assume charge of the new office in the absence of Mr Fateh Singh Rathore, the existing Field Director there. I knew him very well. He was one of the most knowledgeable wildlife officers in the country and more popularly called by his pet name 'Futji'. I did not find it befitting to take over the office in his absence like this but the chief was bent upon seeing compliance of his orders in this fashion. Evidently and as the grape wine whispered, the government wanted to shift Futji at the earliest and the officer was being pushed to do so.



Main entrance gate to Sariska Reserve.

compliance report without waiting for Mr Rathore to reach Sariska. By now I could make out something serious was boiling in the power corridors of the government against him. Unwillingly, I assumed the charge. I was going to be in the midst of things unpleasant.

High Privilege

Those were the days when neither mobiles were in vogue nor landline connectivity was reliable in remote areas like Sariska. The second day Futji arrived and as expected, showed his annoyance for his non ceremonious ouster from this office but he was not surprised by this governmental action; perhaps he was aware of the growing developments in the government.

Of course I was totally ignorant about all these intricacies and he could appreciate my position.

My curiosity was at a high pitch, and I was dying to learn from the horse's mouth, the story behind this inappropriate behaviour of the government.

On my insistence he shared that though his enmity with the then Home Minister of the government of

When Futji Brought The Government To It's Knee (...1)



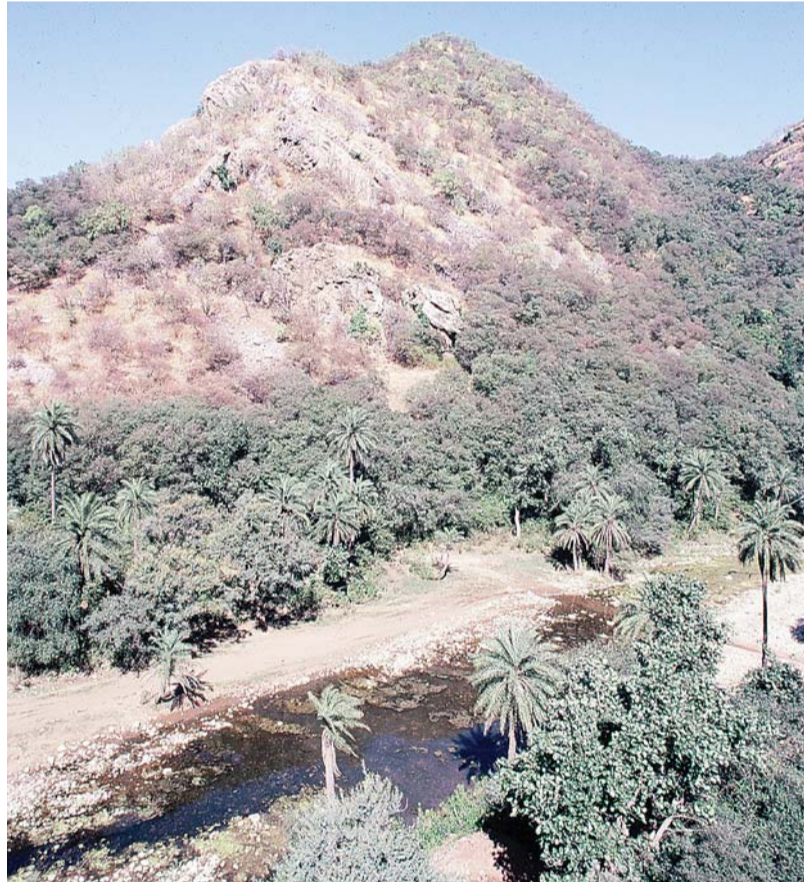
#FUTJI-TALES

Rajasthan was pretty old and he always addressed him as a shikari (poacher) but the present crisis had arisen out of another matter. In fact, few days back Futji had an informal meeting with the late Shri R Venkatraman, the then Hon'ble President of India, at the Rashtrapati Bhavan, in New Delhi. This informal meeting was arranged by his friend and the then Resident Commissioner of Rajasthan, posted at Delhi; who is tasked with multifarious duties of maintaining high level liaison with Ministries /Departments/Institutions in Government of India, foreign Diplomatic Missions and other stakeholders to promote the interest of the state government. As evident from this unusual meeting, Fateh Singh had been enjoying high privilege among people of eminence and power through his close friends, occupying high places in the governments.

Undoubtedly he was blessed with immense knowledge about wildlife especially tiger and also he had gripping style of rendering jungle stories with which he (as Field Director of Ranthambore Tiger Reserve) mesmerized late Shri Rajeev Gandhi; the youngest Prime Minister of India, his family and friends, during their long New Year vacation trip in 1985, at Ranthambore National Park.

Alas! Shri Rajeev Gandhi had passed away some time back but the memories of his bonding with Rathore were still afresh on the mind of Shri Venkatramanji, and perhaps these were the reasons responsible for his instantaneous acceptance of Fateh Singh's informal invitation to visit Sariska Tiger Reserve in the hottest days of June 1981. And amazingly it was a programme of two night halts at Sariska, which brought a shocking surprise to everybody in the government of Rajasthan.

And here the Home Minister pounced upon this God sent opportunity to settle his course with Rathore, his old enemy. He poisoned ears of the Chief Minister. The



Water dries in important resources like Silbheri Nullah.



Chief Secretary of the state along with several other powerful bureaucrats joined him in the attack as they too were more than keen to teach Rathore a lesson for life. Their rivalry went back some 5-6 years, when Mr Rathore became instrumental in getting the then District Collector of Sawai Madhopur suspended against the all out support of the entire higher bureaucracy at the state and central level.

The Sanctum Sanctorum

It was mandatory for the bureaucracy to protect the pride of fellow officer, after all they were the coveted IAS. In fact, the Collector was unhappy with Rathore for not allowing him unquestioned entry into the park with his friends and kins. The annoyed Collector, taking advantage of some flaws in the revenue generating land records - pertaining to some pieces of land located inside the Ranthambore National Park - issued special permission to villagers allowing them rampant cattle grazing in this important tiger habitat, severely spoiling serenity of the sanctum sanctorum of the tiger land.

Protesting the Collector's action the emotional Rathore telegraphically sent his resignation directly to Shri Rajeev Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India and Chairman of the Steering Committee of the Project Tiger, in India. The Prime

Minister took it seriously and ordered strict action against the concerned officers, reversing the Collector's order with retrospective effect. Grazing was stopped immediately and a high level committee was set up to enquire into the matter which held the Collector responsible for this malicious deed.

Consequently the Collector was placed under suspension invoking hue and cry among the top bureaucracy in the state. Since that day Rathore was under the radar of the bureaucracy. He was not allowed to be posted back at Ranthambore and his posting at Sariska was the result of this vengeance only. This feeling of revenge had not subsided even after 5 years of that incidence. Now this new fuel had doubled their attacks on Rathore.

The Witty Diplomacy

The Chief Minister was provoked that Rathore not only went too far in violating the protocol but had put the state and particularly the Chief Minister to huge embarrassment by inviting such a dignitary at his own level and that too for 2 night halts during such hostile weather conditions, where Sariska was merely a one night destination. They pleaded that the President is bound to get bored and the state shall have to face the consequences.

Convinced with these arguments, the CM decided to get this programme cancelled but without inciting ire of the President. But none in his battery of officers had any convincing reason to put out. The CM famous for his witty diplomacy geared up his resources but initially seemed failing in his efforts. The scheduled visit dates were inching closer and enhancing tension in his camp.

Meanwhile, the concerned authorities at the state and district level were instructed to pull up their socks to not leave any stone unturned in keeping the President entertained during his forthcoming visit. But how could this all be possible without taking Rathore in the loop, who evidently had been thrown away by the bureaucracy.

The Chief Wildlife Warden of the state was assigned this responsibility of taking the President around the Reserve and relate all that was there to see. But how could this all be possible without Rathore, on whose invitation the President had made his extensive programme, casting aside the necessary protocol?

The complexity of the situation had gheraoed the CWLW considerably, where Rathore seemed totally calm and relaxed. Also he assured his boss, the CWI, not to worry at all as he shall take care of everything and no one in the government need to worry a bit.

Of course, Rathore was questioned by the Government about his authority to invite the President at such an odd time and that too at his personal level to which he quietly replied: "The President was keen on visiting the Reserve without any pomp and show, and dared to face the harshness of weather in the interest of wildlife viewing it as the best time from this purpose." Technically, he was right but his invitation had put the government in pretty odd position.

To Be Continued...
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#PARENTING

The Best Ages For Kids



The best age to learn a second language.

Parenting a new human means making sure they have all the skills they need to thrive. But that can be a stressful proposition not least because of all the conflicting advice out there.

The best age to start reading with your child

Similar to the beginning of verbal language understanding it's never too early to introduce a child to literature. Shared book reading with new-borns can be an integral part of developing early childhood literacy. It should start from birth. We know that children have vital abilities, we know that they're already taking in language.

The best age to teach children to swim

Developing physical coordination skills is important from both a functional and a safety standpoint. To prevent paediatric drownings the earlier a child can be exposed to water the better.

When kids should start playing sports

As both a social and a physical activity, playing sports can be an important part of childhood. Getting started in athletics isn't feasible however until a child is potty trained. Start with young kids in sports that build fundamental motor skills: track for running, gymnastics for running, jumping and landing safely, as well as building upper body strength; dance and martial arts to build overall body awareness, strength, and flexibility; tennis and baseball for throwing.

Above all, begin with a variety of sports so they can figure out what they enjoy most and want to continue pursuing. In the end this is supposed to be fun and good as healthy physical activity. So getting active feedback from the child about if they're enjoying it is important.

The best age to teach children to swim

language, shared time devoted to reading as an activity builds the emotional connection between the child and their caregiver, and creates a safe space for further interest for reading in the future. It's a way of carving out time in which you're interacting back and forth with your child.

As a caregiver reads aloud, the level of engagement will depend on the age of the child. Under the age of three, kids' attention spans are short so reading at them won't be super effective. Instead engage in a dialogue to engage the child in the narrative of the story. There's no rule saying you have to read every word on the page. You can let the kid hold the book, you can let them go backwards in the book and all over the place, it's really okay.

The best age to start reading with your child.

Reading aloud inviting the

The best age to start reading with your child.

While tackling multiple languages at the same time may slow a child's initial learning progress, it doesn't disadvantage them in the long term.

The easiest way for a child to speak multiple languages is to start them all at or before birth and the next best thing is to introduce new languages while they're still in preschool.

That doesn't mean older kids and grown-ups shouldn't try to pick up new languages as well. Some aspects of language learning, like vocabulary, actually come easier to adults, so while the learning process can begin as early as birth, it's certainly a life-long endeavour.

By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

We Love Memoirs Day



e Love Memoirs Day has been created so that readers and authors can be brought together to observe this incredible style of writing. A memoir is more focused on person's life and belief than an autobiography, for millennia, notable historical figures penned memoirs documenting what they considered some of the most formative years of their lives. From war journals and politics to business and travel, you can write a memoir about anything.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



ZITS

