

#RESTAURANT & BISTRO

BROWN SUGAR WOWS

Hand it to Brown Sugar for delivering wholesome meals with a carefully curated menu that not only serves the Zoomers but also Gen X and senior citizens, who want to chill on their day out.



Sadhana Garg
Journalist & Social Entrepreneur



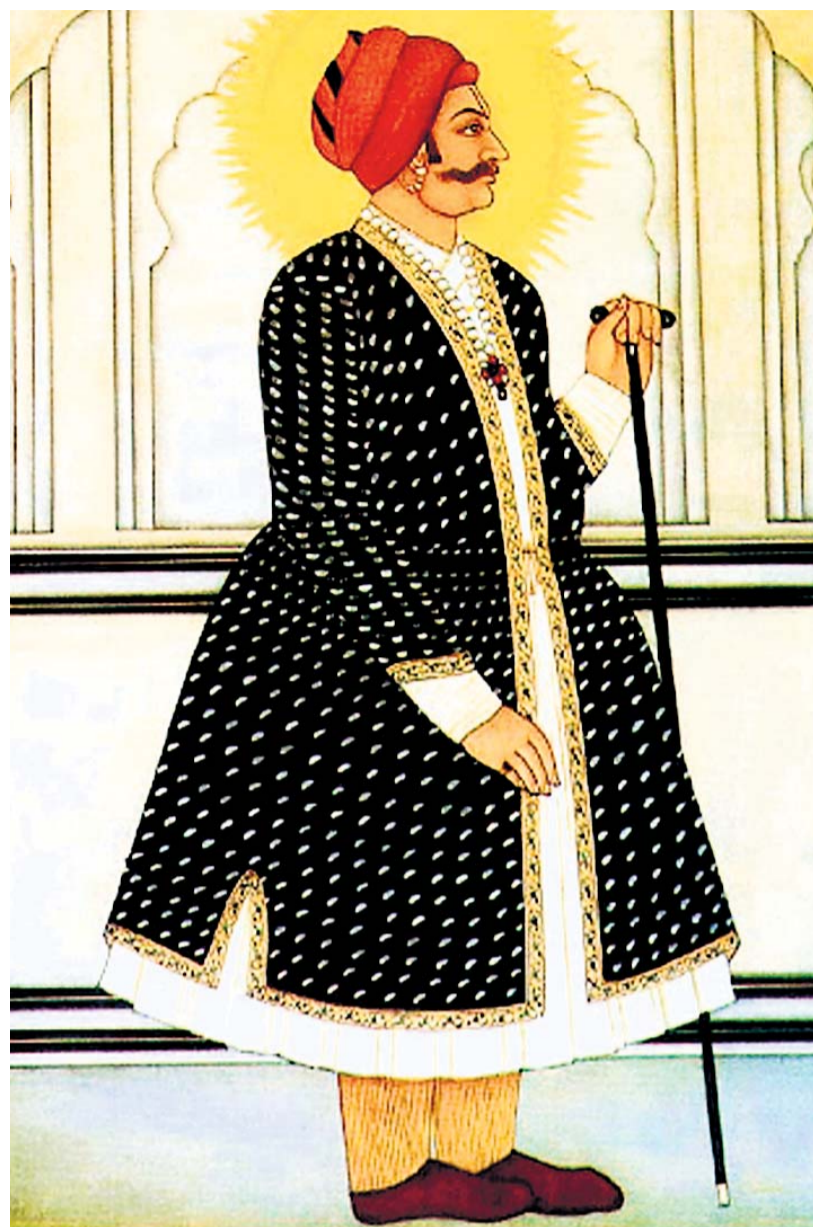
If you think Brown Sugar is all about confectionary and cake, you've got it all wrong. For an eatery, that has 17 outlets spread all over Jaipur, it has done exceedingly well to have carved out a niche in the mid-segment restaurant and bistro sector. The menu is varied yet wholesome. The prices point reasonable.

Salad is the last thing that you would expect at an eatery associated with 'sugar and spice and all that is nice.' The Sauté Vegetable Salad with a dash of olive oil is not only fresh, but just what the dietitian ordered for all weight watchers. For others, there is Garlic Butter Mushroom and Cottage Cheese Salad.

Food is not only memory but also childhood encapsulated in calories. The *Chana Bun*, one of the most ordered dish, is reminiscent of days when one tucked away *Kabuli Chana* with bread in childhood. Brown Sugar version is irresistible and you can ask for it to be customized as per your chill tolerance.

The popularity of fried *Karkure Momos* is matched by The Mumbai Central Vada Pav and Crispy Corn chat, a perennial favourite of the Gen Z. So, the perception of Brown Sugar, being a favourite haunt of the yuppie, does not do justice to its menu created to deliver value for money. Any of the outlets, spread all over the city, can really be your go-to destination, if you are looking for a day out with friends or hosting a Kitty party.

The fiery *Paneer Wrap* or the *Peshawari Paneer Tikka Sandwich* are not only tasty but a meal in a dish, and believe it or not, only for Rs. 200 each. The paneer and veggie overload offsets the carb dose. It's not uncommon to find digital natives preoccupied with their screens and



Portrait of Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II.



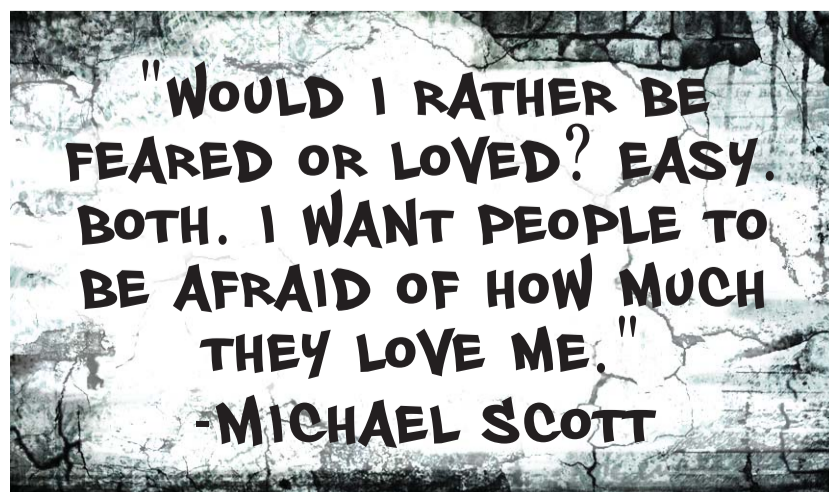
N.N. Sachitanand
Senior Journalist

Back in the latter half of the 1950s, I was fortunate enough to be recruited by the fledgling travel agency of Pandit & Co., located at Panch Batti in Jaipur, as a rookie guide for foreign tourists visiting the *Vrihat Samrat Yantra*. At over 90 feet in height, it was and still is, the world's largest stone Sundial, able to give the time to an accuracy of two seconds. I was

immediately reminded of the giant arc of the *Samrat Yantra* in Jantar Mantar, Ugh Beg (1394-1499) was one of Islam's greatest astronomers during the Middle Ages and famed far and wide in Europe and Asia. With the instruments located in the observatory in Samarkand, Ugh Beg composed a star catalogue consisting of 1018 stars, which corrected quite a few errors in the catalogue, composed by Ptolemy, that had been in use till then.

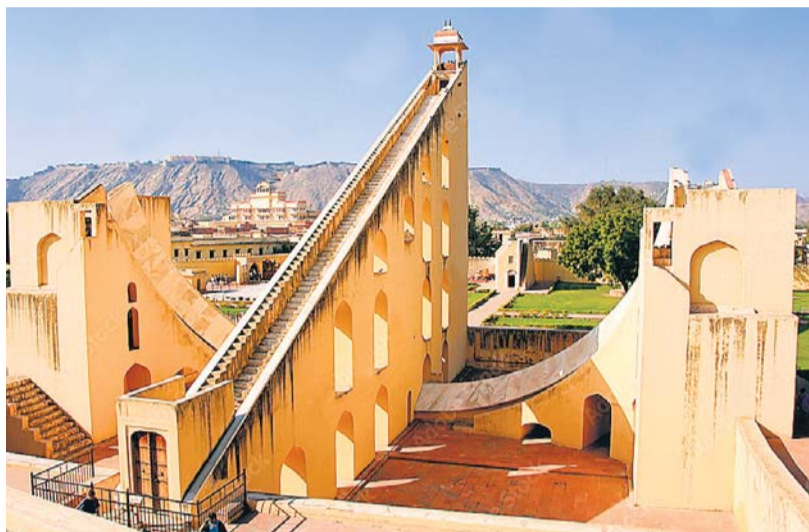
Delving a bit deeper into the histories of Ugh Beg and Jai Singh, I found some very interesting similarities. For starters, both were royalty. About Jai Singh we all know. But who was Ugh Beg? His real name was Mirza Muhammad Taraghay Bin Shahrukh. But because of his erudition and exploits, he was more popularly known by his fan following as 'Great Ruler.' And now, here comes the Indian connection. He was a grandson of

THE WALL



His real name was Mirza Muhammad Taraghay bin Shahrukh. But because of his erudition and exploits, he was more popularly known by his fan following as Ugh Beg, which, in Turkish, can be loosely translated as 'Great Ruler.' And now, here comes the Indian connection. He was a grandson of the great conqueror and king, Tamerlane (1336-1405), the same feared Central Asian warrior, who invaded northern India in 1398 and ravaged Delhi, which was then ruled by *Sultan* Nasiruddin Mahmud Shah Tughluq (the last ruler of the Tughluq Dynasty). Babur, who established the Mughal dynasty in India, was a 5th generation descendant of Timur on one side as well as a 12th generation descendant of the mighty Genghis Khan on another side!

Tamerlane To Jantar Mantar



Samrat Yantra in Jaipur's Jantar Mantar Observatory.



Ulugh Beg Madrasa was an important centre of astronomical study in Central Asia.

and Mediterranean Europe. As Indian tourists, we, of course, were more fascinated by its grand dry fruits market. *'Déjà vu'* is a popular French term signifying a sense of having been there or seen that before. I had this feeling when we were being conducted through the Ulugh Beg Astronomical Observatory in Samarkand, constructed between 1424 and 1429 AD, some three centuries before Jai Singh built his Jantar Mantar.

The centre piece of the Samarkand observatory is the so-called *Fakhri Sextant*, which had a radius of 118 feet. This was so large that a part of it had to be accommodated in a trench. This lower portion of the meridian arc underground is all that remains now of the original massive structure. When I saw this huge arc, I was

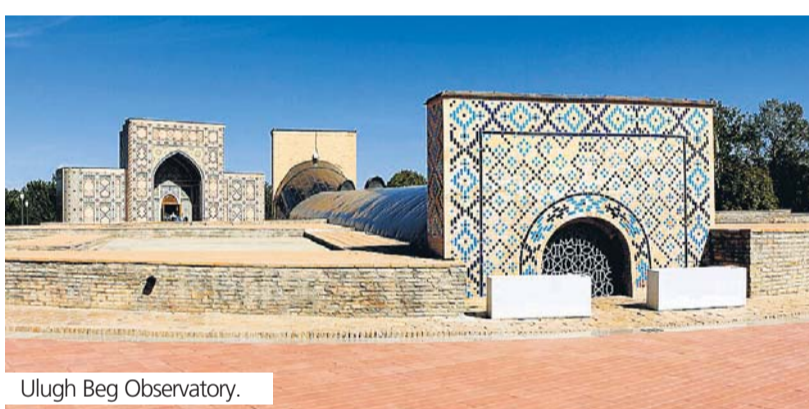
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BABY BLUES



#STARGAZERS



Ulugh Beg Observatory.

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Although Timur is not regarded kindly in India due to a horrific Delhi massacre, he is revered as a founder of the nation and the capital, Tashkent, features a whole museum devoted to him. The second notable resemblance between Jai Singh and Ulugh Beg is that both were reputed astronomers and observatory builders of their time.

Ulugh Beg is credited with reviving astronomical research in the Islamic world, which had gone into decline after the 13th century. This device was carefully oriented, and the arc was scaled very accurately. This device was very versatile, it could accurately measure the sun from the horizon, the altitude of a star and other planets. The duration of the year, period of planets, and eclipses were measured by this device. Ugh Beg's measurements of planets closely relate to today's measurement, showing us the phe-

ZITS



World Nature Conservation Day

Planet Earth is a beautiful and fascinating place. From wildlife to trees, from oceans to mountains, the world is a place that has fascinating ecosystems that lie in a delicate balance. But as human activity has made a huge impact on the environment, particularly through depleting natural resources and adding pollution, it is necessary for people to offer more care and pay more attention to preserve the planet for future generations. *World Nature Conservation Day* is here to raise awareness for the need and promote collaboration among individuals, communities, businesses, local governments and much more!



Ulugh Beg, founder of the Observatory, in a contemporary Timurid painting (1425-1450).

He managed to measure the azimuth to within three arc minutes, correlate these data with sidereal time, and connect them to a position in the sky relative to the ecliptic. He also measured the angular distances covered by the planets, which had an error of +30s. Ugh Beg also determined the Earth's axial tilt as 23:30:17 degrees in sexagesimal notation, which in decimal notation converts to 23.5047 degrees.

Ugh Beg's astronomical tables became almost as famous as those of Ptolemy and they formed the basis of most subsequent catalogues. Maharaja Sawai Jai Singh II of

Jaipur (1688-1743) was greatly influenced by the works of the scholars of the Samarkand school and extended their work. Apart from Ugh Beg, whom he followed, he mentions names of the Iranian astronomer, Nasir al-Din al-Tusi, and others.

Jai Singh preferred to use masonic instruments, some of which he himself designed, rather than metallic ones. He improved the concept of time measurement over Ugh Beg by employing an equatorial gnomon, which can measure time at a constant rate of the spin of the earth.

Jai Singh built observatories in Delhi, Jaipur, Banaras, Mathura and Ujjain. The idea behind building a number of observatories at different locations in the northern India was to make the same observations from different places, and thus, reduce the errors introduced, due to the limits of resolution of human vision.

Initially, Jai Singh, who had first

studied Hindu astronomy at Benares and, as a part of his post-doc work (as it is referred to these days), built the three small observatories at Ujjain, Mathura, and Benaras. Ujjain, as it may be recalled, was a hub for astronomical and mathematical studies in ancient times and home to scholars like Varahamihira (6th Century), Brahmagupta (7th Century) and Bhaskaracharya (12th Century).

For building the larger Delhi observatory in 1724, he took the help of Vidyadhar Bhattacharya, a Bengali brahmin architect, well-versed in *Shilpa Shastra*. The designs were further improved for the Jaipur observatory, the construction of which started in 1728 with a few instruments and was expanded to what we see today by 1735.

Planetary tables were prepared by Jai Singh and Ulugh Beg's 300-year-old catalogue was updated. The results were published as a set of astronomical tables named *Zij Muhammad Shahi*, in honour of the Mughal King, Muhammad Shah, successor to Aurangzeb.

However, unlike Jai Singh, Ugh Beg's scientific expertise was not matched by his skills in governance and diplomacy. During his short reign, he failed to establish his power and authority. As a result, other rulers, including his family, took advantage of his lack of control, and he was subsequently overthrown and assassinated by his own son, Abd al-Latif in 1449. The observatory was destroyed and dozens of talented astronomers and mathematicians were driven away. It was only in 1988 that the Russian archaeologist, Vasily Viatkin, uncovered the remains of the observatory. Today, the foundations and the buried part of the marble quadrant are all that are visible of the original gnomon, which of the *Fakhri sextant*, and the cylindrical building housing has been reconstructed.

As we wound our way out of the park, that houses the remains of Ugh Beg's observatory, I marveled at how the pursuit of astronomy connected researchers from vastly different geographies and times, which has enabled mankind to explore the regions of space beyond our home planet.

rajeshsharma1049@gmail.com

#GLOBAL WARMING

Why July 21 was the warmest day on record?

In a statement, Carlo Buontempo, C3S Director, said, "What is truly staggering is how large the difference is between the temperature of the last 13 months and the previous temperature records. We are now in truly uncharted territory and as the climate keeps warming, we are bound to see new records being broken in future months and years."



Sunday (July 21) was the warmest day on record for the Earth, according to the Copernicus Climate Change Service (C3S). The daily global average temperature touched 17.09 degree Celsius, breaking the previous record of 17.08 degree Celsius, set on July 6, 2023. Last year was the first time ever that the daily global average temperature crossed the 17 degree Celsius mark. In

What led to the Record-breaking Temperature?

The main driver behind the extreme warming is the increasing greenhouse gas concentrations in the atmosphere. Greenhouse gases like carbon dioxide and methane, and water vapour trap the Sun's energy in the Earth's system before it escapes to space, causing warming. Since the industrial revolution, human activities like burning fossil fuels such as coal, oil, and gas have released unprecedented levels of such gases. As a result, the planet has warmed rapidly, especially in recent decades.

In 2023, greenhouse gas concentrations reached the highest levels ever recorded in the atmosphere, according to C3S. However, warmer temperatures in Antarctica, at this time of the year, are not unusual.

What happens next?

According to C3S, the daily global average temperature is expected to further increase and peak around for a few days and then go down, but with possible further fluctuations in the coming weeks. So far, 2024 has been on track to become the warmest year, breaking the record of 2023, which was 1.48 degree Celsius warmer than the average of the 1850-1900 pre-industrial level and 0.17 degree Celsius warmer than 2016. Since June 2023, every month has now been ranked as the planet's hottest since records began, compared with the corresponding month in previous years.

a statement, Carlo Buontempo, C3S Director, said, "What is truly staggering is how large the difference is between the temperature of the last 13 months and the previous temperature records. We are now in truly uncharted territory and as the climate keeps warming, we are bound to see new records being broken in future months and years." Here is a look at what caused this record-breaking daily global average temperature.

The continent is also witnessing below-average sea ice extent, leading to much above-average temperatures over parts of the Southern Ocean. This also has played a role in raising the global average temperatures.



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman