

#AMUSEMENT

Amazing Theme Parks In India

With time, many theme parks have come into existence in India and have proved to be a complete package of entertainment.



Imagica, Mumbai

For kids who grew up in Delhi-NCR in the late 90s and early 2000s, the name 'Ap-puGhar' is a part of their collective consciousness. The famous amusement park was located in Pragati(Maidan) and was the first of its kind in the country. But it closed in 2008 after having entertained children and adults for 24 years.

However, gone are the days when kids all over India had limited fun options like Ap-puGhar. With time, many other theme parks came into existence that proved to be complete entertainers. Here are five fantastic theme parks in India you can't miss.



Ramoji Film City, Hyderabad

An integrated film studio complex, Ramoji Film City is spread over 1,666 acres, making it the largest film studio complex in the world. It is also a popular tourism and recreation center, containing natural and artificial attractions, including an amusement park.

Location: NH-9, 30 km from Hyderabad

Kingdom of Dreams, Gurgaon



It is a relatively newer addition to the Indian theme park scene. Walking under the magnificent skies of the 'culture gully' you can explore the food and arts of various Indian states. You can also buy a ticket to Zangoora, Bollywood's first musical. Packed with culture and entertainment, hours spent here are a delightful experience.

Location: Near IFFCO Chowk Metro Station, Sector 29, Gurgaon

Wonderla, Bengaluru



Keeping up with the tradition to the Indian theme park scene. Walking under the magnificent skies of the 'culture gully' you can explore the food and arts of various Indian states. You can also buy a ticket to Zangoora, Bollywood's first musical. Packed with culture and entertainment, hours spent here are a delightful experience.

Location: 30 kilometers from Bengaluru, off the Bengaluru-Mysore highway.

Adventure Island, New Delhi

This theme park has everything: bridges, towers, jungles, and lakes. It has bumper car rides that are slightly low on adrenaline but still fun - especially for kids. And then there are the pacy rides like 'Butterfly Feeling', 'Twister', and 'Flip Out'. This theme park has something to offer everyone, whether a kid or an adult.

Location: Opposite Rithala Metro Station, Sector 10, Rohini, New Delhi



Indira Gandhi listened to Sam and India won a victory the equal of which we had not seen for a thousand years. If in 1962, Nehru had listened to General Umrao Singh, then maybe instead of the ignominious defeat would have had a glorious victory. Not an impossibility nor a figment a figment of my imagination. As the next account of an action which started with another famous general, Sagat Singh's 'No', said in 1965 just three years after the defeat of 1962 and which lasted for over two years till the end of 1967. When Sagat was asked to withdraw his troops from the advantageous positions they held at Nathu La in Sikkim, Sagat not only disregarded the orders of his superior commander's orders but inflicted a crushing defeat on the Chinese. This action by Sagat which ended with an Indian victory, validated the valour of the Indian soldier and exploded the myth of Chinese invincibility



Maj Chandrakant Singh Vrc (Retd) Military Historian

It takes great courage, conviction and confidence in the righteousness one's cause and ability to say no to a superior, knowing fully well that it could jeopardise one's career in normal times. A soldier or an officer in war risks a lot more, of the extent of even forfeiting his life. In the Indian Army there have been three generals who had the courage of conviction at crucial moments of our history to say no to their superiors. Two of these generals are remembered and have become icons of the nation. They are Sam Manekshaw and Sagat Singh.

The other general who stood up to his superiors was Lt Gen Umrao Singh, who has been forgotten by the nation, the army and even his hometown Jaipur. During the crucial period leading to the 1962 Indo-China War, the general had steadfastly refused to act in haste on the unreasonably demands being made on him and the troops under his command. If his superiors had listened to him the nation and the army would have been saved from a shameful defeat the trauma from which we have not yet fully recovered. The Henderson Brooks report says:-

"The three tier concept of defence of NEFA as formulated by Gen Umrao Singh was tactically sound. Had it been properly implemented, there would have been no question of our troops being caught off balance."

Before we inform ourselves of General Umrao Singh's courageous defiance of his superior commander's orders, it would be appropriate to inform ourselves of Manekshaw and Sagat's actions when faced with such unreasonable demands by their political and military superiors. First is the case of Field Marshal Manekshaw and Indira Gandhi in 1971. When the troubles in East Pakistan started and millions of refugees started flooding into India, Mrs Indira

Umrao Singh the General Who Said 'No' (...1)

#1962

Gandhi called a Cabinet meeting to which Sam was invited to attend. A reporter who interviewed Sam some years later has recounted Sam's version of the Cabinet meeting:-

Indira Gandhi: "Sam. What are you doing about it?" Sam: "Nothing, it's got nothing to do with me. What do you want me to do?"

Indira Gandhi: "March into East Pakistan."

Sam: "This means war."

Indira Gandhi: "I don't mind if it is War."

Sam: "Are you ready? I certainly am not. If we go in now, I guarantee you 100 percent defeat. Its not like in the Bible"

Sardar Swaran Singh, Foreign Minister: "Sam! what has the Bible got to do with it."

Sam: "Everything. In the Bible God said 'Let there be light. And there was light.' So you feel, let there be war and there is war. Are you ready? I certainly am not. It is April' in a few day's time the monsoon will break in East Pakistan and the rivers will become an ocean.....Sam then turned to the Prime Minister and said, if in 1962 your father had asked me and not the Army Chief General Thappar and said, "Throw the Chinese out", I would have turned around and told him, 'look, these are the problems. Now I am telling you what the

problems are. If you still want me to go ahead, Prime Minister I guarantee you 100 o/o defeat. Now you give me your orders"

A Glorious Victory

Indira Gandhi listened to Sam and India won a victory the equal of which we had not seen for a thousand years. If in 1962, Nehru had listened to General Umrao Singh, then maybe instead of the ignominious defeat would have had a glorious victory. Not an impossibility nor a figment, a figment of my imagination. As the next account of an action which started with another famous general, Sagat Singh's 'No', said in 1965 just three years after the defeat of 1962 and which lasted for over two years till the end of 1967. When Sagat was asked to withdraw his troops from the advantageous positions they held at Nathu La in Sikkim, Sagat not only disregarded the orders of his superior commander's orders but inflicted a crushing defeat on the Chinese. This action by Sagat which ended with an Indian victory, validated the valour of the Indian soldier and exploded the myth of Chinese invincibility and equally importantly gave a huge boost to the morale of both our soldiers and all our countrymen. Unfortunately though everyone was appreciative of the performance of Sagat's Division it did not receive the attention in the media it deserved for it was overshadowed by the happenings in the Western Sector during the 1965 Pakistan War.

When in September 1965, the Pakistan's attacked us in Kashmir and we retaliated in Punjab, resulting in a full scale war, the Chinese to support their all-weather ally, Pakistan started to make aggressive moves against our forces in Sikkim by moving forward in attempt to occupy the three major passes that lead into Sikkim, Cho La and Nathu La in the North and Jelep La in the South. The Government of India and the Army Headquarters in an attempt to appear conciliatory and not provoke the Chinese, ordered our troops to vacate the advantageous positions they held on the high ground on the watershed and withdraw to their rear defensive positions. Whereas Maj Gen Harcharan Singh, GOC of 27 Division vacated the Jelep La pass and withdrew to the rear, Sagat held firm and not only refused to withdraw and in utter disregard of his orders began demarcating and strengthening our positions on the watershed. During this period his immediate superior as Corps Commander was Gen Bewoor and later Gen



Indira Gandhi and Sam Manekshaw.



1971 Sagat Singh leading Nazi to prisoner of war camp.

Aurora. The Army Commander was Gen Manekshaw. When the pressure to withdraw became incessant during the height of the crises, Sagat cut himself off from tele communication from his superior commanders, till the time the crises was resolved in our favour.

The Stand-off

In this prolonged two and a half year stand-off, our casualties were about 300 of which 65 were killed, the rest wounded. But the Chinese suffered many times more and worse our artillery destroyed their bases in the rear in the Chumbi Valley which were visible to our observers who were in an advantageous position on the highground and could bring down accurate fire on the Chinese on both their forward and rear positions.

Those wanting to know more about this incident in Sikkim are advised to read the excellent biography of Sagat 'Talent for War' by Maj Gen Randheer Singh and an equally good book 'Watershed 1967' by Probal Dasgupta. In 1971 Sagat again disregarded orders of his



Gen Thappar COAS.

Lt. Gen LP Sen DSO.

superiors, first orders from Gen Aurora not to cross the Meghna as that was not a part of his directive. Then on 13 December when ordered by Sam himself to withdraw from Dacca, Sagat in disregard of his orders entered Dacca. The rest as they say is history.

For his defiance of orders of his superior commanders Sagat was made to pay a price, at the conclusion of the hostilities, instead of being rewarded he was posted to a less important position as GOC 101 Communication Zone in Shillong, the city which earlier had been the Headquarter of the third of the trio of generals of this account-Lt Gen Umrao Singh as GOC of XXXI-II Corps.

Power corrupts, and absolute power corrupts absolutely.' This saying is true of all dictators particularly communist and ideological dictators like Mao, Stalin, Pol Pot and Kim Il Sung, they have



1967 Sagat Singh with Chogyal and hope Cooke.

killed more of their own countrymen than all the great tyrants of the past like Changez Khan, Taimur and Attila the Hun combined. After their occupation of Tibet, Mao started the process of the genocide of the Tibetan people. Forcing the Dalai Lama to flee to Tibet and to initiate road communications between China and Tibet

To be Continued.... ||||| writetoarbit@rashtradoot.com

World Freedom Day



In many parts of the world, freedom is something that is taken for granted. There are many places in the world where people are forced to live empty, unfulfilling lives. If you don't know what it means to be afraid to voice your opinion, then you can consider yourself very lucky to live in a place where liberty is a priority as well as a basic human right. And like all good things, liberty should be celebrated, and that's what World Freedom Day is all about.

#FOREST-ECOLOGY

Yard Waste Has Lots Of Value

Leaves are small CO2 stores that absorb CO2 from the air and release some of it while decomposing.

Leaving fallen leaves and other yard waste alone can do great things for the climate, a working paper shows.

At the same time, leaves and other yard waste are a boon for backyard biodiversity and soil, according to the calculations of University of Copenhagen professor Per Gundersen.

According to Gundersen, a professor of forest ecology at the department of geosciences and natural resource management, there are large CO2 savings to be made. Gundersen calculated the implications for Denmark's national climate account if Danes simply allowed yard waste to decompose in their gardens instead of burning it.

If everyone went all-in and learned how to manage their garden's branches and twigs, for example, my calculations suggest that we could store about 600,000 tons of CO2 annually," he says.

to decompose," says Gundersen. Leaves are flying about and filling up yards at this time of the year. But instead of raking them up and hauling them off, there are good reasons to leave them in the yard.

"Leaves help nourish the garden as they feed an entire ecosystem of decomposers. From fungi, bacteria, and tiny invisible soil creatures to earthworms and roly-poly bugs, which help break down and metabolize organic material so that nutrients are released into the soil. These decomposers then act as important food source for larger animals like hedgehogs and birds," explains Gundersen.

As microorganisms, worms, and other decomposers wage war on the leaves, a large part of the biomass ends up as CO2 that slowly releases into the air over several years. A small portion of the gnawed leaves becomes soil humus, a common name for the complicated organic material that takes a very long time to



The calculations are based on a simple model that includes the different decomposition processes for leaves, twigs, and branches. When Gundersen deducts the utility that branches and trunks used for bioenergy in the current system provide, the CO2 storage potential of yard waste could meet about half of one percent of Denmark's 70% reduction target for 2030.

Leaves consist largely of the gas CO2. Minerals taken up into the soil account for less than 5% of a leaf. Leaves are small CO2 stores that absorb CO2 from the air and release some of it while decomposing. Leaves take three to six months to decompose, until half are left (their half-life), while twigs and branches take two to five years. Tree trunks decay over 10 to 20 years.

"When garden waste is burned or composted by municipal waste schemes, CO2 is returned to the atmosphere very quickly. By keeping waste in the garden, the decomposition process is significantly slower. In practice, this means that one builds up a larger and larger storage of CO2 in the garden in the form of twigs, dead branches, and leaves that are left

decompose and is very important for plant health.

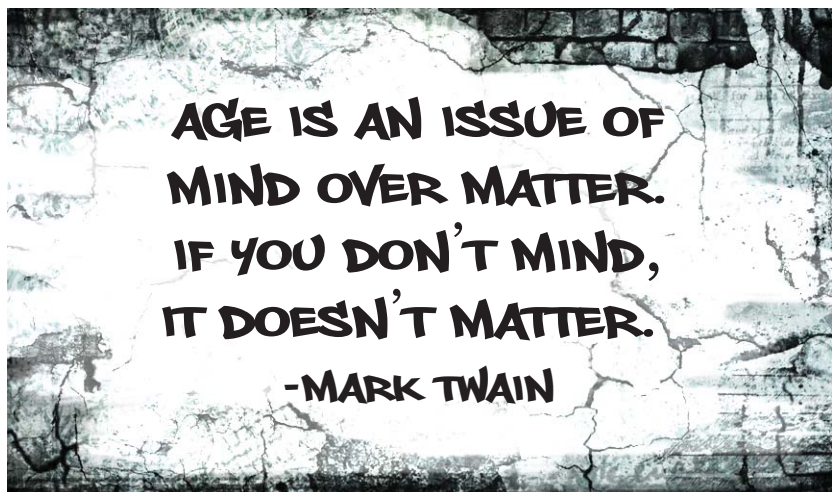
"A high humus content in topsoil makes for a dark soil that has a good structure and retains water and nutrients well, which is important if you want garden plants to thrive," says Gundersen.

But what to make of all those leaves suddenly filling up the garden? Gundersen suggests raking them into planting beds where vegetables grow, or over to areas where you want to avoid weeds. They can also be gathered in a part of the garden that you may be willing to let grow wild and manage itself.

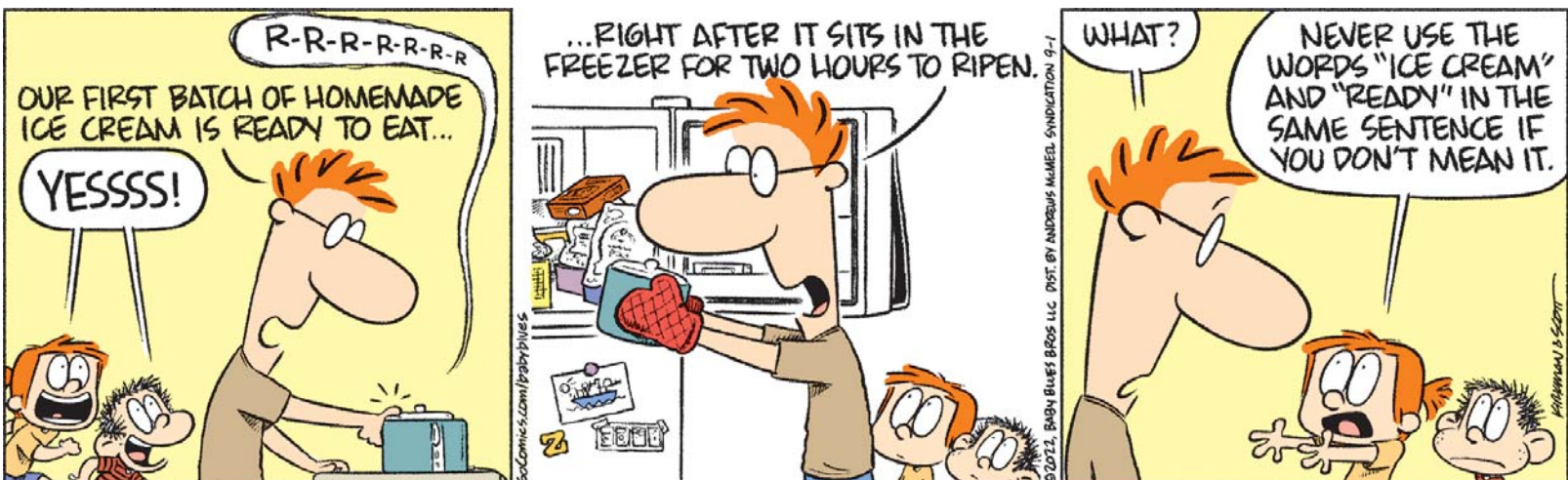
"Funnily enough, while the wind tends to blow leaves around the garden, they often remain in beds or around bushes where there is less wind, which is a good thing," he says.

By spring, a large portion of the leaves will have already disintegrated and returned into the invisible garden cycle. Leaves from linden and ash trees are especially good at disappearing quickly from gardens. Oak and fruit tree leaves are slower to break down, making them ideal for soil insulation around bulbous plants or vegetables, for example.

THE WALL



BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman