

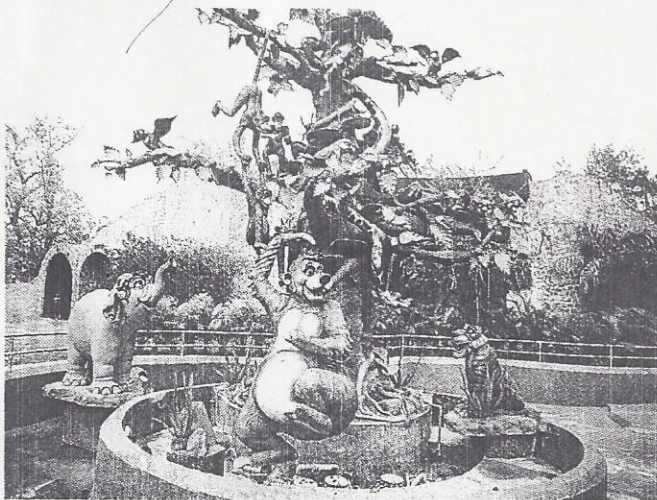
A refreshing new breather at India Gate

By Lakshmi Balakrishnan

NEW DELHI, FEB. 9. If the sprawling polygon at India Gate has been looking too quiet for a while, blame it on the proverbial lull before the storm. Come next week and the Children's Park here will have more than just the presence of the little ones as reason for celebration.

All decked up for a whole new innings, the park now wears a colourful look with a range of exciting offerings for kids. Spread over 10 acres, the place has been given a "modern" look by Maruti Udyog, which adopted the park not long ago.

Apart from brand new playing equipment to keep children busy while parents enjoy the lush greens are a science gallery, an amphitheatre and even a library. Closed to the public since last



"A perfect jungle for kids": Jungle Book Fountain — one of the new attractions now at the India Gate park. — Photo: S. Subramaniam.

November for renovation, the new-look park will open this Tuesday. The NDMC-owned complex will now be managed by

Maruti for the next two years. It will open with an assortment of hi-tech playing equipment like spiral chambers, roller slides and balancing bridges — all made of sleek and child-friendly material.

Adding to the colourful look will be musical fountains, including one designed after characters from *The Jungle Book*.

The new science gallery will help schools and others hold exhibitions round the year.

The specially-built amphitheatre will screen children's films and stage plays. But, regulars need not worry, for the grand old aquarium shop is still part of

the park. Designed by noted architect, Ravindra Bhan, the place is all geared up as the perfect family picnic spot.