NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2025



INDIA SENDS RELIEF TO EARTHQUAKE-HIT MYANMAR

India has stepped forward to assist Myanmar following the devastating 7.7-magnitude earthquake that struck central parts of the country on March 28, 2025. In a significant humanitarian effort, India has dispatched over 15 tonnes of relief materials to aid the affected communities. The relief package includes essential supplies such as tents, sleeping bags, blankets, ready-to-eat meals, water purifiers, hygiene kits, solar lamps, generator sets, and critical medicines including paracetamol, antibiotics, syringes, gloves, and bandages. These materials are being transported via an Indian Air Force C-130J aircraft, which took off from Hindon Air Force Station.

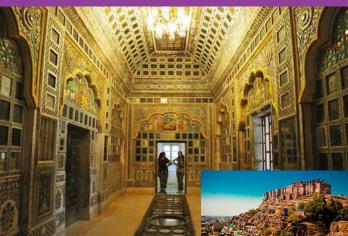
The earthquake had its epicenter near Mandalay, causing widespread destruction, with reports indicating at least 144 fatalities and over 700 injuries. The tremors were so powerful that they were felt as far away as Bangkok, Thailand, leading to structural damage and casualties beyond Myanmar's borders. In response to the disaster, Myanmar's military junta has declared a state of emergency in six regions and has sought international assistance.

Alongside India's aid, other nations, including China and Russia, have sent rescue teams and medical personnel to support relief operations. The Indian government's swift response to Myanmar's crisis highlights its commitment to regional solidarity and humanitarian assistance in times of need. The relief mission aligns with India's broader efforts to strengthen diplomatic and humanitarian ties with its neighbors, ensuring timely intervention in moments of crisis.



The interesting history of Mehrangarh Fort takes us back to the time when Rao Jodha, the 15th Rathore ruler founded Jodhpur in the year 1459. Son of Raja Ram Mal, Rao Jodha ruled the city from Mandore but shifted his capital to Jodhpur. He, then, laid the foundation of the fort on Bhaucheeria hill which was just 9 km away from Mandore. The Fort was named as Mehrangarh Fort since the chief deity of Rathores was the Sun and the meaning of 'Mehran' is the sun. Apart from the major construction, many more additions were made by the other rulers of Jodhpur like Maldeo Maharaja, Ajit Singh Maharaja, Takhat Singh and Maharaja Hanwant Singh. There were many clashes between the rulers at those times, and then the Fort like this one was an object of great power and prestige.

HISTORY OF INDIA MEHRANGARH FORT



The Fort and palaces were built over a period of 500 years, and thus one can see the basic architectural style of the mid 15th century along with the features of 20th-century architecture. The fort has 68ft wide and 117 ft. Long walls were overlooking the surrounding areas. It has seven gates, and the most popular one among them is the Jayapoli. The architecture of the fort went through several developments over a period of 500 years. During the rule of Maharaja Ajit Singh, many buildings of the fort were constructed in Mughal design. Besides the seven gates that leave tourists awestruck, there are several brilliantly crafted rooms like Moti Mahal (Pearl Palace), Phool Mahal (Flower Palace), Daulat Khana, Sheesh Mahal (Mirror Palace) and Sileh Khan. Moti Mahal, or the Pearl Palace, was built by Raja Sur Singh. Sheesh Mahal, or the Hall of Mirrors is famous for intricate designs on the pieces of mirror. Maharaja Abhaya Singh created Phool Mahal. One can see the magnificent craftsmanship of Jodhpuri craftsmen in the sandstone used for the construction of the palace.

The best time to visit Mehrangarh Fort is during winters. Between October to March, the weather remains cool and pleasant and offers you with an excellent opportunity to explore the entire fort. The ideal time of the day to visit the fort is the winter mornings. Right after breakfast, set out to the fort as it gets opened for tourists at 9:00 am. After spending two or three hours, you can head to the nearby tourist's places to spend the rest of the day.

There are some scintillating festivals, reflecting the rich culture and heritage of Jodhpur, which takes place in the fort. Some of them are:

Gangaur- It is held every year in the month of April, and a grand procession of Gangaur Mataji is carried out from the fort

Rajasthan International Folk Festival- This musical festival brings together some of the finest singers and artists. Spectacular concerts and musical events are held in Mehrangarh Fort.

Dusshera- To celebrate Lord Ram's victory over Ravana, a procession is taken out from the fort which later concludes in the city.



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FESTIVAL OF THE MONTH

HISTORY OF RAM NAVAMI

Ram Navami is one of the oldest festivals celebrated in India. It is said that the date of Ram Navami can be seen back to the pre-Christian era, as Hinduism is the oldest religion of the world. The reference of Ram Navami can also be found in the Kalika puran. It is said in the prior times when caste system was common in India; Ram Navami was one of the few festivals that the lower castes were granted to celebrate. In Hindu religion, it is considered to one of the five major holy festivals and it is said that properly observing this fast leads to the attainment of salvation.



Every year, the month of March-April observes a flurry of activities in the temples and religious spots around India full with millions of Hindus with faith in their hearts and dedication in their minds. It is not something unusual for the knower who is fully known that the Hindu month of Chaitra are near and Ram Navami, one of the holy Hindu occasions, is to be celebrated in 'Shukla paksha' or the waxing moon phase on the ninth day of the same.

The devoted Hindus believe that on a similar day in the year 5114 BC, the prayers of Dasharatha, the king of Ayodhya (an ancient city in the state of Uttar Pradesh in India) was answered. This king had three wives named Kausalya, Sumitra, and Kaikeyi. But none of the three bore him a male child which the king needed to take care of his empire and as a successor to his throne. Even after several years of his marriage, the King was not able to be a father.

Then the great sage Vasistha advised him to perform Puthra Kamesti Yagna, the holy <u>ritual</u> carried out to obtain an offspring. With King Dasharatha's consent, the great sage Maharshi Rushya Shrunga performed the ritual in the most detailed manner possible. The king was handed over a bowl of payasam (a preparation of milk and rice) and asked to distribute the food between his wives. The king gave one-half of the payasam to his elder wife Kausalya, and another half to his younger wife Kaikeyi. Both wives give half of their portions to Sumithra. This unequal distribution of the holy food leads to both Kausalya and Kaikeyi giving birth to one son each while twin sons are born to Sumithra.

The day was one of the ultimate celebrations in Ayodhya where not only the royal family but every resident of the place heaved a sigh of relief and thanked the God for this miracle, little knowing that god himself was present among them in the form of Rama, the newborn son of Kausalya. The great Hindu epic Ramayana (written by the ancient sage and Sanskrit poet Valmiki) as also a host of other ancient epics mention Rama as the seventh incarnation of the supreme god Lord Vishnu, who was born on earth to restore mankind to its previous glory, annihilate the evil and protect the innocent.







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MONTHLY HOROSCOPE APRIL 2025



The Sun and Mars will help financial progress through speculative investments. Good communication and more attention will help love life to be enjoyable.



Happiness in love life can be improved by going on a pleasure trip with a partner after the 18th. Family relationships will be harmonious with external help.



Professionals may face some surprises due to the aspects of Pluto and they should be prepared for these changes. People in love relationships will have to listen to their partners for a happy life.



Investment in stocks will yield good financial returns. Good communication is essential for maintaining harmony in love life.



Career growth will be excellent because of concentration and confidence. Jupiter and Mars will help sign new projects and

SAGITTARIUS help the financial growth.



The Career will be both happy and challenging due to planetary influences after the 18th of the month. Mercury and AQUARIUS Venus will help increase profits as well as initiation of new projects.





Jupiter will help finances through speculative investments, and assets will improve. Health will be good and stress should be avoided.



Career growth will be good and relationships with colleagues and seniors will be pleasant. The family environment

will have many celebrations and all the problems with family members will be resolved.



Good communication will help love life to be happy. The family environment will be happier by finding a solution to all the existing problems.



Career progress will be smooth without any problems. Finances will be profitable through investments, legal matters, and inheritances.



Businessmen will make good profits with help from experts. Family life will be congenial and there will be support from CAPRICORN seniors for your activities.



Venus and Mars will ensure happiness in love life. Singles will succeed in getting love partners in artistic or cultural surroundings.



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RECIPE OF THE MONTH EASY HOMEMADE FRENCH TOAST



INGREDIENTS

- 3 cups all-purpose flour
- 3 teaspoons baking powder
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon granulated sugar
- 11/2 tablespoons vegetable oil, or canola oil, or <u>ghee</u>, divided
- 11/4 cups lukewarm water

STEPS TO MAKE IT

1.Gather the ingredients.

- 2. In a large bowl, thoroughly mix the flour, baking powder, salt, and sugar
- 3. Add 1 tablespoon of oil, or ghee if using, and mix it into the flour.
- 4. Add just enough water to knead and make a dough. Start with 3/4 cup of water and knead the dough, adding a little bit more water at a time if you deem it necessary. Not all flours are alike, and not all doughs need the same amounts of water. The dough needs to be soft and pliable, and you'll get that after a few minutes of kneading, between 4 and 8
- 5.Form a ball with the dough and rub some of the remaining oil on top to prevent the dough from forming a skin. Cover and let rest for 30 minutes
- 6.Heat a cast iron griddle, pan, or <u>tawah</u> if you have one, over medium heat.
- 7.Cut the dough into 4 equal pieces. Cover the rest of the dough as you work with one piece at a time
- 8. Lightly flour your work surface and rolling pin
- 9.Form one piece of the dough into a ball, then flatten it into a disk. Roll it out into a 5-inch circle of about 1/4 inch thickness.
- 10.Flip the roti and cook the other side for 1 or 2 minutes. Remove roti from the pan and wrap loosely in a clean kitchen towel, or any flour-bag type of fabric.

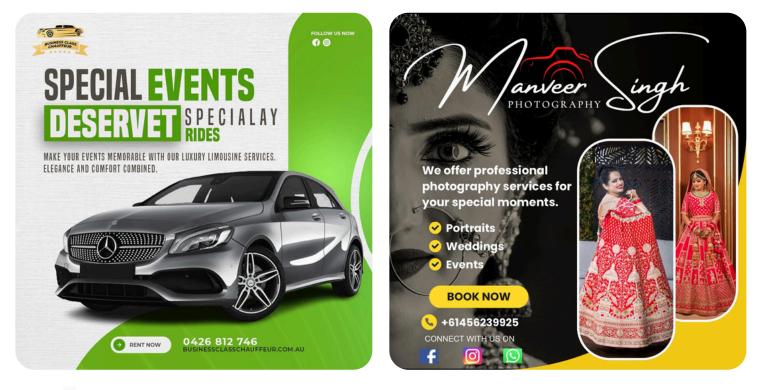
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