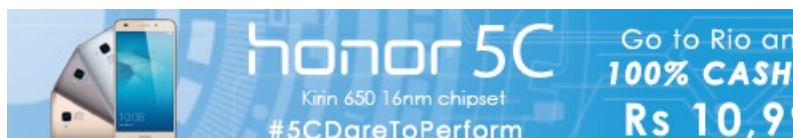


DH



DECCAN HERALD

Monday 27 June 2016
News updated at 4:53 PM IST


honor 5C Go to Rio and
100% CASH
Kirin 650 16nm chipset
#5CDareToPerform
Rs 10,999/-

Search

Weather
Max: 27.5°C
Min: 19.4°CIn Beng
Genera

Home News New Delhi Business Supplements Sports Entertainment Videos Opinion

Pak looks for lobbyist in US after recent diplomatic disasters Yaduveer Wadiyar marries Trishika Kumari in Mysuru Of Abi Olympic gold Jaitley to meet industry chambers, CAs on black money window Govt shortlists four candidates to succeed I Governor To Brexit or Regrexit? A dis-United Kingdom ponders turmoil of EU divorce Akhilesh expands cabinet, Balram Y: doyen Kavalam Narayana Panicker passes away Pak clerics issue fatwa in favour of transgender marriages India joins MTI retires from international football after Copa loss Singapore Airlines jet catches fire during emergency landing Pope says (from gays for past treatment Chile stun Argentina to win Copa America Congress now feeling the effects of Emergency: Jc murder case held On wedding eve, Yaduveer undertakes 'Kashi Yatre' Bulls edge past Warriors Germans whip Slovaks Bengaluru Paytm to enable Indian sellers to source from China Airlines permitted to import up to 18-yr-old planes, NPT go infra, says Jaitley Defence firms under scanner for Bhandari links NSG likely to meet again to discuss entry of non-NPT co convoy a desperate attempt to create problems: Rijiju Declare undisclosed income by Sept 30, it is last chance: PM Govt s cards, to save Rs 10k cr Manish Sisodia, AAP MLAs detained on their way to 7 RCR released by Police Strictly enforcing ru HC India needs USD 1.5 trillion for infrastructure: Jaitley Wedding rituals begin at Mysuru palace

You are here: [Home](#) » [Supplements](#) » [Sunday Herald travel](#) » Bricks of glory

Bricks of glory

August 5, 2012

Hema narayanan visits the Kumbalgarh Fort in Rajasthan and finds stories of honour, chivalry and sacrifice behind the walls that guard its legacy.

Long and serpentine, the walls of the fort of Kumbalgarh are the second longest after the Great Wall of China. Extending for over 36 km, the walls of this fort are impenetrable.

It was a stunning surprise to realise that this is the world's second

man-made structure that can be seen from space. My first glimpse of the fortress left me wanting for more. Our guide, dressed in typical orthodox Rajasthani attire, took us to this elevated place, from where the winding fortification could be seen for kilometres. It seemed so unconquerable that I wondered how enemies would even plan a battle against this kingdom, let alone enter this massive fortress. My contemplation was spot on when our guide endorsed that Kumbalgarh Fort is one of the most inaccessible fortifications ever built by man.

Dating back to the 15th century, this fort was the creation of Maharana Rana Kumbha, the great emperor of the Mewars. The fort, in fact, derived its name from its creator, Kumbha, and is representative of the past glory of Rajput rulers. Walking inside the huge fort complex that has several palaces, impressive ramparts, temples and gardens, the panoramic view of the countryside from its turrets were magical. And it only got better as we climbed higher.

Even today, centuries later, the fort looks so impregnable. Surely, in its heyday, it must have been an enemy's envy! Touching some of the brick and mortar on the walls, it was clear that neither weather nor passage of time had eroded them. A true example of defensive architectural marvel, this fort in Rajasthan was built in 1443 AD. It snakes along 13 mountain peaks, has seven fortified gateways, with seven ramparts folded with one another, huge watchtowers and 15-foot-thick frontal walls. As if this was not enough, Rana Kumbha chose to build this fort on an unassailable hill as well, which is 1914 m above sea level. No wonder this fort, which also has the natural advantage of the surrounding Aravalli Range, is called 'The Mountain Fortress'. It's an admirable fact in the Indian history of great battles that this fort was captured only once, when Mughal Emperor Akbar had its water

FAB FURNISH.com

END OF SEASON SALE

UP TO 60% OFF

50,000+ FURNITURE & HOME DECOR PRODUCTS
Extra 10% cashback* on

paytm

*Upto ₹500 Only | T&C Apply

Shop Online



Videos

Yaduveer Wa
marries Trish
in Mysuru...

A pub with a

Subscribe -

Get
M
on jetai
Always.com

Most Popular

Commented

supply poisoned. Residents of the fort faced acute shortage of water and succumbed to attacks.

'Pol' was a word I stumbled upon many times in the fort — at every arch and entrance. Bagga Pol, Chaugan Pol, Ram Pol, Aaret Pol, Halla Pol, Pagda Pol, to name a few. 'Pol', in those days, meant 'gate'. Each 'pol' opened up to one part of the fort and had a particular significance associated with it. For instance, Aaret Pol had the watch tower, Halla Pol expected people to maintain silence, while at Pagda Pol, one was supposed to remove one's pagda as a mark of respect to the king, as this gate led to the king's arena.

Palace of dreams

Not only is this fort renowned for its walls, but also for its fairytale appearance — perhaps due to the gorgeous palaces atop the hills, the palace of Rana Kumbha and the 'Palace of Clouds' (Badal Mahal). Badal Mahal is so called as the clouds are just a jump away to touch, especially during the monsoons. Marking the birthplace of Maharana Pratap, the great king of Mewars, this palace is a favourite among visitors. The Rajputani style used to build this palace is exquisite and thorough in its creation. Its rooms have a beautiful choice of colours — green, white, turquoise and blue — offering a delightful contrast to the earthy colours of the fort. Do not miss peeping out through the wooden windows for a breathtaking view of the Aravalli Range. In fact, this palace underwent a remarkable makeover when Rana Fateh Singh, who reigned in the late 19th century, rebuilt it, thus bringing in more character and grandeur to this place of royalty. Shrine of sacrifice

I would not doubt the immense belief that the Rajputs had in their gods — they had 360-odd temples built inside the fort — with 300 ancient Jain temples and the rest belonging to Hindu gods. One of the temples of Shiva I went into had a huge white Shivalinga. The pinkish-red rays of sunlight was so directional that it accentuated the features of this linga beautifully.

Every evening, at sunset, there is a 'Light & Sound' show inside the fort, where historical stories of the Mewar period are narrated. According to one, Rana Kumbha had many unsuccessful attempts at building the fort wall, which is when, a spiritual preceptor stepped in and advised that a human sacrifice would solve whatever was causing the impediment. He said that if a temple was built at the place where the head fell and the walls of the fort were built where the rest of the body lay, then, the fort wall would surely stand tall! After a long wait, a pilgrim (some say, he was a soldier) volunteered for the cause and was ritually beheaded. Magical it would seem, but, this time around, Rana Kumbha succeeded in completing the fort wall. In honour of this great sacrifice, the main gate of the fortress, Hanuman Pol, has a shrine in honour of the pilgrim.

Truly, that was a glorious era of Rajasthan, wherein the ideals, honour, sacrifice and chivalry ruled supreme.

[Go to Top](#)

E-mail this Page Print this Page Bookmark

Like 3 Tweet G+1 0

Gantt Charts, Dashboard, Reporting, Project Manager Tools
Try It Free!



Gantt Charts, Dashboard, Reporting, Project Manager Tools
Try It Free!



- India's NSC
- Police deta
- UoM Prof je
- Swamy's se into IIT-K
- Yoga not a
- Swamy atte unfair, false
- Centre retu following pr

Photo Galler



A sand sculpt Srabani Na

ENGW vs PAK
England Won

ENG
Detailed Score



0 Comments Deccan Herald

1 Login

Recommend

Share

Sort by Best



Start the discussion...

Be the first to comment.

Subscribe

Add Disqus to your site Add Disqus Add

Privacy

Sponsored

रहस्यमयी तरीके से ट्रेन से गायब हुई बैंक मैनेजर की पत्नी

Aaj Tak

Best Performing Mutual Funds to Invest in 2016

FundsIndia

25 Hilarious Royal Family Photos That Will Make Your Jaw Drop

Time To Break

No Entry: 5 Places In India Where Indians Are Banned!

Lifehacker

Bikini Bombshell Hilary Duff Gets Playful On The Beach With Her Ex

Radar Online

What is the Best Option to Invest Your Savings?

ABM MyUniverse@

LeEco Le Max2 Live the future

FREE CLEAR ₹1990

₹ 22,999

Flash Sale on 28th June

REGISTER NOW

SBI

About Us | News | Business | Sports | Supplements | Contact Us | Subscribe | Privacy Pc

Copyright 2014, The Printers (Mysore) Private Ltd., 75, M.G Road, Post Box 5331, Bengaluru - 5600

Tel: +91 (80) 25880000 Fax No. +91 (80) 25880523