



## World Techno Day

There is just something so compelling about the driving rhythm that reaches right down into the depths of the soul and brings out that base animal nature. For some, techno is just music that gets their heart rate up. For others, it's a shamanic dive into the psychedelic lights and writings about an altered state, irrespective of any chemical influence. World Techno Day is dedicated to bringing more people into the world of techno music, to discover this music and the places deep within them that can be touched and brought to life by embracing this vibrant nature.

### #TRIED & TASTED

## Classic Christmas Cookies

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Cookie season is in full swing and we can't wait to get baking! Fill your treat trays with these classics, from crispy gingerbread to melt-in-your-mouth spritz and stash some away for yourself, too.



### Almond Spritz Cookies



#### Ingredients

- 1 cup butter, softened
- 1/2 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup packed brown sugar
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1/2 teaspoon almond extract
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 2-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- Pink and red coloured sugar, optional

#### Preparation

1. In a large bowl, cream butter and sugars until light and fluffy for 5-7 minutes. Beat in egg and extracts. Combine the flour, baking soda and salt. Gradually, add to the creamed mixture and mix well.
2. Using a cookie press, fitted with the disk of your choice, press dough in two parts, onto ungreased baking sheets. If desired, sprinkle with coloured sugar.
3. Bake at 375° until edges just begin to brown for 7-9 minutes. Cool on wire racks.

### Vanilla-Butter Sugar Cookies



#### Ingredients

- 1-1/2 cups butter, softened
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 2 large eggs, room temperature
- 2 tablespoons vanilla extract
- 4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1 teaspoon salt
- 1 teaspoon baking soda
- 1 teaspoon cream of tartar

#### Preparation

1. Cream butter and sugar until light and fluffy for 5-7 minutes. Beat in eggs and vanilla. In another bowl, whisk flour, salt, baking soda and cream of tartar. Gradually, beat into creamed mixture. Refrigerate, covered, for 30 minutes.
2. Preheat oven to 350°. On a lightly floured surface, roll dough to 1/4-in thickness. Cut with floured 2-1/2-in cookie cutters. Place one, apart on ungreased baking sheets and chill in refrigerator for 15 minutes. Bake for 10-12 minutes. Cool on wire racks.
3. For frosting, beat confectioners' sugar, butter, vanilla and enough milk to reach desired consistency. If desired, add a few drops of food colouring. Cut a small hole in the tip of a pastry bag or in a corner of a food-safe plastic bag, transfer frosting to bag. Pipe decorations. Sprinkle with coloured sugar or decorate with sugar pearls.

### Snickerdoodles



#### Ingredients

- 1/2 cup butter, softened
- 1 cup plus 2 tablespoons sugar, divided
- 1 large egg, room temperature
- 1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1-1/2 cups all-purpose flour
- 1/4 teaspoon baking soda
- 1/4 teaspoon cream of tartar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon

#### Preparation

1. Preheat oven to 375°. Cream butter and 1 cup sugar until light and fluffy; beat in egg and vanilla. In another bowl, whisk together flour, baking soda and cream of tartar; gradually beat into creamed mixture.
2. In a small bowl, mix cinnamon and remaining 2 Tbsp. sugar. Shape dough into 1-in balls; roll in cinnamon sugar. Place 2-in, apart on ungreased baking sheets.
3. Bake until light brown for 10-12 minutes. Remove from pans to wire racks, to cool.

# Jaipur In The 1st Battle Of Independence

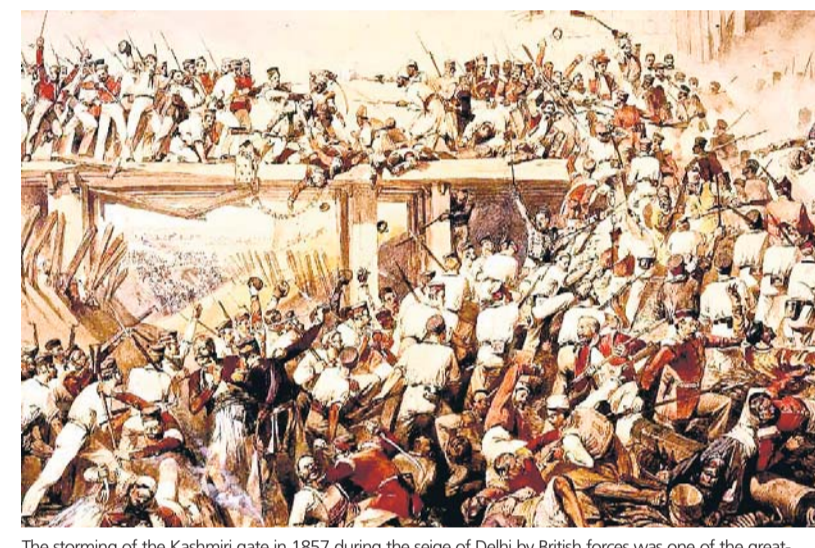
Another legend is that Bahadur Shah Zafar was determined not to lead the rebel sepoys, who had promised him the wealth of India to fill up his depleted coffers, but a dream made him change his stance. According to his private secretary, Jivan Lal, the King was told in a vision by his grandfather (Shah Alam) that the time had come to undo what had happened at the Battle of Plassey, 100 years ago and that he should lead the rebellion. But at 82, Bahadur Shah hardly slept at night because of a persistent cough and dreams had long ceased to be part of his sleep.



Rebel sepoys at Delhi, India at the outbreak of the Indian rebellion.



Cap, reputed to have belonged to Bahadur Shah Zafar II.



The storming of the Kashmiri gate in 1857 during the siege of Delhi by British forces was one of the great feat-of-arms of the bloody conflict.



Bahadur Shah II.



Anjali Sharma  
Senior journalist & wildlife enthusiast

Though Jaipur State did not take active part in the "Mutiny" of 1857, it did give refuge to a number of freedom fighters who escaped the British wrath. Earlier even *frangi* fugitives from Delhi and Agra sought protection in Jaipur. Among them was Sir Theophilus Metcalfe, who fled on a horse, wearing Indian clothes provided by the *Thanedar* of Paharganj. He stayed on in the city till the British forces had recaptured Delhi and was most thankful to Maharaja Sawai Ram Singh II for saving his life, after a Gujar mob raided Metcalfe House in North Delhi and chased him half-naked up Daryaganj. He died in 1883, three years after the Maharaja, who ruled from 1835 to 1880, part of which period coincided with the "Mutiny" or the First War of Independence.

The First War of Independence in 1857 was a watershed in India's history as it marked the end of the medieval era and the beginning of a new one, the precursor of the modern age. That was also the time when legends and superstitions played a big part in guiding the destinies of both the British and Indian contestants. The late Lala Hanwant Sahai's grandfather had heard in Chandni Chowk that when the new moon would come right above the ramparts of the Red Fort, its moat would be filled up with the blood of the *frangis*, but if the blood made its way to the Yamuna and polluted the river, the British would win back what they had lost. Hanwant Sahai was one of those held for conspiracy in the "Hardinge Bomb case" of 1912 but by then, his grandfather was dead. The *Maulvi* of Faizabad, Ahmadullah Shah, who had made the prophecy of the new moon, had done so, not in Delhi but in the main market of Meerut, where "Sab Lal hoga" slogans in crimson dye were daubed on walls and stables. To counter Sir Charles Napier's assertion that if he became Governor General, "Christianity would become the

State religion as Providence had entrusted India to England", the *Maulvi* had called upon Muslims and Hindus to combine and protect the faith of their forefathers. His deep-set eyes and fierce men had the desired effect when he told the sepoys in Sadar Bazar, Meerut that the Queen's Rifles had been ordered to disarm them. With a loud shout of "Maro *frangi ko*", the sepoys ran to the cantonments and set the bungalows of the British ablaze. Col John Finnis, a

taking fright, slithered away into the thicket. Another legend is that Bahadur Shah Zafar was determined not to lead the rebel sepoys, who had promised him the wealth of India to fill up his depleted coffers, but a dream made him change his stance. According to his private secretary, Jivan Lal, the King was told in a vision by his grandfather (Shah Alam) that the time had come to undo what had happened at the Battle of Plassey, 100 years ago and

## #AZADI-GATHA



Rare pic of Emperor Bahadur Shah Zafar with sons at his renovated tomb in Yangon. -Nitin Shrivastav

On the way, they saw a bluejay (*neelkanth*) flying towards its destination and the Hindus among them shouted, "There goes Lord Shiva's sentinel to guide our way." Soon after, a white-bearded *fakir* was sighted, sitting on a mound and reciting the *Kalma*, which the *Mussalman* soldiers took as a propitious sign. However, the *fakir* was disturbed in his recitation by a king cobra, with hood raised, that threatened to strike him. The *Pathan* sepoys picked up stones to kill it but the Brahmin and Rajput comrades forbade them, saying it too was a sign of *shivji's* blessing to the cause. The alarmed *fakir* suddenly stood up, with his "chintia" tongs of bent iron

veteran of 40 years, who tried to stop them, was shot through the head, the first of many killed from Sunday, May 10 till Monday, when the sepoys left for Delhi. On the way they saw a bluejay (*neelkanth*) flying towards its destination and the Hindus among them shouted, "There goes Lord Shiva's sentinel to guide our way." Soon after, a white-bearded *fakir* was sighted, sitting on a mound and reciting the *Kalma*, which the *Mussalman* soldiers took as a propitious sign. However, the *fakir* was disturbed in his recitation by a king cobra, with hood raised, that threatened to strike him. The *Pathan* sepoys picked up stones to kill it but the Brahmin and Rajput comrades forbade them, saying it too was a sign of *shivji's* blessing to the cause. The alarmed *fakir* suddenly stood up, with his "chintia" tongs of bent iron and the snake,

that he should lead the rebellion. But at 82, Bahadur Shah hardly slept at night because of a persistent cough and dreams had long ceased to be part of his sleep. It was his queen, Zinat Mahal, who later won him over to support the freedom fighters. The Angel of Death was seen hovering over the Red Fort. An apparition was also witnessed before the death of Aurangzeb in Feb 1707. A headless warrior, riding a horse startled many a belated traveller near the Kashmir Gate. He came to be known as the *Dund* or man with just a neck sticking out above his shoulders. The *Dund* was also seen in Bareilly, Agra, Lucknow, Jaipur and Faizabad. Wherever he went, there was bloodshed. In Agra, the Statesman reported, "Before the onset of the summer of 1857, a sheet of blood was seen on several nights in the sky that seemed to extend

right up to Delhi and beyond." Strange sightings were reported on the ridge too by English soldiers. One of them saw a long line of kings, silently trooping down to the city and then disappearing (end of the Mughal dynasty). Another soldier saw his dead father, wagging his finger, as though warning him of lurking dangers. A British woman, Harriet Tytler, wife of

Shahjahanpur, the daughter of a Protestant priest, had a nightmare in which she saw a whole lot of people being shot and among them, her father. She also saw a man in black, walking in her house, after midnight. The spectre would always disappear near the staircase. Her dream came true, as on a May morning, in 1857, rebel sepoys attacked and killed many *frangis* including the girl's father. But she and her mother escaped.

In Chandni Chowk, a Sikh dream foretold. When Sir Syed, then 40 years old, came to inspect his house, after disturbances were quelled, he found it in a bad shape but whether the relative escaped, is not known. At the Khoooni Darwaza or Lal Darwaza of Alauddin, a man, walking towards the Delhi Gate, one evening saw blood trickling down as though somebody had been murdered there. At a shrine near the Jamuna, a naked *fakir* was heard chanting "Mar mar" at the beginning of May 1857. Another *fakir* in

in Karol Bagh, Rao Tula Ram School is a reminder of the brave ruler of Rewari whose ancestor, Rao Tej Singh, sided with Scindia at the Battle of Patparganj in 1803, which Lord Lake won for the British. After Tula Ram's defeat at the battle of Narnaul in November 1857, the gallant ruler joined Tanya Tope and in 1862, escaped to Russia. (Something that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was to emulate at the outbreak of World War II). Another hero of the Revolt was Raja Nahar Singh of Ballabgarh, who blocked the road to Delhi. "This barrier of Delhi" admitted Sir John Lawrence to the Governor-General, Lord Canning, was very difficult to break unless "we receive reinforcements from China or England."

Shahjahanpur made his *takia* (globe) ring with the same chant as did a sadhu in Jaipur's old cremation ground. What does one make of these uncanny happenings? Do coming events cast their shadow, especially of macabre incidents? One doesn't know but then all the witnesses couldn't be lying. Incidentally, modern research has proved that the mind has infinite capacities of foresight. Maybe, what are termed as gloomy pre-"Mutiny" yarns, were not just balderdash.

In Ballimaran, the haveli of Hakim Ahsanullah Khan can still be seen with its old ambience preserved. The *hakim* was not only the personal doctor of Bahadur Shah Zafar but also his closest adviser. Some distance away from Lal Kuan is the Zeenat Mahal, ancestral home of the emperor's youngest wife, now turned into a school and not far from Mubarak Masjid, built by

the Bibi of Gen Ochterlony, an ex-dancing girl. She later married a Mughal soldier, Wilayat Khan and took active part in the First War of Independence. In Karol Bagh, Rao Tula Ram School is a reminder of the brave ruler of Rewari whose ancestor, Rao Tej Singh, sided with Scindia at the Battle of Patparganj in 1803, which Lord Lake won for the British. After Tula Ram's defeat at the battle of Narnaul in November 1857, the gallant ruler joined Tanya Tope and in 1862, escaped to Russia. (Something that Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was to emulate at the outbreak of World War II). Another hero of the Revolt was Raja Nahar Singh of Ballabgarh, who blocked the road to Delhi. "This barrier of Delhi" admitted Sir John Lawrence to the Governor-General, Lord Canning, was very difficult to break unless "we receive reinforcements from China or England."

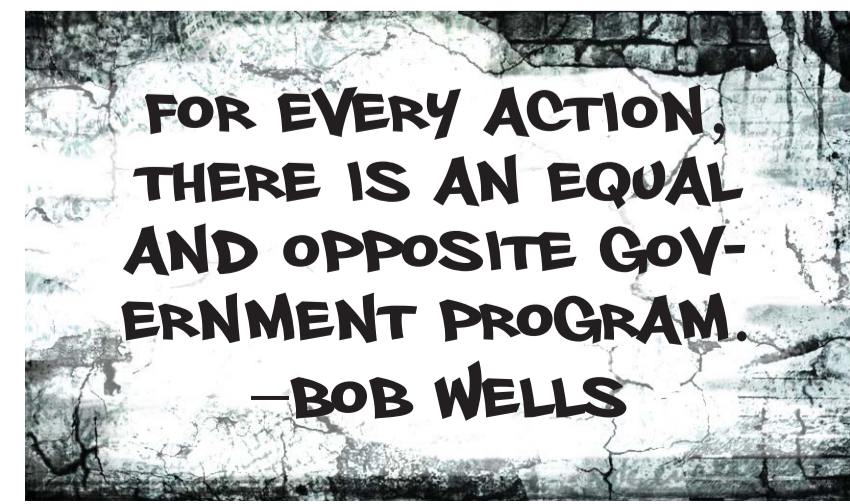


Zafar mahal.

large number of *frangi* soldiers. Eventually, Nahar Singh was lured by the British to Delhi, on the pretext of helping them reach an agreement with Zafar. Once while he entered the city, he was captured and as he did not accept the hand of friendship extended to him, was hanged on his 35th birthday, Sept. 21, 1858. One prince, who escaped the vengeful British was Perroz Shah, who had been away on *Haji*, when the revolt broke out. On his way to Delhi on Aug 26, 1857, the troops in Gwalior pleaded him to lead them. The prince agreed and captured Dhar but was later defeated and after joining Tope, managed to escape to Nepal. His, not so fortunate younger brother, was Mirza Nasir-ul-Mulk, who became a cripple and was reduced to begging. Besides, the more famous events of 1857, these remain half-forgotten episodes of those tumultuous times when Independence was almost achieved by the rebel sepoys and the marks of cannonading on the walls of the Kashmir Gate and the spot where the British magazine or ammunition store was blown up, are evidence of this.

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## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS



By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman