

## #JADORE

# Ace the Style for Diwali Week

There's no doubt, Indian outfits are the go-to Diwali clothing and all of us want to wear our best Indian attire.

With Diwali fast approaching, everything is soon going to be bright and festive and festivals are a perfect excuse to dress up your best and look exceptional. Diwali is a festival that lasts for more than a week.

We are sure you are looking for Diwali dress for women that will have you dressed to perfection and looking phenomenal.

Now, when it comes to ethnic wear, women have the luxury of a lot of options. But having more Diwali dress ideas usually leads to a lot of confusion. Jaipur markets are all stuffed up with exclusively festive and designer collections of Diwali dress for women in leheryia and bandhani. Be it lehengas, Ghararas, or the Indo western attires to make you shine this Diwali.

Read on to know about the latest fashion dresses to try for this festive season.

### Forever Favourite Lehenga



It is now the time to make a transit ahead of the conventional sarees and spice up your ethnic wardrobe collection with trendy ruffles. A stylish ruffle saree is amongst the best Diwali outfits that remained in trend last festive season and are sure to be the top outfit option this festive season too.

### Traditional Gharara Dress For A Royal Touch



Last but not the least is a traditional gharara dress that is amongst the top Diwali dress ideas you can flaunt this festive season. A traditional gharara dress gets recognised as a sister outfit of a sharaara dress, but it comes with a twist.

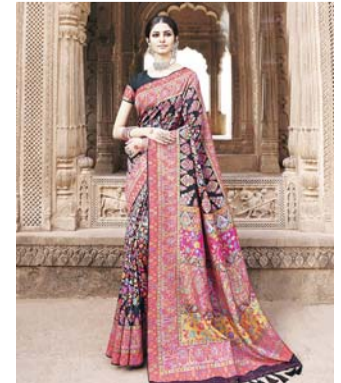
### Trendy Crop Top Sets



There are a few women who love to wear everything minimal and not too glitzy or glittery. For them, we have picked up this Jaipur Stuff Kurti set that will make you stand out and look classy. Sport this three-piece Kurti set and go ahead and turn some heads.

### Traditional Silk Sarees

The very essence of India lies entwined in the folds of this



beautiful Indian garment. This may sound cliché, but a traditional silk saree is indeed that versatile garment that can make that head-turning style statement on a myriad of occasions. Nowadays silk salwar suits are also a hot trend for festive wear.

### Trendy Ruffle Sarees



As the sun rose further, it was time for E Troop to make tea, change guards over their two motley 3.75 field gun emplacements with 80 old rounds of gun ammunition, and clear the ice inside the gun barrels. Just as they did during previous days, today they would have to once again go searching for the balance of two guns and 800 rounds of ammunition that had been airdropped by Dakotas from Guwahati, brought on pallets by 'Packet' aircraft from Agra. They also had to collect more rocks and pile them up around the gun pits to create a fortification, besides sitting their MMGs at Black Rock, a bleak feature 800 metre towards the west, from where the PLA would come, if they came. They had no digging implement other than their bayonets and in any case the ground was frozen solid and rocky to dig trenches or defences like battle of Somme and Flanders in World War-I.

### Traditional Silk Sarees



Opt for trendy crop tops and add a touch of modernity with your traditional attire. The fad for palazzo pants has been overwhelming and embellished crop tops look so amazing when combined with a flared skirt or flowy palazzo made from fancy fabrics. The magical part about this style is that they can be both worn together or even separately.

## #THIS DAY, THAT YEAR



Wg Cdr Unni Kartha (Retd) aka Cyclic is a retired pilot with a penchant for storytelling

At sunrise on 16 Oct 62, at 04.45 IST, it began to cast a reddish glow on eastern horizon over the 16,000 feet Karpo La-1 range. Within half an hour it would be bright enough to see at Tsangdhar and Thagla ridge, but it would be dark down in Namka Chu till seven or eight in the morning.

At the eastern end of a rock strewn 800 x 600 mtr sloping Tsangdhar Dropping Zone (DZ) at 14,500 ft, about ten km north of Karpo La-1 as a crew would go, on top of the bleak rocky mountain range adjoining the Namka Chu valley, what was left of the E Troop, of 52 Parachute Field Battery (PFB), shook and shivered in the bitter cold in their make shift shelters. 12 out of them, including few of their older supervisory gun battery JCOs and NCOs, had to be evacuated to the ADS at Lumpu, by Williams in his 'Machar' (Bell 47G) helicopter due to Pulmonary Oedema. The serious stretcher cases, who could not sit up in the rear seat of the Bell, were given a large Morphine shot from the field dressing and tied down in 'paniers' (baskets) fixed on the landing skid on either side, outside the helicopter. If they woke up in flight and tried to jump off, Williams had no option but to bash them on their head with a stick to knock them unconscious once again!

### Fortification

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E-Troop of 52 PFB with 2 x world war vintage 3.75 field guns and 80 rounds of ammo were the only artillery that was available to



# No Paper... So Messages On Chapattis...

7 Bde at Namka Chu, on that day, and the ensuing days. If or when war came, they would have to make each round count. And exposed as they were, they would be an easy target to pick by PLA's larger field guns, with greater punch and longer range, now visible on Thagla massif.

The Namka Chu rivulet, where 7 Bde HQ was located, was about 4 or 5 km away to north, about 6000 feet below, in total darkness. When the sun rose further, E-Troop would have complete aerial view of Namka Chu frontage of 7 Bde deployment, 7 or 8 km wide, west to east from Tsangle to Kenzemane, just as the PLA observation posts would also have, sitting on the Thagla massif at 16,000 feet, north of them. Namkachu and the Bde HQ, at the bottom of the valley, now lay smothered in fog and darkness. The sun was yet to light up 7 Bde and fighting locations of its lodger units.

21 yr old Lt AJS Behl, 'Gun Position Officer' of E-Troop 52 PFB tried to burrow himself deeper under his horse hair blanket, in his makeshift rocky ledge covered with a parachute salvaged from the DZ. He slept in fits and starts, on the rocky ground, with all his clothes and boots on to ward off the teeth chattering cold, right next to a log fire. He still shivered continuously out of cold and fear. The previous day he had seen the PLA coming down the Thagla mas-

sif to reposition their artillery and mortars, aimed at 7 Bde locations. His 3.75 guns could not reach them. He needed to contact his superior Capt HS Talwar, commanding E Troop 52 PFB, to brief him and ask for orders.

### Airdropped by Dakotas

Talwar had gone down to meet the BM of 7 Bde and had not come back. A cranking type, point to point field telephone that had been installed by Maj Ram Singh and his valiant men from Corps Signals, had some fault and Behl was out of touch with the Bde field exchange. The battery of the VHF radio set with Behl had no acid and hence was useless. The Mopna porters who had been hired from Towang to man pack the mountain of stores of 7 Bde and its lodger units, had emptied battery acid to make it lighter when they carried it up the Blue Mountain and hence 7 Bde HQ had to use runners to communicate with HQs of four battalions and dispersed companies under it, from Tsangle to Khenzemane.

There was nothing much that Behl could do, other than to wait for Talwar to come back to take charge, or rely on his young limited wisdom and the experience of the older JCOs and NCOs, to do whatever there was to be done. So he burrowed himself deeper under the horse hair blanket and went back to sleep, till someone came to wake him with an enamel mug of tea. 'Satsriyakal Saabji, Cha Pio, Dakota Dropping Shuru Ho Gaya Sir, said his batman, inviting him for the daily ringside entertainment.

As he had been doing for past ten days, Flt Lt Sadatulla in his Dakota promptly came over head 'Tsangdhar at 0645 to do a weather reconnaissance and to do an air drop. None was allowed to go on the DZ when the drops were being done. E-Troop of 52 PFB sat around sipping tea and watched the air drop. Besides the Chinese were floating towards the Evesen positions across the Namka Chu rivulet, towards Tseng Jong and fell into PLA hands. What 7 Bde required most, acid for batteries to operate radio communication sets, were their only entertainment.

Packets and Dakotas daily air dropped stores of every kind on the DZ, everything that the army thought would be required by 7 Bde. Aatta, Rice, Sugar, Salt, Besan...etc in 55 kg double lined jute bags were free dropped, kicked out of the aircraft in lots of six sacks at a time. Rum in 24 ltr jerry cans, 52 kg boxed ammunition for 303 rifles, Smith & Wesson pistol, Sten gun, 7.62 submachine gun, LMG/MMG, belted ammo, hand grenades, antipersonnel mimes, so on, kerosene and petrol in 200 ltr drums, Meat On Hoof (boxed live goats), these were para dropped. Large 300 mtr rolls of Cortina barbed wire, sand bags, so on, were brought to Guwahati



Tawang District in Arunachal Pradesh.

wake him with an enamel mug of tea. 'Satsriyakal Saabji, Cha Pio, Dakota Dropping Shuru Ho Gaya Sir, said his batman, inviting him for the daily ringside entertainment.

### A 'jugad' to Search

The Dakotas went round and round in tight circles, between 300-350 feet above the DZ at about 115 mph, dropped fairly in the centre of the DZ. But the Packet drops, in one or two pass at a higher speed, in much larger quantities, were wide spread and some even went floating towards the Evesen positions across the Namka Chu rivulet, towards Tseng Jong and fell into PLA hands. What 7 Bde required most, acid for batteries to operate radio communication sets, or run the field telephone exchange, these the AF would not carry since it was prohibited cargo.

On seeing that there may be a war in the offing, most of the Mopna tribal from Towang, hired as porters and pioneer for manual labour, ran off. So there was none to help collect the goods air dropped. Dalvi ordered a 'free for all', asking his unit commanders to deputise fighting troops to go and collect whatever they required directly from the DZ. So, half the troops, who were yet to acclimatise to high altitude, were put to use as pioneers, instead of active patrolling and creating effective defences. The 200 ltr kerosene drums were too heavy to lift and



## International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

Poverty has many faces, whether it be starving children in Africa or India or whether it be a struggling single Mother crying in the supermarket as her children look on confused. The UN has declared Fighting Poverty to be one of the cores of their Millennium Development Goals. With rising awareness in recent decades there are now more steps than ever being taken towards the eradication of poverty and the assistance and inclusion of those struggling with poverty towards being a part of the solution.



Namka Chu valley.



Zementhang

there were no jerry cans to decant. Similarly the Cortina wire rolls and sand bags were too heavy to lift or carry. Out of necessity, soldiers found improvisation and 'jugad' to search and collect basic necessities. Aatta and Sugar bags were punctured with bayonets and their contents filled into back packs, pagaris of Sikhs or helmets, cooking oil in water bottles and so on.

### Uphill all the Way

In a day a soldier could only make one trip with 10-12 kgs of load at that altitude. The worst case were 9 Sikh deployed at 'Tsangle, they had to travel the longest, uphill all the way. Others, from 2 Rajput and Gorkhas walked along Namka Chu river, now almost dry, came to 7Bde HQ location and then climbed up to the DZ. Like rag pickers, they went around collecting this or that in piece meal, what they could carry back to their dispersed locations.

In the meanwhile, not aware of the ground situation, the IAF kept dropping tons of same stores every day. By 16 Oct, the whole DZ was littered with parachutes, almost ten feet high. In the next four ensuing days, till 20th Oct morning, they would continue to do the same, a complete waste and of little or no use to 7 Bde. It would later come as a great gift to PLA when they over ran 7 Bde.

The small makeshift Helipad, at 14,500 feet was near where E-Troop of 52 PFB was located, in the north eastern most corner of the DZ, about 200 yds away. Because of undulating terrain, big boulders, and sheer drops, which had to be circumnavigated, high altitude that effects breathing and saps energy, Namka Chu rivulet, location of 7 Bde HQ, near log bridge 4, was about 2 or 3 hrs walking distance from the helipad, depending on whether one was going up or downhill. E troop 52 PFB were the only troops deployed near the helipad and DZ, with a platoon of 1/9 GR east of them. Rest of 7Bde (9 Punjab, 2 Rajputs, Grenadiers, and balance of 1/9 GR) were the only fighting force under GoC4 Div, now located in Zementhang, 15- 20 minutes by 'Machar' helicopter, and 2 days walking distance with a night halt in the open near Hathungla pass.

More forces were arriving by train at Tezpur from the plains of Punjab and Deccan, all of them in summer clothing and un-acclimated to high altitude. They were then rushed up by 4 Corps across the Bhranmaputra in steamers to Tezu and Walong, and others pushed forward up the blue mountain to Towang and some to Zementhang, partly by road, partly on foot and a few using the newly arrived six Mi-4s of 110 HU stationed at Tezpur. 106 HU operating at Jorhat with Bell 47 G3s (Machar) and two S55s had been split into two. A flight was sent to Leh and B Flight was moved as a detachment under a TAC and co located with 4 Div at Zementhang. Though everyone could fly upto 40 km long, point to point, shielded cable hung on trees. However, there was severe limitation on the manually switched telephone exchanges at both ends, too many callers, and too short talk time, book a call and wait.

Li Behl of E Troop 52 PFB (PoW, later Brig recalls, everyone in the Bde cranked, yelled, was connected to the brigade communication post, asked for individuals and was patched in to talk for a few minutes at a time, turn by turn. Fire support to the entire brigade frontage by the two howitzers was to be managed by us in this primitive way. At that time I was quite sure that in the heat of the battle, I may never have communication, may have to think 'two up' with no for-



'Machar' (Bell 47G3) helicopter.

open near Hathungla pass.

### Communication Blackout

The acute lack of communication between 4 Div, with 7 Bde and sub units of 7 Bde, was pragmatically resolved by venerable Col Tiwari and Maj Ram Singh of Corps Signal Unit, by physically laying a 40 km long, point to point, shielded cable hung on trees. However, there was severe limitation on the manually switched telephone exchanges at both ends, too many callers, and too short talk time, book a call and wait. Li Behl of E Troop 52 PFB (PoW, later Brig recalls, everyone in the Bde cranked, yelled, was connected to the brigade communication post, asked for individuals and was patched in to talk for a few minutes at a time, turn by turn. Fire support to the entire brigade frontage by the two howitzers was to be managed by us in this primitive way. At that time I was quite sure that in the heat of the battle, I may never have communication, may have to think 'two up' with no for-

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mal instructions and hence made my own adhoc orders for my gun crew to do independent targeting of likely enemy approaches, if the battle brought them across the Namka Chu rivulet'. Lt Behl was correct in his assessment. Before striking 7 Bde, the Chinese cut the telephone cables, and there was total communication blackout in 7 Bde due to over dependence on field cable relay and no radio.

On 16th evening, Dalvi sent a message for all his unit commanders to gather in Bde HQ at 1000 hrs next morning for strategizing on a defensive plan if the Chinese attacked. By the farthest stretch of his imagination and military acumen, he could not think of a way to attack or counter attack the PLA as directed by Gol, Kaul's orders. Dalvi couldn't withdraw either till ordered by Kaul or Niranjan Prasad. So it had to be a fight to the last bullet and last man that he had to urge his unit commanders to do. The message for the meeting was sent through runners, written on 'Chapatihis'. There was no paper, ink or pen, but they had Chapatihis, courtesy the zestful air drops.

against his faith as a Bahai. **Communication Blackout** The acute lack of communication between 4 Div, with 7 Bde and sub units of 7 Bde, was pragmatically resolved by venerable Col Tiwari and Maj Ram Singh of Corps Signal Unit, by physically laying a 40 km long, point to point, shielded cable hung on trees. However, there was severe limitation on the manually switched telephone exchanges at both ends, too many callers, and too short talk time, book a call and wait. Li Behl of E Troop 52 PFB (PoW, later Brig recalls, everyone in the Bde cranked, yelled, was connected to the brigade communication post, asked for individuals and was patched in to talk for a few minutes at a time, turn by turn. Fire support to the entire brigade frontage by the two howitzers was to be managed by us in this primitive way. At that time I was quite sure that in the heat of the battle, I may never have communication, may have to think 'two up' with no for-

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Dakotas daily air dropped stores of every kind.

## #COVID-19

# Booster Shots For Oldies

When blood samples were again taken and tested 14 to 30 days after a booster shot, antibody levels for older adults matched those in the younger group. A third dose also eliminated disparities between males and females within the same age group.



COVID-19 booster shots are essential for maintaining long-term immunity against infection, particularly among older adults, a new study shows.

Findings in Clinical Infectious Diseases directly support the CDC vaccination guidelines recommending COVID-19 boosters, the researchers say. A previous study documented a significant decline in protective antibody response among all vaccine recipients six months after an initial two-dose series of mRNA vaccines, particularly in older adults whose immune systems weaken with age and respond less efficiently to viral and bacterial infections.

These previous studies also showed a sharper decline in immune response in men compared with women in adults over 74 years.

For the new study, investigators tested COVID-19 antibody levels in blood samples from more than 80 adults ages 75-98 who had two initial doses of the mRNA vaccines made by either Pfizer or Moderna and no known history of COVID infection.

As a comparison group, researchers also tested the blood of 84 adults under 75 years old with the same vaccination and infection history. When blood samples were again taken and tested 14 to 30 days after a booster shot, antibody levels for older adults matched those in the younger group. A third dose also eliminated disparities between males and females within the same age group.

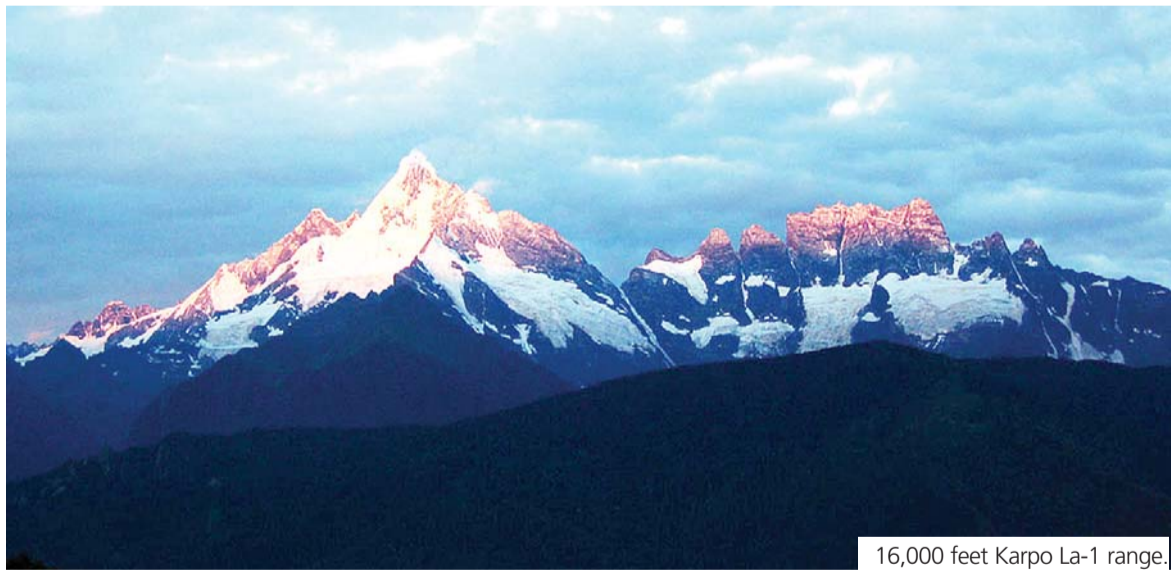
"The data support the CDC guidelines for COVID-19 vaccination and affirm that the vaccine is initially able to mount a good antibody response," says Sean Leng, a professor of medicine who specializes in geriatric medicine at the Johns Hopkins University School of Medicine.

But, he adds, older people need to be especially encouraged to get the vaccine and boosters to keep them protected from breakthrough infections as immunity wanes.

The study also underscores the importance of continued research on factors that may affect immunity, such as type of vaccine, age, sex, and frailty. Additional co-authors are from Johns Hopkins and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

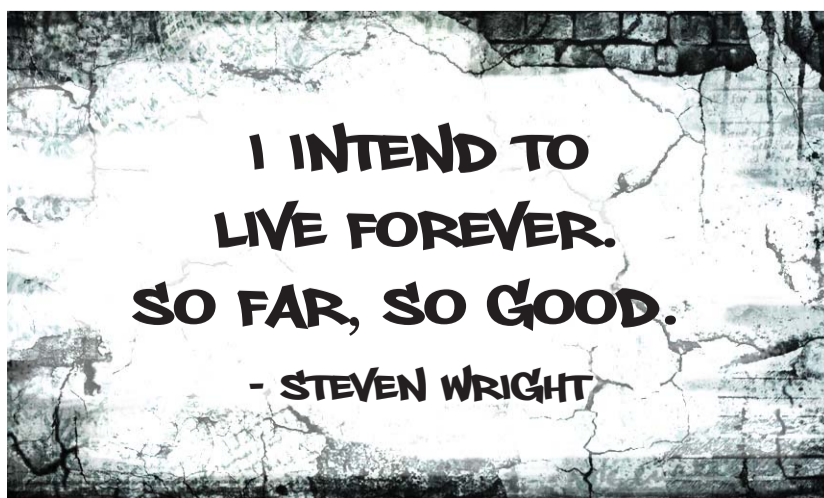


By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

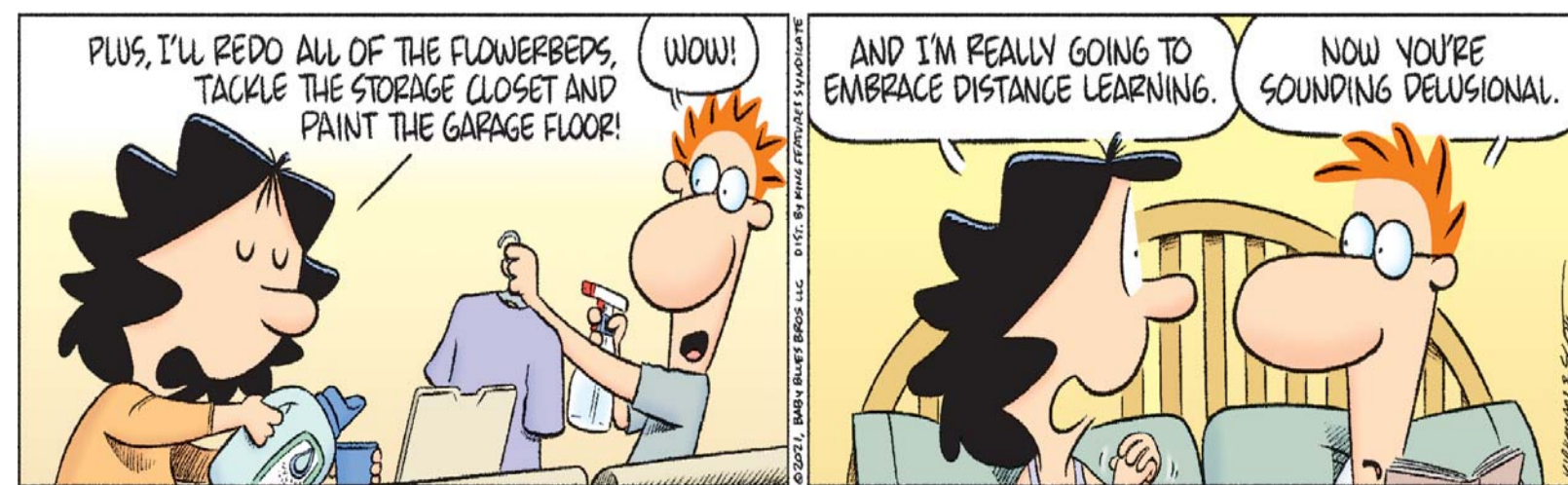


16,000 feet Karpo La-1 range

## THE WALL



## BABY BLUES



By Rick Kirkman & Jerry Scott

## ZITS

