



Established 1865 sunday pioneer

DEHRADUN, SUNDAY JANUARY 26, 2025; PAGES 12 ₹ 3



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PUBLISHED FROM: DELHI | LUCKNOW | BHOPAL | BHUBANESWAR | RANCHI | RAIPUR | CHANDIGARH | DEHRADUN | HYDERABAD | VIJAYWADA

76TH HAPPY REPUBLIC DAY

US SUPREME COURT PAVES WAY FOR EXTRADITION OF 26/11 ATTACKS MASTERMIND RANA

T N RAGHUNATHA ■ MUMBAI

In a major development, the US Supreme Court has paved the way for Pakistani-Canadian national and 26/11 attacks case accused Tahawwur Hussain Rana's extradition to India where he will face trial in the Mumbai terror strikes case. The US apex court early this week dismissed Rana's review petition (writ of 'certiorari') filed on November 13, 2024 challenging his extradition to India. With the rejection of his petition, Rana has exhausted all his legal options to evade his extradition to India. Now, Rana's extradition to India has become imminent. In the past, Rana had lost similar pleas, both in US Court of Appeals in San Francisco and several federal courts, to be sent to India for prosecution of charges in the November 26-29, 2008 attacks case, in which 166 people were killed and 300 others injured. During the hearing in his latest plea in December 2024, the US Solicitor General

Elizabeth B. Prelogar had made a strong case for rejection of Rana's review petition on the ground that the Lashkar-E-Taiba (LeT) operative was not entitled for relief from extradition to India. A former medical officer in the Pakistani army, Rana had migrated to Canada in 1990 where he became a citizen before moving to Chicago. As per US law, if he is not extradited to India, he will be deported to his home country Canada after the completion of his prison term in 2027. Rana is currently lodged in a Los Angeles prison for his involvement in plotting a terror attack on the Danish newspaper Jyllands-Posten. Rana had contended that he was tried and acquitted by a federal court in Illinois (Chicago) on the charges pertaining to the 26/11 case, for which India sought his extradition. However, Prelogar had strongly opposed Rana's plea. Rana is accused of significant involvement in the 26/11 attacks case. Ajmal Kasab was among the ten Pakistani terrorists who had carried out brazen



Pakistani-origin Canadian businessman Tahawwur Rana. The US Supreme Court has cleared Mumbai attack convict Rana's extradition to India, dismissing his review petition against the move. PTI

attacks on Mumbai. While nine of the ten terrorists were killed by the security forces during the attack, the remaining one-Mohammed Ajmal Kasab - was caught alive by the police at Girgaum Chowpatty on the intervening night of November 26-27, 2008. After his conviction in the case, Kasab was hanged to death in the 26/11 attacks case in Pune's Yerwada central prison on November 21, 2012. Rana is one of the two masterminds who are yet to be brought to justice, while the other is Sayed Zabiuddin Ansari alias Abu Jundal, an Indian operative who worked for the Lashkar terror group. He was arrested in 2012 after being identified by Kasab and is currently behind the bars in Mumbai. Welcoming the impending extradition to India, senior advocate Ujjwal Nikam, who was the Special Public Prosecutor in the 26/11 attacks case, said: "This is major success for India because the Supreme Court of America has dismissed the review petition of Tahawwur Rana. Tahawwur Rana and David Headley are

the close links behind the terror attack of the 26/11 Mumbai attacks. By extraditing Tahawwur Rana, India will get more information and evidence of the involvement of some of the Pakistani people, including the Pakistan security apparatus. I am very optimistic that the extradition of Tahawwur Rana will give more evidence about the involvement of some of the security apparatus of Pakistan," Rana is a close aide of the Pakistani-American terrorist David Coleman Headley, who was also wanted by India for the 26/11 hit, carried out by 10 heavily armed Pakistan terrorists. In an amended criminal complaint in the Illinois court against Headley and his accomplice Tahawwur Hussain Rana, on October 21, 2009, the FBI had given details about the reconnaissance done by Headley in India and his links with Rahul Bhatt, whom he (Headley) had befriended during his trips to India. Bhatt and his fitness instructor friend Vilas Pandurang Varak had subsequently confirmed having

met Headley during his visits to India. It may be recalled that on September 26, 2023, the Mumbai crime branch sleuths had filed a 405-page supplementary charge-sheet against Canadian businessman of Pakistani origin Dr. Tahawwur Hussain Rana based on fresh evidence against him. Among other things, the supplementary charge-sheet had alleged that Rana had stayed in India for 11 days - from November 11, 2008 to November 22, 2008. Of these days, he spent two days in Mumbai, where he stayed at Hotel Renaissance at Powai. In its charge-sheet submitted before the trial court, the crime branch police had added Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act (UAPA) section 39A (offence relating to support given to a terrorist organisation) against Rana in the case. "We have gathered some fresh evidence against Rana in the form of statements and documents," a senior crime branch officer said.

BALANCE OF ART, SCIENCE, LITERATURE, REGION IN LIST Government announce Padma Awards

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

The government on Saturday conferred with civilian awards including Padma Vibhushan awarded to former Chief Justice of India JS Khehar, noted doctor DN Reddy and Kathak danseuse Kumudini Lakhia and violinist L. Subramaniam. Padma Vibhushan was also posthumously awarded to Osamu Suzuki, noted writer MT Vasudevan Nair and folk singer Sharda Sinha. As many as 19 persons were awarded Padma Bhushan including noted journalist A Surya Prakash who served as Chairman of Prasar Bharti



(L-R): Justice Khehar, Sharda Sinha, A Surya Prakash and Sadhvi Ritambhara

and had a stint with 'The Pioneer' as consulting editor and columnist as well as founder Director of Pioneer Media School. Noted economist Bibek Debroy, former Lok Sabha Speaker Manohar Joshi, former Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Sushil Kumar Modi and noted singer Pankaj Udhas were also conferred the

prestigious Padma Bhushan. awarded Padma Shri including 30 people in the unsung heroes category. A 100-year old freedom fighter from Goa, a Dhak player from West Bengal who trained 150 women in the male-dominated field and India's first woman puppeteer are among 30 unsung heroes who were awarded Padma Shri, a government statement said on Saturday. Libia Lobo Sardesai, who played an important role in Goa's freedom movement, cofounded an underground radio station - 'Voz da Liberdade (Voice of Freedom)' - in a forested area in 1955 to rally people against the Portuguese rule.

President Murmu bats ONOE

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ NEW DELHI

President Droupadi Murmu on Saturday advocated for the "One Nation One Election" initiative, asserting it has the potential to redefine "good governance" in the country by promoting consistency in governance, preventing policy paralysis, mitigating resource diversion, and alleviating financial burdens on the state. In her address to the nation ahead of the 76th Republic Day, she emphasised the government's ongoing efforts to eliminate remnants of a colonial mindset that have lingered in the country for decades" and cited the replacement of the British-era criminal laws with three new modern laws. "We have been witnessing concerted efforts to change that mindset... Reforms of such magnitude require an audacity of vision," she said. Highlighting the significance of the proposed bill aimed at synchronising



election schedules across the country, Murmu noted, "The 'One Nation One Election' plan can offer numerous benefits, including enhanced governance and reduced financial strain." In discussing legal reforms, she pointed out the need to replace the Indian Penal Code, the Code of Criminal Procedure, and the Indian Evidence Act with new

laws reflective of Indian traditions. She mentioned the introduction of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, the Bharatiya Nagarik Suraksha Sanhita, and the Bharatiya Sakshya Adhinyam, which prioritise the delivery of justice over mere punishment and place a strong emphasis on addressing crimes against women and children. Reflecting on the significance of the Constitution, the President highlighted the progress achieved over the past 75 years. "At the time of Independence, many parts of the country faced extreme poverty and hunger. However, we maintained a belief in ourselves and created conditions for growth," she said. Noting the contributions of farmers and labourers, she said India's economy now plays a pivotal role in global economic trends, asserting that this transformation is rooted in the framework established by the Constitution.

76th Republic Day

This Republic Day, take a pledge to make India developed and extremely prosperous.

Foreign invaders looted India

In a recent survey, the Oxfam Global UK, a world-renowned organization, has revealed that between 1765 and 1900, the Britishers plundered \$ 64.82 trillion from India. This data doesn't include other stealth and plunder by the British, the Portuguese, the Dutch, the Huns, the Shakas and the Mughals before and after this period. The average loot of 1000 years, would be at least above 100 trillion. If we consider the volume of loot as 25% of the size of the country's gross economy, then 500 years ago it should have been around \$ 500 trillion.

These data shared by foreign organisation on India's extreme prosperity is as per documentary evidence available. We want all Indians to understand these truths and facts of plunder. We should resolve and organize ourselves to save Mother India from the loot of these foreign forces in future and take a vow of partaking in this great yajna of Swadeshi, in which Patanjali has been making its humble contribution towards the nation.

We should keep in mind that foreigners have plundered trillions of dollars and are still doing so through selling soaps, shampoos, oils, cold drinks, pizza, burger etc.

Patanjali's Services to Mother India and the Sanatan

Patanjali has been serving Mother India by engaging in nation building activities that includes education, health, research and character building. During past 30 years, it has spent about one lakh crore rupees in these services and this is going uninterruptedly.

This Republic Day, we urge every Indian to become an informed citizen and save the country from economic plunder and slavery by adopting the best Swadeshi products of Patanjali. The fundamental principle of our Swadeshi campaign is that the country's money should remain within and be used in the interest of the country. We have presented an ideal example of Prosperity for Charity by investing the money earned through hard work in charity.

Sanatan's resolution on Maha Kumbh

Tenets of Sanatan Dharma are unity, equality, purity of conduct, maximization of efforts, strict adherence to one's own religion (Swadharna), goodwill, unflinching belief in Vedas, the Guru, and the Sanatan cultural constitution of God as well as the democratic constitution of the country.

In Sanatan Dharma, there is no discrimination, partiality, hypocrisy or superstition of any kind in the name of caste, class, or community. On the occasion of Mahakumbh, we need to believe, live and promote the fundamental principles of Sanatan Dharma and be determined, organized and capable of giving our 100% to establish Sanatan Dharma as the religion of the era. We also need to counter the organized antagonism against the Sanatan.

On the occasion of Maha Kumbh, in the presence of Pujyapad Swami Guru Sharananand Maharaj Ji, at Karshni Ashram

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BJP leads in big cities, independents perform better in various local bodies

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The counting of votes polled in the elections for 100 urban local bodies continued till late in the evening on Saturday though Bharatiya Janata Party mayoral candidates were leading comfortably in most of the municipal corporations. The final results are expected late at night. According to the results released by the State Election Commission (SEC) till the time of this report being filed, while the BJP performed well in large cities, independent candidates and Congress candidates performed well in smaller towns and mountainous areas.

According to the SEC, among the municipal corporations, the BJP candidates were leading in six, Congress in one and an independent candidate in one. Out of the 46 posts of municipal council chairpersons, independents won seven and were leading in three, the BJP won 12 and was leading in three and the Congress won nine and was leading in four. Out of the 43 posts of Nagar Panchayat chairperson, independents won 11, the BJP won 14 and was leading in one while the Congress won 11 and was leading in three. Out of the 540 seats of councillors in municipal corporations, the BJP had won in 33 and was leading in 109, independents had won in 43 and were leading in 49 while the Congress had won four and was leading in 52. Similarly, out of 444 seats for members of municipal councils, independents won 199 and were leading in 27, BJP won 86 and was leading in 13 while the Congress won 30 and was leading in 11. Out of the 298 seats for Nagar Panchayat

Cong & independents dominate local bodies in Chamoli

PNS ■ JYOTIRMATH

The Bharatiya Janata Party could not dominate the local body elections in Chamoli district. While independent and Congress candidates performed well, the BJP candidates managed to win in two local bodies. BJP candidates won in Gopeshwar and Karnprayag while Congress candidates won in Jyotirmath, Gairsain, Tharali, Nandprayag and Nandanagar. Independent candidates won in Pipalkoti and Pokhri. While BJP's Ganesh Chandra Shah won by 84 votes in Karnprayag, Congress' Mohan Bhandari was elected chairman of the Gairsain Nagar Panchayat by a margin of 460 votes. Independent candidate Arti

BJP & independents win in Tehri's local bodies

PNS ■ NEW TEHRI

Counting of votes in 10 urban local bodies in Tehri district concluded in the evening. Candidates of the BJP and independents managed to secure victories in these local bodies while the Congress could not secure a single win. Independent candidate Mohan Singh Rawat was elected chairman of Tehri municipal council, BJP's Shobhani Dhanola won in Chamba municipal council and independent Neelam Bijalwan won in

Independents perform better than national parties in Uttarkashi

PNS ■ UTTARKASHI

Independent candidates secured victories in various local bodies in Uttarkashi district, which is also being seen as a message from the voters to the BJP and Congress. While the two national parties managed to win in some local bodies, the independent candidates performed considerably well, to the surprise of many. The civic poll results point towards a change in the local politics and the changing priorities of the voters. Local issues and the hold of local leaders played a decisive role in



members, independents won 122 and were leading in 26, BJP won 60 and was leading in five while the Congress won 28 and was leading in four.

In the Municipal Corporation of Dehradun, BJP mayoral candidate Saurabh Thapliyal was leading, followed by Congress candidate Virendra Singh Pokhriyal. In the Municipal Corporation of Rishikesh, BJP's Shambhu Paswan was leading with independent candidate Dinesh Chandra in second position. Similarly, independent candidate Arti Bhandari was leading in the Municipal Corporation of Srinagar followed by BJP's Asha Upadhyay while the BJP's Ajay Verma was leading in the Municipal Corporation of Almora followed by the Congress' Bhairav Goswami. In the Municipal Corporation of Haldwani-Kathgodam, Congress' Lalit Joshi was leading, followed by BJP's Gajraj Singh

Nawani won in Pipalkoti. Congress candidate Sunita Rawat won in Tharali, Prithvi Singh Rautela of Congress won in Nandprayag, Deveshwari Shah of the Congress won in Jyotirmath while independent candidate Sohan Lal won by one vote in Pokhri. Following the victory of the Congress candidate in Jyotirmath, the party workers gathered on major intersections to celebrate. The Congress candidate won despite the party not sending any star campaigner to seek votes. The local MLA was the only prominent party leader who campaigned here for the Congress candidate.

Munikireti municipal council. BJP's Roshan Singh Rangad won in Lambgaon Nagar Panchayat, BJP's Anand Bisht in Ghansali Nagar Panchayat, independent Kunwar Singh Chauhan won in Gaja Nagar Panchayat, BJP's Govind Singh Rana in Chamiyala Nagar Panchayat while Rakesh Mohan of the BJP won in Kirtinagar Nagar Panchayat and BJP's Vinita Devi won in Tapovan Nagar Panchayat.

deciding the election results. While Congress' Bihari Lal won in Purola, BJP's Vijay Kumar won in Naugaon. Among the independent candidates, Manoj Kohli won in Chinyalisaud, Vinod Dobhal won in Badkot and Bhupendra Singh Chauhan won in Badahat. The poll results show that the voters have sent a serious message to the big political parties by moving away from traditional politics and choosing leaders they believe can ensure real development in their area.

Collective efforts to improve State and better facilities, says CM

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Thanking the State Election Commission and personnel on election duty for the successful conclusion of urban local body elections, chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhami said that collective efforts will be undertaken to further improve the State and better public facilities. Congratulating the victorious candidates, the CM said that the clean and green city concept will be executed on the ground.



and councillors will work together to make our localities and cities beautiful.

The State government will work to provide electricity, roads, water, footpaths, parks, open gyms, waste disposal and other facilities to the public. He said that work will be expedited on the Bharatiya Janata Party's promise to provide better services to the citizens. "All our elected mayors, municipal council chairpersons, Nagar Panchayat chairpersons

We will take forward the campaign to enhance security using CCTV cameras and lighting with solar power. The public representatives in civic bodies have a dual responsibility as they have to provide better facilities to the public while also making the cities cleaner and beautiful for the tourists along with facilities for them so that tourists return from Uttarakhand with a positive message," Dhami said.

Civic poll results approval of government's work & party's strategy: BJP

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The Bharatiya Janata Party has stated that with its mayoral and councillor candidates moving towards a decisive victory in most of the municipal corporations and the party looking forward to an emphatic win in most of the urban local bodies, the people have put their stamp of approval on the works of the government and the hard work put in by the party leadership and cadre. The BJP State president Mahendra Bhatt said that the party's bumper victory will be more impressive when the final results are declared.





Responding to the results and trends which had

emerged till Saturday evening, Bhatt said that BJP candidates were moving towards a decisive win in almost all the large municipal corporations. Similarly, a considerable number of the party candidates for the posts of municipal council and Nagar Panchayat chairpersons are ahead.

The party is looking forward to a record number of its candidates being elected councillors and ward members which will enable it to form its majority board in most of the local bodies, he said. Thanking the voters in the local bodies for supporting the party, Bhatt said

that the BJP had been successful in communicating the achievements of the double-engine government and development works to the public.

The party's positive campaign and past track record has helped it win the confidence of the people in the urban areas. Stating that the election results are a result of the work of the party workers and the effective strategy of the organisation, Bhatt also thanked the party cadre. He also assured the public that the victorious candidates will execute the party's manifesto with a special focus on development and public welfare.

ले ज गुरमीत सिंह
पीवीएसएम, यूवाईएसएम, एवीएसएम, वीएसएम, (से नि)
राज्यपाल, उत्तराखण्ड

संदेश

प्रिय प्रदेशवासियों,

गणतंत्र दिवस की 75वीं वर्षगांठ की आप सभी को हार्दिक बधाई एवं शुभकामनाएँ। यह पावन दिवस हमारे देश के संविधान की गौरवशाली स्थापना का प्रतीक ही नहीं बल्कि यह हम सबको एकता के सूत्र में बांधने वाली भारतीयता का उत्सव भी है। आज के इस शुभ अवसर पर मैं देश की एकता और अखंडता की रक्षा हेतु अपना सर्वस्व न्योछावर करने वाले स्वतंत्रता संग्राम सेनानियों और वीर शहीदों को अपने श्रद्धा-सुमन अर्पित करता हूँ। मैं राष्ट्रपिता महात्मा गांधी जी, भारतीय संविधान के प्रमुख शिल्पी बाबासाहेब डॉ. भीमराव आंबेडकर जी और संविधान निर्माताओं को भी हृदय से नमन करता हूँ।

हमने देश की आजादी के शताब्दी वर्ष 2047 तक भारतवर्ष को विकसित राष्ट्र बनाने का लक्ष्य रखा है। हम इस दिशा में तेजी से आगे बढ़ रहे हैं। आज का नया भारत हर क्षेत्र में प्रगति करते हुए वैश्विक मंच पर एक सशक्त राष्ट्र के रूप में उभरा है। आज हमारी उपलब्धियाँ केवल आर्थिक या सैन्य ताकत तक सीमित नहीं हैं बल्कि विज्ञान, टेक्नोलॉजी, शिक्षा, संस्कृति और खेल आदि सभी क्षेत्रों में भारत ने अद्वितीय सफलता हासिल की है।

भारतवर्ष की इस गौरवशाली विकास यात्रा में देवभूमि उत्तराखण्ड भी बढ़-चढ़कर योगदान दे रहा है। सरकार के प्रयासों और सभी नागरिकों के परिश्रम से हम न केवल आर्थिक और सामाजिक विकास के नए आयाम छू रहे हैं बल्कि देश के अग्रणी राज्यों में शामिल होने की दिशा में भी तेजी से कदम बढ़ा रहे हैं।

उत्तराखण्ड की मातृशक्ति और बेटियों की क्षमताओं पर मुझे बड़ा गर्व है। आपकी मेहनत, समर्पण और साहस ने प्रदेश को हमेशा नई ऊर्जा और दिशा दी है। अपनी असाधारण क्षमताओं से आप प्रदेश और देश को समृद्ध बनाने में योगदान दे रही हैं। मुझे पूरा विश्वास है कि आप अपनी प्रतिभा और कौशल से उत्तराखण्ड की संभावनाओं को अवसरों में बदलकर प्रदेश को नई ऊंचाइयों पर ले जाएंगी।

देवभूमि उत्तराखण्ड को प्रकृति ने योग, आयुर्वेद, हनी, अरोमा और वेलनेस जैसे क्षेत्रों में विशेष आशीर्वाद दिया है। इन प्राकृतिक और सांस्कृतिक संपदाओं का बेहतरीन उपयोग करते हुए हमें इन्हें आर्थिक अवसरों में बदलने की दिशा में काम करना होगा। यह हमारी जिम्मेदारी है कि हम इन संसाधनों को वैश्विक पहचान दिलाते हुए प्रदेश के विकास और समृद्धि में योगदान दें।




उत्तराखण्ड के युवा हर क्षेत्र में आगे हैं बस जरूरत है समय के साथ खुद को अपडेट करने की। आर्टिफिशियल इंटेलिजेंस, क्वॉंटम कम्प्यूटिंग और मेटावर्स जैसी तकनीक अब व्यापार, उद्योग और अर्थव्यवस्था का महत्वपूर्ण हिस्सा बन चुकी है। हमें इन आधुनिक तकनीकों में दक्षता हासिल कर अपनी कार्यक्षमताओं को बढ़ाना है और प्रदेश व राष्ट्र की उन्नति में नए कीर्तिमान स्थापित करने हैं।

उत्तराखण्ड के 25वें स्थापना दिवस के अवसर पर प्रधानमंत्री श्री नरेन्द्र मोदी जी ने सभी प्रदेशवासियों एवं यहां आने वाले पर्यटकों से नौ आग्रह किए जिन्हें हम सभी को संकल्पों में बदलकर एक समृद्ध और आत्मनिर्भर उत्तराखण्ड के निर्माण में अपना योगदान देना होगा। विकसित एवं आत्मनिर्भर प्रदेश के लक्ष्य को प्राप्त कर ही हम विकसित भारत के निर्माण में महत्वपूर्ण सहभागी बन सकते हैं।

इस वर्ष हम राज्य की रजत जयंती मना रहे हैं। आइए! हम सब मिलकर इस वर्ष भी पूर्ण समर्पण और प्रतिबद्धता के साथ राज्य को विकास और प्रगति की नई ऊंचाइयों तक ले जाने का संकल्प लें। एक बार पुनः आप सभी को गणतंत्र दिवस की हार्दिक शुभकामनाएँ।

जय हिन्द!

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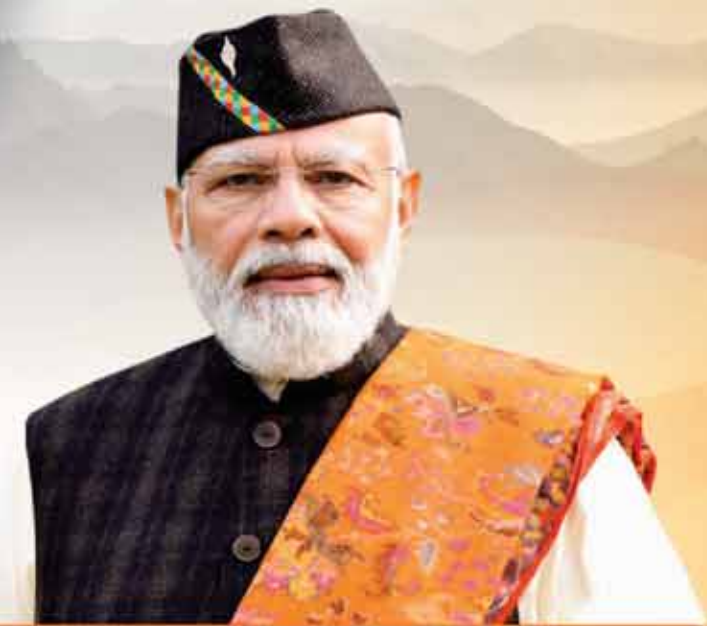
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समस्त देशवासियों को 26 जनवरी गणतंत्र दिवस

की

हार्दिक शुभकामनाएं



“माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी ने 21वीं सदी के तीसरे दशक को उत्तराखण्ड का दशक कहा है। हम प्रधानमंत्री जी के विजन के अनुरूप राज्य को हर क्षेत्र में आदर्श राज्य बनाने के लिए विकल्प रहित संकल्प के साथ काम कर रहे हैं।”

पुष्कर सिंह धामी
मुख्यमंत्री, उत्तराखण्ड

“21वीं सदी के विकसित भारत के निर्माण के दो प्रमुख स्तंभ हैं। पहला, अपनी विरासत पर गर्व और दूसरा, विकास के लिए हर संभव प्रयास। आज उत्तराखण्ड, इन दोनों ही स्तंभों को लगातार मजबूत कर रहा है। ये दशक उत्तराखण्ड का दशक होगा।”

नरेन्द्र मोदी
प्रधानमंत्री



- नीति आयोग द्वारा जारी सतत विकास लक्ष्य (एसडीजी) रैंकिंग में उत्तराखण्ड देश में प्रथम स्थान पर
- पिछले तीन वर्षों में लगभग 19 हजार युवाओं को सरकारी नौकरी
- पिछले 20 महीनों में जीएसडीपी में 13 गुना और पिछले 2 वर्षों में प्रति व्यक्ति आय में 26% वृद्धि
- स्टार्टअप को बढ़ावा देने के लिए ₹200 करोड़ के वेंचर कैपिटल फंड की स्थापना
 - एमएसएमई नीति: नए औद्योगिक निवेश को प्रोत्साहन
- दीन दयाल उपाध्याय होम स्टे योजना: राज्य में 5000 से अधिक होम स्टे पंजीकृत
 - अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय प्रवासी उत्तराखण्डी सम्मेलन का सफल आयोजन
- बहुप्रतीक्षित बहुउद्देशीय जमरानी, सौंग और लखवाड़ बांध परियोजनाएं प्रगति पर
 - रेल, रोड, रोपवे और एयर कनेक्टिविटी का विस्तार
- ऊधमसिंह नगर के खुरपिया फॉर्म में भारत सरकार द्वारा स्मार्ट इंडस्ट्रियल टाउनशिप स्वीकृत
 - हल्द्वानी में खेल विश्वविद्यालय की स्थापना
- उत्तराखण्ड ग्लोबल इन्वेस्टर्स समिट: ₹3.56 लाख करोड़ के एमओयू हस्ताक्षरित, लगभग ₹85 हजार करोड़ की परियोजनाओं की ग्राउंडिंग गतिमान
- मुख्यमंत्री सौर स्वरोजगार योजना: ग्रामीण क्षेत्रों में रोजगार के अवसर, सोलर प्लांट स्थापित करने पर 50% तक सब्सिडी
 - नई फिल्म नीति: क्षेत्रीय भाषाओं की फिल्मों को कुल लागत का 50% या 2 करोड़ तक की सब्सिडी
- हाउस ऑफ हिमालयाज, उत्तराखण्ड महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों द्वारा तैयार जैविक और प्राकृतिक उत्पादों के लिए अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार उपलब्ध
 - राज्य की महिलाओं को सरकारी नौकरियों में 30% क्षैतिज आरक्षण
 - लखपति दीदी योजना: महिला स्वयं सहायता समूहों को ₹5 लाख तक का ब्याज मुक्त ऋण
 - को-ऑपरेटिव बैंकों और सहकारी समितियों में महिलाओं के लिए 33% आरक्षण
- मुख्यमंत्री अंत्योदय निःशुल्क गैस रिफिल योजना: राज्य के करीब पौने दो लाख गरीब परिवारों को साल में 3 मुफ्त रिफिल सिलेंडर
 - राज्य आंदोलनकारियों के लिए सरकारी सेवाओं में 10% क्षैतिज आरक्षण
 - सख्त धर्मांतरण-विरोधी कानून: जबरन धर्मांतरण पर रोक
 - समान नागरिक संहिता: सबका साथ सबका विकास

संकल्प से शिखर तक

तेजस्विनी (मशाल)

सूचना एवं लोक सम्पर्क विभाग, उत्तराखण्ड द्वारा जनहित में जारी

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मौली (मैस्कट)



U'khand to implement UCC on January 27

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Uttarakhand will become the first State in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC) on January 27. The chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama will announce formal implementation of the UCC in the State by unveiling its regulations and inauguration of the UCC portal in a programme at his residence on the day. In a letter directed to additional chief secretary, principal secretaries, secretaries, additional secretaries, director general of police and all additional DGs, inspector generals and deputy inspector generals of the State, the Home secretary Shailash Bagauli has asked them to attend the ceremony at CM's residence at 12:30 PM on January 27. It is pertinent to mention here that CM Dhama had announced implementation of UCC in the State in the month of January, 2024. Interestingly the new law is being

implemented in the State, a day before the visit of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to the State. The PM will visit Uttarakhand on January 28 to declare the 38th National Games being hosted by the State, open.

The Dhama government had constituted an expert committee headed by retired Justice Ranjana Prakash Desai on May 27, 2022. The committee handed over its report to the CM on February 2, 2024. On February 6, the government tabled the UCC bill in the Vidhan Sabha and on February 7, 2024 it was passed by the Assembly. After the passage of the historic bill, the President of India gave her approval to the UCC bill on March 11, 2024. The draft of the regulations of the UCC was prepared by a committee headed by former chief secretary Shatrughna Singh.

Dhama tells officials to ensure cleanliness in 38th National Games

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama has instructed the officials concerned to prioritise cleanliness in preparation for the 38th National Games starting on January 28. He said this during his inspection of Maharana Pratap stadium, where he reviewed the arrangements for the inauguration of the games alongside Sports minister Rekha Arya here on Saturday.

During the inspection, the CM directed officials to enhance all arrangements for the convenience of players and visitors. He emphasised the importance of maintaining cleanliness and instructed that LED screens be set up at the district and block levels to facilitate live telecasts for the public. Dhama said that this is a golden opportunity for Uttarakhand to improve its image on a national scale and promote sports within the State. He highlighted that this could lead to increased youth interest in sports and, with improved sports infrastructure, more competitions could be held in the future. The State government will also provide an amount equal to the prize



money for players representing Uttarakhand who win medals at the Games, he said.

Further, Dhama urged officials to ensure public participation in making the National Games a grand event. He called for the organisation of a Deepotsav and other public participation programmes on the occasion of the Games' inauguration. The CM also instructed officials to facilitate smooth arrangements at all sports venues in the state in light of the National Games. Proper transportation, accommodation, healthcare facilities

and other essential needs must be ensured for both players and visitors.

In anticipation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit for the inauguration of the National Games, Dhama instructed the police and administration to make all necessary arrangements. He emphasised that citizens should not face unnecessary difficulties. He asked the police officials to communicate route plans effectively. Proper parking arrangements must also be secured, he added.

Dry weather, warmer conditions likely to continue today

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

With winter appearing to be on the wane, temperatures remained above normal in various parts of the State on Saturday. Similar conditions are expected on Sunday with the State Meteorological Centre forecasting that dry weather is likely to prevail over all districts of the State. The provisional State capital Dehradun is likely to witness a mainly cloudy sky with mist/shallow fog likely to occur in the morning hours. The maximum and minimum temperature are likely to be about 25 degrees Celsius and seven degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun today.

Meanwhile, the maximum and minimum temperatures recorded on Saturday in various parts of the State were

24.7 degrees Celsius and 7.3 degrees Celsius respectively in Dehradun, 21.5 degrees Celsius and 4.6 degrees Celsius in Pantnagar, 19.1 degrees Celsius and 2.9 degrees Celsius in Mukteshwar and 18.2 degrees Celsius and 3.8 degrees Celsius in New Tehri.

The maximum temperature was 4.6 degrees Celsius above normal while the minimum was a degree above normal in Dehradun. The maximum was 1.6 degrees Celsius above normal in Pantnagar while the maximum was 7.1 degrees above normal and the minimum was a degree above normal in Mukteshwar. The maximum was 3.2 degrees above normal in New Tehri.

Route diversion for ULB vote counting causes traffic congestion in Doon

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Commuters experienced traffic congestion in Dehradun on Saturday due to the diversion of routes for the counting of votes polled in the urban local body (ULB) election. They claimed that activities such as vote counting should not be held in the city center to minimise disruptions to traffic flow.

in support of the elected candidates was also observed outside the vote-counting venue, further contributing to the traffic issues. However, police authorities have been actively managing the situation by establishing barriers to control the crowd.

Considering the challenges faced by commuters, Vijay Kumar said that he was caught

authorities should address this issue and organise such activities in peripheral areas of the city rather than at its centre.

"I needed to arrive at my office by 11 AM; however, the route diversion for the vote counting has caused considerable traffic congestion. This congestion has hindered my timely arrival at work. I believe the authorities should



Notably, the ULB elections took place across the State on January 23. The counting of votes was organised at Rangers College on Saturday. To ensure security around the counting location, routes were redirected on the said day from Lansdowne Chowk and other interconnected roads, leading to increased traffic congestion. Additionally, a considerable crowd gathering

in traffic near Indira Market for the past half hour, which has caused delays in reaching his destination. The route diversion due to the counting of votes for the ULB election, coupled with the crowd of candidates and other individuals in the area, has led to significant traffic congestion, which is problematic for commuters like him. He said that

develop a traffic management plan that minimises disruptions for citizens," said another commuter, Kiran Rathore.

Many other commuters have echoed similar concerns regarding the traffic congestion in the city resulting from the route diversion for the counting of votes.

52 girls to become 'drone didi': Arya

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

Sports and Youth Welfare Minister Rekha Arya announced that a training programme on drone operation is being conducted within

"Drone Didis." A special training camp for these underprivileged girls is underway at the Youth Welfare and PRD directorate. The

school graduates and their training is scheduled to be completed by February 12. During the camp, the girls are taught how to operate



the Directorate of Youth Welfare and the Prantiya Rakshak Dal (PRD) to enhance career opportunities for girls from remote areas of Uttarakhand.

girls have been selected from various districts including Chamoli, Uttarkashi, Pithoragarh and Champawat. She informed that the purpose of this camp is to equip these girls with essential skills to improve their career prospects. All 52 participants are high

school graduates and their training is scheduled to be completed by February 12. During the camp, the girls are taught how to operate

Governor, CM greet people on Republic Day

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

The governor lieutenant general (ret'd) Gurmit Singh and chief minister Pushkar Singh Dhama greeted the people of the State on the occasion of Republic Day.

In his message, the Governor said that Uttarakhand is contributing to the development journey of the country. He said that with the efforts of the State government and hard work of its citizens the State is touching new dimensions and heights of development. He said that the positive response to the winter Char Dham Yatra shows that the State is establishing itself as a centre of all season tourism. Singh said that it is a

matter of great pride that the State is hosting the National Games this year for the first time and expressed confidence that these games will prove to be a milestone in development of sports talent and infrastructure in the State.

Wishing the people, CM Dhama said that the Republic Day reminds us of the sacrifices and martyrdom of our freedom fighters. The occasion also inspires us to make the dreams of patriots come true. He said that it is a shared responsibility to always remain committed to the basic democratic ideals of justice, freedom, equality and fraternity. The CM said that the

State government is committed to make Uttarakhand the best state of the country by realising the vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi to make India a developed nation by 2047.

The CM added that the Union government is providing unprecedented support in every field for the development of the state. He said that Uttarakhand is going to be the first state in the country to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC).

The CM said that effective steps have been taken in the State to maintain the character of Devbhoomi. He said that the upcoming National

Games being hosted by the State will provide better opportunities to sportspersons and create sports infrastructure in the State.

The CM added that to promote industries and attract investors in the State a favourable environment for industries is being created with policy reforms. In the last three years, appointments have been provided to more than 19,000 youngsters in various departments.

He said that the State government has made a provision of giving 30 per cent reservation to women in government jobs.

Enlightened voter basic foundation of democracy: Governor

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

A cultural extravaganza was organised at Bannu School here on the occasion of 15th National Voters day on Saturday. The governor lieutenant general (ret'd) Gurmit Singh attended the programme as chief guest.

Congratulating the people, Singh said that a strong democracy is needed for the development of the country. He said that the voter is the basic foundation of democracy. The governor exhorted the voters to exercise their right to vote without fear.

He said that apart from being a right, voting is also the duty of every voter. By participating in voting, people make democracy and the country more powerful.

Appreciating the office of chief electoral officer of Uttarakhand, the governor said that it has established its reach in the remote and



inaccessible parts of the State. He said that it is a matter of great pride that all the elections held so far in the State have remained peaceful and impartial. The State has set up an example in the country in this regard.

In the programme the secretary Dilip Jawalkar informed about the activities

of the department. The additional chief electoral officer (ACEO) expressed gratitude to everyone on the behalf of CEO Uttarakhand, BVRC Purushottam.

In the cultural programme Pritam Bharatwan, Basanti Bisht and music group Pandavas enthralled the audience with their performance.

The governor inspected different stalls set up by districts on different themes on the occasion. He also distributed prizes to the winners of essay, slogan, painting, quiz and reel completion.

The governor also released the calendar, T-shirt and mascot Saruli-Sumnyal in the programme.

Rudra Ecovation: Revolutionizing sustainability in India's textile industry

PNS ■ DEHRADUN

India's textile industry is undergoing a significant transformation, driven by the government's policies and guidelines promoting sustainability. Among the world's top plastic polluters, India is taking concrete steps to reduce its environmental footprint. Rudra Ecovation, a pioneer in the recycling industry, is leading the charge by betting big on sustainability. With a state-of-the-art 100-acre facility in Ludhiana, Rudra has created the largest integrated plastic recycling plant in India. The company boasts an impressive recycling capacity of 8.8 million plastic bottles daily, producing 320,000 square metres of knitted RPET fabric. Rudra's commitment to sustainability is evident in its daily production capacity, which includes a range of products such as



washline bottles, flakes of fibre and technical textiles.

Speaking on this, Rudra Ecovation chairman Akhil Malhotra said "At Rudra Ecovation, we are overwhelmed by the response we have received for Anaura (Upycled Fabric) amongst various national and international brands, at the recently held Heimtextile 2025 in Frank-

furt, we participated at the exhibition in the line with our export goals, it's a matter of pride and at the same time it's a big responsibility for us to take an Indian product to an international platform to boost the make in India initiative."

Rudra's innovative approach to sustainability is driven by the use of cutting-

edge technology, including artificial intelligence (AI). By integrating AI, the company can predict sample quality before production begins, saving time and costs while guaranteeing top-quality output. Rudra's dedication to sustainability has earned it an ESG score of 73 in an independent audit, underscoring its excellence in environmental, social, and governance practices.

The company is focused on refining the properties of RPET fibres to match or surpass conventional alternatives. Its product mix includes products like Anaura Upycled fabric range with varied width for variety of usage like sports-wear, fashion, home furnishing and non-woven carpets.

THE PIONEER CLASSIFIEDS PUBLIC NOTICE

I have changed my name from VEER BAHADUR to VEER BAHADUR SHAHI for all future purposes. Veer Bahadur Shahi S/o Sh. Dhan Bahadur R/o H.No. 71/2, Shilpa By Pass Road, VTC: Karbari Grant, PO: Karbari Grant, Sub District: Vikasnagar, District: Dehradun, State: Uttarakhand, Pin Code: 248007.

PUBLIC NOTICE

It is informed that original sale deed of my property bearing Khata No 704, Khasra No. 2023/1 area 54.18 sq. meter situated at Mauza Arcadia Grant, Pargana Pachhwadon, District Dehradun, No.4067 which was executed by Smt Chandrakala Negi W/o Shri Vijaypal in favour of Salman S/o Yakub Ali, R/o Gorakhpur, Badowala has been actually lost somewhere. I Kiran W/o Sh. Vijay Kumar owner of the property is going to mortgage to avail loan from SMFG INDIA FINANCE Co LTD. If anybody finds it kindly contact. Ph 9917213774

PUBLIC NOTICE

I have my name "BABALE BANSAL" in my matriculation (High School), Intermediate, B.Com. and M.Com. marksheet and certificates. After my marriage on 9th May 2017 with Mr. Kapil Kumar (Address: H.No. 27, Bada Bazar, Sabji Mandi Ke Samne, Goverdhan, Dis. Mathura-281502), my name was changed to "BABLI AGRAWAL" which was updated in Aadhar card as well as in PAN card. I want to keep this name "BABLI AGRAWAL" in all government proofs in future and will be known by "BABLIAGRAWAL" only.

NOTICE

NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT TO SHOW CAUSE [SCR, Order XXII] IN THE SUPREME COURT OF INDIA CRIMINAL APPELLATE JURISDICTION PETITION FOR SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) No. 4205 OF 2023 WITH I.A. No. 56537/2023-APPLICATION FOR FILING THE PETITION WITHOUT DISCLOSING THE IDENTITY OF THE PETITIONER/RESPONDENT AND I.A. No. 56538/2023-APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING C/O OF THE IMPUGNED JUDGMENT AND I.A. No. 56539/2023-APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION FROM FILING O.T. AND I.A. No. 194705/2024-APPLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 CPC FOR EFFECTING SERVICE THROUGH PUBLICATION ABCPetitioner(s)/Appellant(s) VERSUS THE STATE OF UTTARAKHAND AND ANOTHERRespondent(s) To, 1. DIWAN SINGH S/o- RATI RAM, VILLAGE SAMYA, TEHSIL KALSJI, DISTRICT-DEHRADUN, UTTARAKHAND PID: 12148/2025 FOR R[2] IN SLP(CRL) No. 4205/2023 (SEC II-B) Whereas the Petition for SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) above-mentioned (copy enclosed) filed in the Registry by Mr. ABHAY PRATAP SINGH, advocate on-record, on behalf of the petitioner(s) above named, was listed for hearing before the Court on 27th March, 2023 and the Court was pleased to pass the following order:- "Permission to file special leave petitions is granted. Delay condoned. Issue notice." AND WHEREAS, the service of show cause notice could not be effected on unserved Respondent No. 2 and the matter above-mentioned was listed before Ld. Registrar's Court on 09th January, 2025, When the following order was passed:- "Respondent no. 1 has already filed counter affidavit. Ld. counsel for the petitioner has e-filed an application seeking substituted service by way of publication in respect of respondent no. 2. Same is allowed. Proof of publication be filed within four weeks of such publication. List again on 14.02.2025." NOW, THEREFORE, TAKE NOTICE that the above matter(s) will be posted for hearing before the Court in due course when you may appear before this Court either in person or through an advocate-on-record of this Court duly appointed by you in that behalf within thirty days from the date of service of notice. You may thereafter show cause to the Court on the day that may subsequently be specified as to why special leave and interim relief, as prayed for, be not granted and the resultant appeal be not allowed. You may file your affidavit in opposition to the petition as provided under Rule VI of Order XXII, SCR 2013, within thirty days from the date of receipt of notice or not later than two weeks before the date appointed for hearing, whichever be earlier, but shall do so only by setting out the grounds in opposition to the questions of law or grounds set out in the SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) and may produce such pleadings and documents filed before the Court against whose order the SPECIAL LEAVE PETITION (CRIMINAL) is filed and shall also set out the grounds for not granting interim order or for vacating interim order if already granted. TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that if you fail to enter appearance, as aforesaid, no further notice shall be given to you even after the grant of special leave for hearing of the resultant appeal and the matter above mentioned shall be disposed of in your absence. Dated: 16th January, 2025 ASSISTANT REGISTRAR

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First Constitution of Akhand Hindu Rashtra to be unveiled at Maha Kumbh

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The first constitution of the proposed Akhand Hindu Rashtra has been finalized and is set to be unveiled on the auspicious occasion of Vasant Panchami on February 3 during the Maha Kumbh. The 501-page document has been crafted over 12 months and 12 days by a committee of 25 scholars from North and South India. Drawing inspiration from Ram Rajya, the kingdom of Lord Krishna, Manusmriti, and Chanakya's Arthashastra, the constitution is envisioned as a blueprint for a Hindu Rashtra. Once approved by the four Shankaracharyas, it will be presented to the central government. The drafting committee includes experts from Banaras Hindu University, Sampurnanand Sanskrit University, and Central Sanskrit University. According to Swami Anand Swaroop Maharaj, the head of Shambhavi Peeth and patron of the committee, the constitution aims to establish a Hindu Rashtra by 2035. He emphasized that the proposed nation would be a republic founded on the principles of Vasudhaiva



Kutumbakam (the world is one family) and Sarve Bhavantu Sukhinah (may all be happy). While elections will determine the nation's leader, the constitution assures that followers of all religions will have the right to live in the country. However, strict measures will be enforced against those involved in anti-national activities.

The draft proposes a unicameral legislature called the Hindu Dharma Parliament, comprising 543 members elected as Dharma MPs. Only followers of Sanatan Dharma and Indian-origin faiths such as Jainism, Buddhism, and Sikhism will be eligible to vote or contest elections. The voting age is set at 16 years, while candidates must be at least 25 years old and graduates of Vedic Gurukuls. Dharma MPs will receive only basic allowances, such as constituency funding, transportation, and security. They will also be required to submit regular progress reports. Dissatisfied constituents can recall their representatives by filing a no-confidence motion with a minimum of 50,000 signatures. The president of the Hindu Rashtra will be selected by a two-thirds majority of the Dharma Parliament. To qualify, candidates must have expertise in Dharmashastra and Rajashastra, along with five years of practical governance experience. They must also demonstrate leadership skills, knowledge of statecraft, and proficiency in the use of arms. During times of war, the president will lead the armed forces.

Baba Artatrana claims to heal the incurable with divine touch



BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The ongoing Mahakumbh event is a mesmerizing spectacle of faith, devotion, and spirituality, drawing millions of pilgrims and seekers from across the globe. Amid this sea of humanity, the presence of extraordinary spiritual figures adds an almost otherworldly dimension to the event. Among them, Baba Artatrana stands out, cloaked in mystique and reverence, claiming to possess the divine power to cure even the gravest ailments with the touch of his feet. In an atmosphere thick with awe and wonder, long queues of hopeful devotees stretch endlessly, each awaiting the miraculous touch they believe can dispel their suffering. "I have been performing this divine treatment since 2007," Baba Artatrana told ANI, his voice calm yet brimming with conviction. "No food, no drink, no medicines are needed. Just my touch, my voice over the phone, or listening to my mantra on YouTube can cure even the most complex diseases." Baba Artatrana's claims, though extraordinary, have a magnetic pull that captivates thousands. He asserts that his divine touch has a success rate of 99%, a gift he attributes to the blessings of Lord Shiva. "This is Shiva's blessing. With his grace, I can cure even the greatest illnesses in an instant. I don't know why God chose me for such immense power, but I use it as He teaches-to heal," he said, his words sparking wonder and devotion in the hearts of his listeners. The aura around Baba Artatrana deepens when he speaks of his role during the COVID-19 pandemic. With a tone of serene confidence, he claimed, "During the pandemic, I challenged the Odisha government and cured millions of people with a simple touch." His influence extends beyond India's borders, as he shares tales of traveling to foreign lands to spread the benefits of his divine powers.

Seeking freedom from abuse, two UP women defy norms and marry each other

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
GORAKHPUR

In a courageous act of defiance, two women from Gorakhpur, tired of enduring years of domestic violence from their alcoholic husbands, left their abusive homes behind to marry each other. Kavita and Gunja, also known as Bablu, tied the knot at the Shiva Temple, commonly referred to as Choti Kashi, in Deoria on Thursday evening. The duo, who bonded over shared experiences of physical and emotional abuse, connected via social media and grew close as they offered each other solace. In time, their relationship blossomed into a source of strength, culminating in their decision to embark on a life together, free from violence. During the simple yet symbolic ceremony, Gunja assumed the role of the groom, performing the traditional Hindu rituals of applying sindoor (vermillion), exchanging garlands, and taking the seven pheras. Kavita, standing resolutely by her side, embraced this new beginning as they vowed to build a peaceful life together. "Our husbands' drinking and abusive behavior left us with no choice but to take control of our lives," Gunja shared after the ceremony. "We decided to leave behind the pain and focus on a future built on love and mutual respect. We plan to settle in Gorakhpur and work to sustain ourselves." The temple priest, Uma Shankar Pandey, who facilitated the ceremony,

described the event as quiet yet significant. "They came, performed their rituals with garlands and sindoor, and left. It was a poignant moment that reflects their determination to escape their pasts," he remarked. Their story has drawn attention to the pervasive issue of domestic violence, which often remains hidden due to fear, stigma, and societal pressures. Lenin Raghuvanshi, a leading human rights activist, lauded their courage. "This act is not just a rejection of abuse; it's a powerful statement against the systemic oppression women face. It underscores the urgent need to address domestic violence and ensure women's safety at home," he said. Experts point out that domestic violence, often fueled by alcoholism, remains a widespread issue in India. Many victims endure years of abuse due to financial dependency and lack of support. Social worker Shabnam Mishra highlighted the broader implications of Kavita and Gunja's decision: "Their story is a testament to how women can reclaim their agency and inspire others to break free from abusive cycles." As Kavita and Gunja embark on this bold new journey, their act of resistance serves as a beacon of hope for countless others trapped in similar circumstances. Their story is not just about personal liberation but a reminder of the need for systemic change to address the scourge of domestic violence.

Demand for public holidays during Maha Kumbh

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The Vishisht BTC Shikshak Welfare Association has requested the Uttar Pradesh government to declare public holidays on the dates of the Shahi Snan during the ongoing Maha Kumbh. In a letter to Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, the association has sought three days of public holidays for all state employees and teachers to allow them to participate in the holy bath and religious rituals with their families. Santosh Tiwari, the provincial president of the association, and Dilip Chauhan, state secretary of the joint forum, emphasized



the rarity of this Maha Kumbh, which occurs after 144 years. They stated that it is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for many, as future generations might not witness such an event. The association has urged the state government to consider their demand positively, allowing people to partake in this historic event. Provincial media in-charge Vineet Singh specifically

requested public holidays on significant bathing dates such as Mauni Amavasya, Basant Panchami, and Maghi Purnima so that everyone can take a holy dip at the Maha Kumbh. Demand to Merge DA with Salaries Raised to PM The Indian Public Service Employees Federation (IPSEF) has written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi, urging him to announce the merging of 50% dearness allowance (DA) with salaries, as was practiced earlier. IPSEF's national president, VP Mishra, highlighted that when DA exceeds 50% of the salary, it is traditionally merged with the base salary, a practice upheld by all past pay commissions.

Not only devotees, Maha Kumbh witnesses surge in beggars, many feigning wounds for sympathy

BISWAJEET BANERJEE ■
MAHAKUMBH NAGAR

The Maha Kumbh Mela in Prayagraj is not just a spiritual event for millions of pilgrims but also a magnet for thousands of beggars, many employing creative or deceitful tactics to evoke sympathy and collect alms. At Sangam Ghat, a woman sat near the water's edge, writhing in apparent pain while displaying a deep wound on her hand. With a plate placed before her, she repeatedly raised her injured hand, attracting a steady stream of coins, notes, and even grains from pilgrims. By evening, she packed her grains into a sack with the help of a man and quietly disappeared, her tactics carefully crafted to draw the maximum charity from those moved by the spirit of giving. Pilgrims, however, seem unfazed by the questionable authenticity of such wounds. "When you come to the Kumbh, giving alms is part of the faith," said Shyam Sundar Yadav, a farmer from Hardoi. "Whether the wounds are fake or real is not my concern. My dharm is to give." **A Surge in Beggars from Across India**

Before the event began, authorities estimated around 7,000 beggars in Prayagraj. Now, their numbers have ballooned to over 50,000 as pilgrims from districts like Pratapgarh, Mirzapur, Chitrakoot, Varanasi, and Kaushambi, as well as states like Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal, and Madhya Pradesh, flock to the Kumbh. For many, the event represents a rare opportunity to collect alms on a scale impossible elsewhere. "Beggars are a natural part of religious events like this," said Meera Devi, a teacher from Kanpur. "For us, donating to them is a way to earn good karma. If they are lying or deceiving, it is on them, not us." The Mela's prime begging spots include Sangam Ghat, Akshay Vat, Akharas, and the Reclining Hanuman Temple. In these areas, beggars position themselves strategically, occupying fixed spots that they return to daily. At Sangam Nose, where devotees gather for holy dips, over 100 beggars line up to solicit alms. Many display gruesome injuries-often fake. According to locals, these injuries are often crafted using animal fat and other materials to maintain the appearance of



fresh wounds while keeping flies at bay. Pain-relief balms are sometimes applied to create an impression of genuine suffering. These "wounds" are refreshed daily, and the illusion is enough to convince most devotees. Adding to the spectacle are children dressed as deities, drawing particular attention from pilgrims. Eight-year-old Arti (name changed), dressed as Radha near the Hanuman Temple, shared her story. "It takes me an hour to get ready," she said, smiling. "Mummy also dresses like me and does the same work. Yesterday, I earned ₹500." Sushma and her family arrived from Koraon in Prayagraj a week ago, capitalizing on the massive influx of pilgrims. Such stories are common in areas like Sector 20, where thousands of beggars, including children, line the streets. A boy from Jamalpur in Jaunpur revealed that nearly 500 people from his village alone had come to beg at the Kumbh. For some pilgrims, these children are difficult to ignore. "When a child dressed as Radha or Krishna asks for alms, how can you say no?" asked Sunita Verma, a homemaker from Agra. "It feels like giving to God directly."

Situation The administration has been trying to tackle the surge in beggars. Vehicles frequently patrol key areas, picking up beggars and transporting them to shelters or hospitals. "Every night, the police come and take many of us away," said Sandeep, a disabled beggar near the Hanuman Temple. "But we always return the next day." Vinay Kumar, a senior official overseeing operations, said, "We try to document every beggar we pick up and encourage them to return home, but they keep coming back. The tradition of charity during Kumbh is too strong, and they know they will get alms here." Despite these efforts, beggars persist. Many see the Mela as their best chance to make a living, even if it means enduring repeated evictions. The practice of giving alms during religious events like the Kumbh is deeply ingrained in Indian culture. "Charity during such occasions is an age-old tradition," explained Dr. Dhanaanjan Chopra, a professor at Allahabad University and an expert on the Maha Kumbh. "Bathing, meditation, and donation form the triad of spiritual practices at the Kumbh. This attracts not only genuine beggars but also those who exploit the generosity of devotees." For pilgrims like Ram Narayan Singh, a retired school principal from Ghazipur, the authenticity of beggars is irrelevant. "This is my way of connecting with God," he said. "I don't care if the person is genuinely needy or pretending. My act of giving is what matters." **Faith, Generosity, and Deception** The Maha Kumbh, a grand spectacle of faith, charity, and devotion, also reveals the complex interplay between spirituality and exploitation. While some beggars genuinely struggle to survive, the prevalence of deceitful tactics raises questions about the morality of exploiting faith. Yet for most devotees, the act of giving remains sacred, a way to fulfill their spiritual duties and earn divine blessings. As the Kumbh continues, the presence of beggars-both genuine and feigned-serves as a stark reminder of the enduring power of faith and the many ways it can be interpreted, celebrated, and, at times, manipulated.

Jammu and Kashmir police officers honoured for foiling Amarnath yatra terror attack

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
JAMMU

Seven of the 15 Jammu and Kashmir Police officers, including former Kashmir Zone inspector general of police Vijay Kumar, awarded gallantry medals on the eve of Republic Day, played a key role in averting a possible terror attack on the Amarnath Yatra three years ago. The Medal for Gallantry recipients also included Humayun Bhat, a deputy superintendent of police who was one of four officers to lay down their lives



during an encounter with terrorists in south Kashmir's

Kokernag in September 2023. Bhat had been honoured with the Kirti Chakra for extraordinary bravery on the eve of last year's Independence Day. In addition to the 15 gallantry medals, Anand Jain and Nitish Kumar -- two additional directors general of police-rank officers -- received the President's Medal for Distinguished Service while 10 other officers were awarded the Medal for Meritorious Service. During his tenure in

Kashmir as inspector general of police, Kumar generated an input that a group of terrorists were planning to carry out an attack on the annual Amarnath Yatra in June 2022, the officials said on Saturday. On June 14, a small police party headed by Rakesh Balwal, the-then Srinagar senior superintendent of police, under Kumar's supervision, stopped a vehicle at Bemina on the outskirts of the city, leading to an encounter. The officials said two hardcore

terrorists, including a Pakistani, were eliminated during the operation that was conducted without the assistance of the Army, the Central Reserve Police Force, and intelligence agencies. Kumar, who was later promoted to additional director general of police and recently transferred to the AGMUT (Arunachal Pradesh-Goa-Mizoram and Union Territory) cadre's Delhi segment, Balwal and five other police personnel, received the gallantry medal for their bravery.

Kumar, a standout officer whose service record includes a unique combination of expertise in anti-terrorist, anti-Maoist and law-and-order operations within and outside Jammu and Kashmir, has played a significant role in the fight to counter terror threats and maintain peace post the abrogation of Article 370 in August 2019. Jammu and Kashmir Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha congratulated the officers on their achievement.

"Congratulations to police personnel and officers who have been conferred with the Medal for Gallantry, President's Medal for Distinguished Service and Medal for Meritorious Service on the occasion of Republic Day 2025," Sinha said in a post on X. He also paid tribute to selection-grade fireman Satish Kumar Raina, who was posthumously conferred with the Medal for Gallantry for sacrificing his life while performing his duties during a fire incident in Jammu's Prem Nagar area.

YSRCP leader V Vijayasai Reddy resigns as RS member

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
NEW DELHI

YSRCP leader V Vijayasai Reddy on Saturday resigned as a member of Rajya Sabha and announced he was quitting politics due to "personal reasons". He said he would be focussing on agriculture and delivering guest lectures at universities henceforth. "I have submitted my resignation to the vice president and the chairman of the Rajya Sabha, and he has accepted it,"

Reddy told reporters after meeting Dhankhar. "I, hereby, voluntarily resign from my seat in the Rajya Sabha with immediate effect as a member representing Andhra Pradesh from the Yuvajana Sramika Rythu Congress party (YSRCP). Requesting you to kindly accept my resignation," his short resignation letter to the VP stated. In a post on X, Reddy also shared pictures of his meeting with the vice president "Today, I

submitted my resignation to the Hon'ble Vice President Shri Jagdeep Dhankhar Ji. Hon'ble Chairman of Rajya Sabha is pleased to accept the resignation with immediate effect duly recording the proceedings," he posted. Reddy said that before accepting his resignation, the vice president asked him specifically what are the reasons he was submitting his papers, and if it was voluntary or is there any coercion or undue influence.

AP CM Chandrababu Naidu defends Davos Visit to WEF

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■
AMARAVATI

Andhra Pradesh Chief Minister N Chandrababu Naidu said on Saturday a visit to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos, Switzerland, is not just about inking agreements but networking with influential people to gain insights into the direction the world is headed. Addressing a press conference on his recent

visit to Davos, the Chief Minister brushed aside criticism from some quarters, including YSRCP, that the high-level delegation led by him returned empty-handed and focused solely on Naidu's self-promotion, while other states managed to forge deals. "Davos is a place for networking. The whole world goes there for four days. Country heads and

ministers attend. Not only governments, but all corporations will be there," said the CM, adding that there is a myth about Davos, where people only consider the number of Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) signed and the amount of money flowing in the form of investments. According to Naidu, the WEF in the Swiss resort town of Davos brings

together the best minds for knowledge enhancement and learning the latest trends. The TDP supremo asserted that he spoke to several key people during the summit, including Microsoft founder Bill Gates, and observed that meeting all of them in their home countries would be a herculean task, involving visas, appointments, and several other challenges.

THDCIL-IKCA Academy wins medals in Asian Canoe Sprint Cup

PNS ■ RISHIKESH
THDC-IKCA High-Performance Academy secured three gold and five silver medals at the Asian Canoe Sprint Cup held in Hong Kong from January 11 to 13. The chairman and managing director THDCIL, R K Vishnoi congratulated the winners, saying that their victories are a testament to THDCIL's relentless pursuit of excellence not only in energy generation but also across various dimensions of socio-economic development, including women empowerment, CSR initiatives and sports among others. "The success of our athletes is a proud moment for India and Uttarakhand," he said. The director (Personnel), THDCIL, Shallinder Singh also conveyed his congratulations on this achievement. "THDC looks forward to gearing our sportspersons to compete in National Games, Asian Games and even at Olympics," he said. The athletes from THACK Academy delivered exceptional results across various categories.

3-day passport mobile van camp to start in Ghansali from Feb 6

PNS ■ NEW TEHRI:
A three-day passport mobile van camp will be organised at Ghansali under Bhilangana block of Tehri district from February 6 to 8. The regional passport office, Dehradun is organising the passport mobile van camp to provide the facility of making passports at home to the applicants. The regional passport officer Vijay Shankar Pandey said that online appointments would start in the last week of January on the official website <http://passportindia.gov.in>. He further said that a total of 150 passports would be made in Ghansali in three days-50 each day. He appealed to the locals to take advantage of this opportunity. Under an ambitious scheme of the Government of India, passports have been made from mobile van camps in New Tehri and Kotdwār.

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Tihar is more than just a correctional facility, it is a microcosm of society, brimming with stories of resilience, redemption and raw humanity. Following the excerpt from the book *355 Days: Pursuit of Freedom*.

With *Black Warrant* topping Netflix charts as the No. 1 show, the enigmatic world of Tihar Jail has captured the public's attention once again.

As one of Asia's largest and most complex prison systems, Tihar holds within its walls stories of resilience, despair, redemption and raw humanity. This newfound interest highlights society's fascination with the lives hidden behind prison walls, narratives that often remain untold but carry immense significance.

Tihar Jail is more than just a prison – it is a world within a world, housing individuals from all walks of life. From petty criminals to high-profile offenders, from activists to political prisoners, it is a microcosm of society where identities collide and stories unfold. Beneath the label of "convict" or "undertrial" lies a human being, grappling with remorse, survival, and perhaps even hope. Both *Black Warrant* and *355 Days* aim to shed light on this humanity, challenging the stereotypes often associated with prison life.

While *Black Warrant* provides chilling insights into executions and the inner workings of the prison system as a first-hand account by the former *Tihar Superintendent* and *ex-Legal*



The Changing Perception of Prison Life

Advisor of Delhi Jails, Sunil Gupta, the novel *355 Days*, inspired by true events, delves into the emotional and psychological journeys of inmates. Together, these narratives as well as other stories inspired by true events compel us to confront questions about justice, survival, and the power of redemption.

355 Days, an Amazon bestseller, delves into the complexities of life within *Tihar Jail*. The novel, which features a quote from Sunil Gupta on the cover stating it offers "A writing about a sensitive subject. An emotional journey with in-depth research of Tihar life," reinforces its commitment to authenticity. The endorsement highlights the novel's connection to the realities of life within *Tihar Jail*, appealing to readers interested in stories inspired by true events. *355 Days* transcends the typical crime story, weaving together legal drama with profound exploration of the protagonist's inner journey. This unique blend positions the novel within the sphere of philosophical prison drama. *Tihar Jail*, in many ways, serves as a mirror to

larger socio-economic and judicial systems. It reveals the inequities that plague our society, the struggles and resilience of the marginalised. While the prison itself is often viewed as a place of punishment, it also serves as a crucible of transformation. Sunil Gupta's tenure as Superintendent of *Tihar Jail* was instrumental in bringing significant reforms, including the establishment of legal aid cells, the streamlining of jail procedures with the *Delhi Jail Manual*, and the introduction of yoga and meditation programs for inmates. The rehabilitation initiatives and the skill-building workshops offer inmates a chance to rediscover themselves and have been instrumental in improving the lives of those incarcerated. When asked about the recent success of *Black Warrant* on Netflix, he said, "I believe in the power of selfless acts! I firmly hold that when you work towards the betterment of others, the universe rewards you in abundance. God's blessings and gratitude from those you've helped are the greatest rewards. Keep spreading

“

I BELIEVE IN THE POWER OF SELFLESS ACTS! I FIRMLY HOLD THAT WHEN YOU WORK TOWARDS THE BETTERMENT OF OTHERS, THE UNIVERSE REWARDS YOU IN ABUNDANCE. GOD'S BLESSINGS AND GRATITUDE FROM THOSE YOU'VE HELPED ARE THE GREATEST REWARDS. KEEP SPREADING KINDNESS, AND MAKING A DIFFERENCE!

”



kindness, and making a difference!" Literature and media have the unique ability to humanise even the most vilified. By presenting detailed, empathetic narratives, they remind us that every prisoner has a story, a past and, perhaps, a chance at a better future. Stories like *Black Warrant* and *355 Days* do not shy away from the darkness but instead bring to light the glimmers of hope and humanity that exist even in the bleakest environments. Recent years have seen several films inspired by real-life incidents. Notably, *Shahid* (2012), a critically acclaimed biographical drama based on the life of human rights lawyer *Shahid Azmi*, garnered numerous awards for its portrayal of his fight for justice for the wrongfully accused. *Lucknow Central* (2017), exploring the realities of life within Indian prisons, received positive reviews and praise for *Farhan Akhtar's* performance. However, it was the 2018 biopic *Sanju* – depicting the life of *Sanjay Dutt*, that achieved blockbuster status, breaking several box office records. Through literature and media, we can begin to bridge the gap between perception and reality, inching closer to a more nuanced understanding of the world behind bars.

Title: *355 Days: Pursuit of Freedom*
Author: Deeba Salim Irfan
Publisher: LIFI Publications Pvt. Ltd.
Language: English
Paperback: 239 pages



MISSION BAY HAS SOME AMAZING DISHES:

KIMCHI BRUSSELS SPROUTS: *Kimchi Brussels Sprouts* is a fusion dish that combines the earthy flavour of Brussels sprouts with the bold, spicy, and tangy notes of traditional Korean kimchi. The Brussels sprouts are usually roasted or sautéed, then tossed with kimchi, adding a satisfying crunch and depth to the dish.

BUTTERNUT SQUASH: *Butternut Squash* is a rich and creamy dish that highlights the natural sweetness and smooth texture of roasted butternut squash. It is served as a soup, puree, or roasted, offering a comforting and nutritious side or main.

THAI STYLE CORN SOUP: *Thai Style Corn Soup* is a vibrant, flavourful dish that blends sweet corn with the fragrant spices of Thai cuisine. It typically includes ingredients like coconut milk, lemongrass, ginger, and chili, creating a savoury-sweet soup with a perfect balance of heat and creaminess.

SHIMEJI MUSHROOMS FLATBREAD: *Shimeji Mushrooms Flatbread* is a savoury appetizer or main dish that features the delicate, nutty flavour of shimeji mushrooms. The mushrooms are sautéed and served on a crisp flatbread base, often garnished with herbs, cheese, and a drizzle of sauce for added flavour.

RICOTTA RAVIOLI: *Ricotta Ravioli* is a classic Italian dish featuring soft, pillowy pasta filled with creamy ricotta cheese. The ravioli can be served with a variety of sauces, from simple butter and sage to rich tomato-based sauces, highlighting the delicate filling.

APPLE BERRY CRUMBLE: *Apple Berry Crumble* is a comforting dessert that combines the sweetness of apples with the tartness of berries, all topped with a buttery, crumbly topping. Baked until golden and bubbling, it's often served warm with a scoop of vanilla ice cream or whipped cream.

TOFFEE DATE CAKE: Yet another sinful delight, *Toffee Date Cake* is a rich, moist dessert made with dates and a toffee-flavored sauce, creating a dense, caramel-like sweetness. Often served warm with a drizzle of toffee sauce and a side of cream, it offers a decadent treat perfect for dessert lovers.

unpretentious yet sophisticated, making it a great place for both casual dining and special occasions.

Mission Bay has rapidly become a sought-after destination for food lovers in Delhi, offering not just a meal but an experience. With its innovative concept, stylish design, and impeccable service, it offers a little taste of San Francisco without leaving the city. For anyone seeking a unique dining experience in Malviya Nagar, *Mission Bay* is a must-visit.

Whether you're a local or just passing through, *Mission Bay* Restaurant is a gem that promises a truly memorable American dining experience with a touch of West Coast flair, all while providing the warmth and comfort that makes you feel right at home.

A TASTE OF SAN FRANCISCO

The *Mission Bay* Restaurant recently opened in Malviya Nagar Delhi. It has some great cuisine and authentic American wining and dining experience for the connoisseurs, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**



Ever imagined to have American experience in Delhi, authentic and cosy ambiance with a service with smile. A tall order really but that is exactly what *Mission Bay* is offering in South Delhi. *Mission Bay* Restaurant stands as a delightful oasis of flavour, design, and American hospitality. Inspired by the vibrant and eclectic spirit of San Francisco, this restaurant offers an immersive experience that takes you straight to the Bay Area, all while keeping you grounded in the comfort of cozy, inviting interiors.

As you step into *Mission Bay*, you are immediately greeted by the distinctive atmosphere reminiscent of the Californian city. The restaurant's interior is thoughtfully designed to capture the essence of San Francisco, featuring chic industrial elements, vibrant murals, and elegant wooden accents. The open, airy spaces and warm lighting evoke the feeling of walking through a trendy Bay Area neighbourhood. With high ceilings, large windows, and a touch of vintage charm, *Mission Bay* provides an inviting environment that feels both contemporary and comfortable. The

design masterfully blends rustic and modern elements, allowing guests to feel like they are dining in the heart of San Francisco.

Mission Bay is not just about the ambiance, it's about bringing a slice of American dining to the capital. The restaurant offers a curated menu inspired by the best of American cuisine, with everything from hearty burgers and fried chicken to succulent steaks and fresh seafood. Each dish is crafted with care, using the finest ingredients to bring out authentic American flavors. The American-inspired cuisine is rich in diversity, just like San Francisco itself, with touches of California's innovative food scene and classic diner favorites.

What stands out at *Mission Bay* is its commitment to quality and innovation. From comfort food to indulgent desserts, the menu offers a variety of options that cater to every palate. Whether you're craving the comfort of a juicy burger or the richness of a gourmet salad, *Mission Bay* delivers with an authenticity that transports you straight to the West Coast.

One of the restaurant's most commendable aspects is its exceptional



service. The staff at *Mission Bay* are attentive, friendly and dedicated to creating a welcoming atmosphere. Their knowledge of the menu is impeccable, and they take the time to ensure that every guest feels special. Whether it's a



casual lunch, an intimate dinner, or a celebratory meal, the team at *Mission Bay* ensures a personalised dining experience. Their commitment to excellence in service sets *Mission Bay* apart from other restaurants in the area.

Despite the bustling energy of Delhi, *Mission Bay* manages to create a cosy environment that feels intimate and relaxed. The restaurant is the perfect spot for a romantic date, a family gathering, or a meal with friends. The ambiance is



A CULINARY REVIVAL

By **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**

XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere Opens its Doors: In the vibrant heart of Delhi, *Le Meridien New Delhi* recently opened legendary *Le Belvedere* as *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere*. This exciting culinary destination blends the iconic restaurant's storied past with an innovative, modern twist, promising to captivate diners with a unique fusion of tradition and creativity.

For decades, *Le Belvedere* has been a symbol of sophistication and elegance, a cherished venue for diplomats and dignitaries who delighted in its signature *Szechuan Chinese cuisine* and refined ambiance. With the unveiling of *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere*, the space embarks on a new chapter, fusing cherished memories with a fresh, dynamic vision for the future.

Tradition Meets Innovation: At *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere*, the restaurant elevates Asia's rich street food culture, combining traditional flavours with contemporary flair. Far more than just a dining experience, it celebrates the artistry of cuisine, blending innovation with timeless tradition. With inspiration drawn from the bustling street markets of Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, Singapore and China, the menu offers a harmonious balance of authenticity and modern creativity that will delight discerning food lovers.

The culinary philosophy at *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere* is rooted in honoring the bold flavours and techniques of Southeast Asia, while also adapting to the evolving tastes of today's global palate. Each dish tells its own story, inviting guests to explore the vibrant world of Asian cuisine through a lens of imaginative reinterpretation and impeccable craftsmanship.



A Journey Through Flavour: The menu at *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere* is a sensory journey that promises to captivate from the first bite. Guests can indulge in an array of dishes, from playful twists on classic favorites to bold new creations, each thoughtfully crafted to engage the senses and spark curiosity.

With a focus on diverse textures and punchy flavours, the restaurant invites diners to savor the spirit of discovery with every course.

Whether you're enjoying an intimate dinner or hosting a celebratory gathering, *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere* offers a culinary adventure that is both exciting and accessible. The restaurant's ambiance, where tradition and modernity intertwine, enhances the experience, making each meal a memorable occasion.

An Invitation to Explore: *XO & Mi @ Le Belvedere* is now open, ready to welcome guests to explore a world where history, culture and gastronomy come together. From its reimagined take on Southeast Asian street food to its dynamic blend of traditional flavors and contemporary techniques, this new dining destination at *Le Meridien New Delhi* promises to be a must-visit spot for food enthusiasts in the city.

To take you to the mouth watering taste of Kashmir, *Shangri-la Eros New Delhi* hosted a culinary journey with the *Chef pin pop-up* at Tamra. The pop up showcased the spicy flavours of Kashmir, expertly handpicked by *Chef Archana Dhawan*. Apart from the Kashmiri flavours, desserts took the show with the pastry *Chef Dakshata Agarwal*. Guests were treated to a symphony of Kashmiri delicacies, beginning with a selection of signature appetisers. *Chef Dhawan's* creations included the crispy *Nadur Monji*, a delightful fried snack made from lotus stems and gram flour. The delicate *Chaman Kanti* and aromatic *Nadur Aloo Adrek Mond* further tantalised the palate. For non-vegetarians, succulent *Chicken and Mutton Kanti* alongside the traditional *Talite Gaad* offered a taste of local specialties. The live theatrical kitchens added a touch of drama, where skilled chefs artfully prepared *Kabar Gah* and the classic *Kaladi Kulcha*, each dish carrying a unique story of Kashmir's rich culinary heritage.

The main course was a grand celebration of flavours, where traditional Kashmiri recipes were brought to life with timeless cooking techniques. Vegetarian delights included the famed *Dum Aloo*, aromatic *Chaman Tamatar*, and the distinctive *Chaman Roganjosh*, all complemented by the hearty *Haak and Kashmiri Bhaderwah Rajma*.

Non-vegetarians were equally indulged with the legendary *Mutton Roganjosh*,



FROM ROGAN JOSH TO KASHMIRI KAHWA

Tamra was brought alive with the aroma of Kashmir and the soul satisfying taste of the desserts, writes **ABHI SINGHAL**

delicate *Yakhni*, and unique *Masch Aloo Bukhara*. Fish enthusiasts savored both *Tamatar* and *Nadur* preparations. Each dish was served with a selection of breads, including *Kashmiri Phulka*, accompanied by authentic *chutneys* – from the nutty *Walnut* to the tangy *Muli* and *Anardana Pudina* variations.

To complete the dining experience, guests were invited to savour the royal *Saffron Kheer* and enjoy a warming cup of *Kahwa*, Kashmir's beloved spiced tea. While *Chef Dhawan* delighted palates with her authentic Kashmiri creations, Pastry *Chef Dakshata Agarwal* added a touch of sweetness with her signature dessert collection. The sweet finale featured delicate *Chiffon Cakes* in two variations - a fresh *Strawberry Kiss* topped with *Chocolate Strawberry Panna Cotta* and the rich *Chocolate Kiss* adorned with *Dark Chocolate Cookie Soil*.

The indulgence continued with a velvety *Chocolate Mousse Caramel* embellished with dark chocolate elements, and the standout *Bailey's Chocolate Egg*, which guests could enjoy at their table or take home as a memorable treat. Each dessert showcased a perfect blend of classic techniques and contemporary presentation, offering a delightful conclusion to the culinary journey. The *Chef Pin pop-up* at *Shangri-la Eros New Delhi* provided a unique opportunity for guests to experience the essence of Kashmir through its flavourful cuisine and taste.



FINDING SOUL CONNECTIONS AT SOUL STORIES

Whether you're an avid bird watcher or someone looking to escape the chaos of urban life, Soul Stories promises an unparalleled blend of adventure and soulful experience, writes **GYANESHWAR DAYAL**



Soul Stories - Luxury Villas and Resort, Mussoorie, the bird-watching resort and retreat offers a haven for nature lovers and peace seekers alike. Surrounded by dense oak, deodar and rhododendron forests, this retreat is not just a destination but an experience that reconnects you with nature, tranquillity, and yourself. Whether you're an avid bird watcher or someone looking to escape the chaos of urban life, Soul Stories promises an unparalleled blend of adventure and solace. Located near Dhanaulti, in Tehri Garhwal district, Uttarakhand, India. Dhanaulti is located on the popular tourist circuit of Landour, Mussoorie, Kanatal, Chamba and New Tehri. Soul Stories is easily accessible from Delhi and other parts of the country via *Dehradun*, followed by a scenic two-hour drive.

THE ALLURE OF SOUL STORIES' BIRD-WATCHING RETREAT

One of the retreat's standout features is its rich biodiversity. Dhanaulti, perched at an altitude of around 2,250 meters in the vicinity of Mussoorie, is home to an astonishing variety of avian species. From the vibrant Himalayan monal, the state bird of Uttarakhand, to colourful flycatchers, woodpeckers and thrushes, the retreat is a paradise for ornithologists and casual bird watchers alike. Guided bird-watching trails led by local experts ensure you don't miss out on spotting rare and exquisite birds. The retreat is carefully designed to

for personal rejuvenation. Unlike traditional retreats, it combines the joy of bird watching with holistic wellness practices such as yoga, meditation and mindfulness walking on the pathways around. For those seeking deeper connections, there are bonfire evenings where guests can share their experiences and bond with like-minded individuals. The idea is to create a community where stories and nature blend to form lasting memories.

ESCAPE FROM THE MADDENING CROWD

In an increasingly chaotic world, finding peace can feel like an elusive goal. Dhanaulti's remoteness makes it an ideal destination for those looking to unplug. With limited connectivity and a deliberate emphasis on slow living, Soul Stories encourages guests to step away from their screens and immerse themselves in the present moment. The serene environment fosters introspection, creativity and a sense of calm that lingers long after you leave.

SUSTAINABILITY AT ITS CORE

Soul Stories is committed to sustainable tourism. The retreat employs eco-friendly practices such as rainwater harvesting, solar energy, and organic farming to minimise its ecological footprint. Additionally, they actively engage with the local community by employing local guides and sourcing ingredients for their delicious, wholesome meals from nearby farms.

WHY SOUL STORIES SHOULD BE YOUR NEXT GETAWAY

Whether you're a seasoned birder, a wellness enthusiast or simply someone yearning for a break from the daily grind, Soul Stories offers something for everyone. Its combination of natural beauty, thoughtful amenities, and enriching experiences makes it a sanctuary where you can find peace, inspiration, and joy.

In the words of a recent visitor, "Soul Stories is not just about luxury and finding solace amidst nature; it is about discovering your own self. A place where you can hear silence and listen to your inner voices." So pack your bags, leave your worries behind, and let the hills of Dhanaulti and the birds of Soul Stories guide you to a state of blissful serenity.



harmonise with its natural surroundings. Rustic cottages with large windows offer panoramic views of the forested hills, creating the perfect backdrop for morning coffee or an evening of stargazing. The soft chirping of birds replaces the noise of traffic, allowing visitors to immerse themselves in the calming sounds of nature. Madhavi Madan, the visionary behind this resort, is a dynamic individual who has personally curated every detail visitors experience here. From the paintings and artifacts to the designer furniture, each element reflects her passion and impeccable taste, seamlessly harmonising with the natural surroundings.

A PLACE TO RECONNECT AND RECHARGE

Soul Stories stands out for more than its natural beauty; it offers an opportunity



ROVING THROUGH DUBAI'S ARTFUL HEART

As I arrived at *Rove City Walk Dubai*, anticipation coursed through me. Touted as a modern gem in this cultural capital, I was eager to see if it would live up to the remarkable reviews, says **AKANKSHA DEAN**



As I stepped into the vibrant realm of *Rove City Walk*, the first thing that struck me was the energy of the lobby. It wasn't just a reception area; it was a hub of creativity and warmth. I was immediately enveloped by a design philosophy that blended harmoniously with its lush surroundings. Channelling the spirit of the local environment, the hotel intertwines the tales of Dubai's rich culture with modern touches, creating captivating backdrops that demand to be photographed. This isn't just a hotel; it's a canvas where every corner tells a story waiting to be shared on Instagram. This artistic flair was a delightful prelude to the stylish experience awaiting me.

STYLISH COMFORT IN DOWNTOWN DUBAI:

The check-in was seamless, thanks to the friendly and engaging staff who made me feel at home from the moment I arrived. Located in the heart of the city, I felt the pulse of Dubai within my reach. Just a 15-minute journey from Dubai International Airport, the hotel's strategic location makes it ideal for both business travellers and holidaymakers alike. My home for the stay was one of the 560 spacious rooms, each designed with the modern traveller in mind. My room, with its innovative décor and local

artworks, was a cosy retreat. Looking out the window, the view of the majestic Burj Khalifa was awe-inspiring, creating a perfect backdrop for my stay. I loved that 30 percent of these rooms are interconnecting, a thoughtful feature for families or groups. With complimentary Wi-Fi, plush designer mattresses, and sofa beds perfect for unwinding after a day of exploration, it felt like the ideal sanctuary. The modern bathrooms, complete with power rain showers, were the cherry on top, offering a refreshing escape. The sense of ease continued beyond the room. The 24-hour gym kept me motivated, while the inviting pool and sun deck offered a tranquil refuge for relaxation. A self-service laundromat and a boutique convenience store added to the sense of independent living, making it feel like I could call this place my own. The hotel also features co-working spaces that are both functional and inspiring for creativity, making it an excellent choice for business gatherings and social celebrations.

The Daily, an all-day neighbourhood hangout, was the perfect spot to unwind. Whether dining in or grabbing something for later, I was never disappointed. Quality coffee paired with globally-



inspired, nutritious dishes kept me fuelled for my adventures, and the vibe was just right for casual conversations with fellow travellers.

DOWNTOWN'S VIBRANT CHARM:

One of the best aspects of staying at *Rove City Walk* is its prime location, coupled with the convenience of a complimentary shuttle service to various attractions. A leisurely stroll led me to the iconic Coca-Cola Arena at City Walk, and it was just as easy to dip my toes in the sparkling waters of Jumeirah Beach.

I hopped on the hotel bus, which whisked me away to the sprawling Dubai Mall. As I arrived at one of the world's largest shopping destinations, the sheer

scale and opulence of the mall took my breath away. I strolled past luxury boutiques, indulged in some retail therapy, and marvelled at the massive aquarium teeming with vibrant marine life.

While at the Dubai Mall, I also experienced the mesmerising Dubai Fountain show. The synchrony of water, light and music created an unforgettable spectacle, an enchanting performance that lingered in my mind long after the final splash.

Another day, I visited City Walk, brimming with chic boutiques and eye-catching street art. I lost myself in the colours of the art installations and enjoyed a leisurely meal at one of the trendy cafés. Nearby, the Green Planet, an extraordinary indoor rainforest, invited exploration among its lush greenery and exotic wildlife. It was a refreshing change of pace, showcasing the diversity of ecosystems right in the heart of the city.

When evening approached, I made my way to the Dubai Opera House for an enriching cultural experience. The performances held there were world-class, each one a captivating expression of artistry and creativity. **LAST MOMENTS OF BLISS:** After several exhilarating days of exploration, it was time to wrap up my Dubai adventure. Late check-out at 2 PM

was a blessing, allowing me to linger longer in this oasis before heading out. However, I extended my experience with a last-minute visit to the Plaza Premium Lounge at the airport, a tranquil haven before my departure.

As I settled into the lounge's plush seating, the welcoming ambience provided the perfect setting to reflect on my unforgettable trip. I treated myself to gourmet snacks and beverages, relishing the peaceful environment. The lounge's modern décor and views of the airport buzz were a gentle reminder of the journeys that lay ahead.

As I bid farewell to Dubai, I took one last glance at the cityscape. In my time at *Rove City Walk*, I discovered more than just a temporary home; I found a vibrant community hub that embodies the essence of Dubai while delivering comfort and convenience. Every moment spent here was a reminder of why I love exploring the world, one hotel at a time.

— Akanksha Dean is an independent food & travel writer, a chef and a catalyst and is the first Indian to have trained at Osteria Francescana, in Modena, Italy, rated as the world's best restaurant in the World's 50 Best Restaurants, in 2016 and 2018 and currently in the Best of The Best Category

"I TRY TO LIVE WITH THE IDEA THAT KARMA IS A VERY REAL THING. SO I PUT OUT WHAT I WANT TO GET BACK"
— MEGAN FOX



YOUR WEEK AHEAD

MADHU KOTIYA



ARIES March 21-April 19

This week presents promising prospects for financial advancement. Prepare for travel, primarily for business or professional reasons. Despite potential disruptions to your plans, such as booking delays or temporary banking issues, your focus and determination will help you navigate through. The challenges may cause some frustration, but your ability to manage and control the situation will see you through. Opportunities will arise that could significantly boost your career. Additionally, romantic gestures, possibly even a significant proposal, may be on the horizon. Those feeling disheartened will find new energy, and married couples will experience a renewed sense of care and connection, enjoying a harmonious bond. However, be mindful of your expenditures towards the week's end, especially if considering special purchases or planning a scenic getaway.

Lucky number 5 | Lucky colour Peach
Lucky day Sunday



LEO July 23-Aug 22

This week promises an abundant experience for you, highlighted by prosperity not just in material terms but also in innovative ideas. You'll find yourself deeply engaged in family matters, playing a pivotal role in discussions that could shape future paths. Your efforts to spread joy won't go unnoticed, as familial support, particularly from close female relatives, will bolster your spirits and add to your emotional fulfillment. Your aspirations and desires are likely to manifest, making this a period to revel in your achievements and blessings. Financial gains might inspire plans for major projects, such as building a home or expanding entrepreneurial ventures. Opportunities for educational or professional advancement may also present themselves to younger family members, possibly including international prospects or significant job interviews.

Lucky number 6 | Lucky colour Purple
Lucky day Wednesday



SAGITTARIUS Nov 22-Dec 21

Even when circumstances don't align with your preferences, remember, there's always a glimmer of hope. This week may bring feelings of rejection, sadness, or even betrayal. Though these experiences are tough, they serve as essential challenges. Without such tests, life would lack depth and opportunities for growth. These difficulties are chances to learn from errors and become resilient. By mid-week, you might find yourself reflecting deeply, striving to transcend your immediate desires and emotions, recognizing that they no longer serve your path forward. This period of solitude is a crucial step toward inner peace, distancing yourself from external chaos. Embrace your innate strength to overcome adversity. You may find that emerging from such trials, your capacity to love is not just restored but enhanced, ready to welcome brighter days hidden just beyond the current cloud cover.

Lucky number 28 | Lucky colour Brown
Lucky day Thursday



TAURUS April 20-May 20

This week, you may find yourself enveloped in a whirlwind of social engagements as you play host to guests, drawing you into a flurry of activities centered around hospitality. Your family and friends will seek your company, filling your days with interaction and liveliness. Embrace the surge of creative energy that accompanies these encounters, finding joy in the moments spent reconnecting with those close to your heart, including a possible reunion with a cherished acquaintance from your past. You'll receive ample support and affection from elder family members, enhancing your sense of satisfaction and well-being mid-week. At home, tranquility reigns; your family thrives, your health remains robust, and your financial situation shows improvement. However, as the week draws to a close, stay vigilant. Tensions could surface, potentially straining a close relationship and impacting your well-being.

Lucky number 18 | Lucky colour Maroon
Lucky day Friday



VIRGO Aug 23-Sep 22

This week, you are primed to harness your innate resilience. With a clear vision of your objectives, your determination is set to guide you to success. Known for adept communication, this skill will particularly shine, aiding you in leveraging contacts and creativity to ascend to notable positions. This reinforced strength fosters a sense of security and vigor, contributing to significant financial gains, especially for those in business. Timely financial returns are anticipated, enhancing stability. Relationships, be it business alliances or personal bonds, will experience harmony, with supportive gestures from family enhancing your journey. While destiny smiles upon you, patience remains a virtue, especially in romantic engagements. Self-reflection is beneficial; however, embrace openness to new experiences, adopting a mature approach to evolving circumstances.

Lucky number 17 | Lucky colour Gray
Lucky day Monday



CAPRICORN Dec 22-Jan 19

It's essential for you to embrace a phase of rest and rejuvenation. Revel in the serenity and vitality you discover during this period. Some may also find themselves recovering from physical or emotional strains. Be prepared for moments that illuminate answers and reveal deeper truths. Stay observant of your environment, as resolving these situations might not be straightforward and could initially lead to confusion or a standstill. Nonetheless, as the week progresses, expect a shift towards positivity. You'll be poised to embark on a new endeavor that demands swift action and daring. This is your moment to pursue success with the talents and enthusiasm you possess. Signs of new beginnings, possibly marking a personal expansion or a joyful addition to your family, are on the horizon. Embrace this vibrant energy, capitalizing on every opportunity it brings.

Lucky number 20 | Lucky colour Sky Blue
Lucky day Saturday



GEMINI May 21-June 20

The coming period marks a significant shift for those born under the sign of the twins, heralding a phase of professional advancement and personal accolades. Your objectives are well-defined, propelling you towards your goals with remarkable clarity and determination. This is a time when your efforts are likely to bear fruit, offering tangible rewards for your dedication. Midweek brings a surge of vitality and creativity, enhancing your generosity and compassion. You'll find great joy in altruistic endeavors, even as you enjoy an increase in material comfort. Despite this, you'll find yourself drawn to deeper spiritual exploration. Family support, particularly from siblings and mentors, will bolster your journey. For entrepreneurs, improved rapport with business partners is anticipated, while those in organizational roles can expect opportunities for promotion or desirable relocations.

Lucky number 12 | Lucky colour White
Lucky day Tuesday



LIBRA Sep 23-Oct 22

This week marks a significant phase in your life where overcoming challenges could lead to positive changes. A potential rupture in close bonds may cause emotional distress, yet facing these adversities head-on will only fortify your resilience. Embrace the opportunities that arise; let go of doubts and take bold steps toward your aspirations. Remember, true bravery stems from confronting and leveraging your fears. If you find yourself questioning your achievements or feeling unfulfilled by the outcomes, consider reevaluating your strategies and exploring new avenues. This could set you on a more promising path, possibly culminating in advantageous financial prospects as the week concludes. Seize this time to advance confidently towards your goals, ensuring no obstacle remains insurmountable.

Lucky number 21 | Lucky colour Orange
Lucky day Tuesday



AQUARIUS Jan 20-Feb 18

Embrace the inner light that you've previously overlooked. Trust in your abilities and the existence of a higher power. When you believe something is possible, you're already halfway there. You are discovering an internal strength and inspiration. This sensitivity makes you open to the world, yet it is in this openness that you find resilience. You're now free to explore spiritual depths in new ways. Let go of past perceptions and welcome a fresh perspective. This time marks a powerful presence of your inner guidance, allowing your deepest aspirations a chance to surface and flourish. New connections are forming, brimming with possibilities that could lead to genuine affection and joy. Open your heart to let love emanate freely. Relish in this period of emotional depth and spiritual contentment.

Lucky number 4 | Lucky colour Emerald
Lucky day Wednesday



CANCER June 21-July 22

This week, you may find yourself wrestling with internal conflicts that disrupt your sleep and peace of mind. Concerns about family, especially the well-being and future of your children, might weigh heavily on you, causing stress about their education and long-term prospects. You might also face delays in getting the results or answers you seek. Health concerns within your family, particularly involving a close female relative, could demand your attention and care, adding to your emotional load. For those experiencing heightened emotional sensitivity, this period could bring challenges related to emotional well-being, including hormonal shifts. Engaging in yoga or meditation could prove beneficial, helping to stabilize your mood and strengthen your mental resilience. As the week closes, you'll likely find yourself transitioning into a new chapter, ready to make significant.

Lucky number 10 | Lucky colour Ocean Blue
Lucky day Friday



SCORPIO Oct 23-Nov 21

This week centers on aligning your intentions with your actions, ensuring a strong foundation rooted in self-awareness. As you engage with your innermost aspirations and fears, you discover a unique way to embrace and transform them, which strengthens your resolve. This inner clarity boosts your confidence in your abilities, enhancing your capability to achieve the outcomes you desire. You effectively merge theory with practice, and logic with emotion, showcasing a harmonious balance between thought and action. Your objectives are distinct, reminding you that mere wishing changes nothing; decisive action reshapes everything. The urge to create is hollow without the skill to execute. Therefore, embrace your ambitions wholeheartedly, set your intentions, and observe as your efforts orchestrate a symphony of success. You have the power to sculpt your life exactly as you envision it.

Lucky number 11 | Lucky colour Mint
Lucky day Saturday



PISCES Feb 19-March 20

Often, in the pursuit of our desires, we may overlook the abundant blessings already present in our lives. It's easy to miss the profound love surrounding us when we're caught up in the chase for more. Yet, this oversight can lead to missed opportunities and the potential slipping away of what we cherish most. Disappointment often arises not from a lack of possessions or achievements, but from failing to appreciate and be grateful for what we have. Taking time to acknowledge and give thanks for these blessings can be profoundly transformative. This week, anticipate significant shifts that may disrupt established routines or expectations. The nature of these changes will largely depend on your understanding of destiny and your readiness for transition. Embrace the possibility of new connections that may emerge, whether in the form of friendships, relationships, or partnerships.

Lucky number 25 | Lucky colour Yellow
Lucky day Friday

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Soul Connections — Karmic Ties

THE LIFE GUIDANCE



Seerat Kaur Marwaha

Karmic ties tend to mirror unresolved issues, such as fear of abandonment or low self-worth

Some relationships feel like a gentle breeze, soothing and effortless, while others ignite storms that shake us to our core. In life, we encounter people who awaken our deepest joys and others who surface unresolved pain. These connections, seemingly fated, carry a sense of purpose beyond the mundane. They bring lessons, healing, and sometimes chaos. The line between love and challenge blurs, leaving us to wonder why some bonds feel like a sanctuary, while others seem destined to test our limits. Understanding these relationships requires a closer look at the intricate dance of souls and the threads that bind them. At the heart of this mystery lies the concept of soul connections and karmic ties. While both feel deeply significant, their essence is starkly different. Soul connections are a meeting of kindred spirits, an undeniable resonance that feels like coming home. These relationships, romantic or platonic, carry a sense of ease and mutual growth. There is a quiet knowing, a recognition transcending time and space. It's as though the souls involved are dancing to the same rhythm, supporting one another in becoming their best selves. The

love shared in such relationships is often unconditional, fostering harmony and uplifting both individuals. Karmic ties, on the other hand, are far from serene. Rooted in the spiritual concept of karma, these relationships arise from unresolved energies or past-life debts. They feel magnetic, intense, and at times suffocating. Unlike soul connections, which nurture peace, karmic ties are turbulent, marked by repetitive patterns and emotional upheavals. They challenge us, forcing confrontation with our deepest wounds and shadows. It is as if the universe orchestrates these encounters to ensure we address the unfinished business of our souls. Psychologically, these two types of relationships function differently. Soul connections align with what Carl Rogers referred to as unconditional positive regard, a state of mutual understanding and acceptance. These bonds thrive on vulnerability and trust, creating a safe space for authenticity. Dr. Arthur Aron's research on intimacy underscores this, showing that genuine closeness arises when individuals feel seen and valued without judgment. Soul connections provide this sanctuary,



allowing both individuals to grow together without the strain of unhealed trauma. In contrast, karmic ties often reflect unresolved attachment wounds. Studies on attachment theory by Mary Ainsworth and John Bowlby show how early experiences shape relational patterns. Karmic ties tend to mirror unresolved issues, such as fear of abandonment or low self-worth. These intense relationships can feel overwhelming but serve a purpose. Acting as mirrors, they reflect insecurities, inviting healing. Their emotional chaos is not punishment but guidance toward self-awareness and transformation. Energy dynamics further differentiate these relationships. Soul connections are energising,

akin to basking in sunlight that is warm and nurturing. Karmic ties, however, often feel draining, like an unrelenting storm. This imbalance arises because karmic relationships are designed to break us open, forcing us to confront lessons we've avoided. Once these lessons are learned, the tie often dissolves, leaving us wiser and stronger. Healing from both types of relationships requires nuanced approaches. In soul connections, nurturing the bond is key. Gratitude journaling and mindfulness meditation strengthen harmony and foster growth. Positive psychology research shows expressing gratitude enhances relationship satisfaction and resilience, preserving the sanctity of such connections.

Healing karmic ties is more arduous. The first step is recognising patterns and understanding embedded lessons. This requires introspection and self-awareness. Energy healing techniques like chakra balancing and Emotional Freedom Techniques (EFT) can release stuck emotions. Studies by Dr. Dawson Church highlight EFT's effectiveness in reducing stress and fostering clarity. Karmic ties often involve sacred and heart chakra imbalances, which meditations and affirmations can address. Boundary-setting is crucial in healing karmic ties. Many struggle with over-giving or seeking validation. Prioritising self-worth and asserting needs can break cycles of dependency. Though challenging, this process is liberating, transforming relationships into growth opportunities rather than sources of pain. Spiritual and psychological dimensions of these relationships intertwine deeply. Spiritual teachings describe relationships as mirrors, reflecting unhealed wounds or highest potential. Carl Jung's concept of the shadow self explains how unresolved aspects of our psyche manifest externally

until integrated. Soul connections reveal our potential, while karmic ties confront the shadows we avoid. Scientific studies support relationships' transformative power. Research on neuroplasticity shows challenging relationships can rewire our brains, fostering growth and resilience. Whether harmonious soul connections or turbulent karmic ties, both serve purposes in spiritual evolution. The distinction between these relationships is more than theoretical. It's a guide for navigating love's complexities. Soul connections reveal unconditional love's beauty and growth potential, while karmic ties demand healing and transformation. Both offer unique lessons for self-discovery. Ultimately, these relationships guide us toward self-realisation. Whether soothing the soul or testing its limits, each bond deepens our understanding of ourselves. As Rumi said, "The wound is the place where the Light enters you." Through the intricate dance of soul connections and karmic ties, every wound and moment of love brings us closer to the light within. — She is a Life Coach and Founder of Soulful Wellness

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