

## Of women in business, quest, mystery and truths for children

Are women getting their due at workplaces or are they being overlooked? What happens when a devastated man embarks on a quest to find the recipient of his donated kidney? IANS book shelf for this weekend presents an exciting array of books that, apart from answering these questions, also feature a thrilling mystery novel and a book for children where 10 "idea-shapers" have valuable lessons for kids.

The IANS recommendations have these varied reads to offer for this weekend:

1. Book: Win Win; Author: Joanne Lipman; Publisher: Hachette; Price: Rs 399; Pages: 297

Women spend their working lives adapting to an environment set up for men, by men: From altering the way they speak to changing the clothes they wear to power-posing. But still the gender gap persists. And once you see it -- women being overlooked, interrupted, their ideas credited to men -- it's impossible to ignore.

Diving deep into a wide range of government initiatives, corpo-

rate experiments and social science research, Joanne Lipman offers fascinating new revelations about the way men and women work culled from the Enron scandal, from brain research, from transgender scientists and from Iceland's campaign to "feminise" an entire nation.

2. Book: Happy Dreams; Author: Jia Pingwa; Publisher: Amazon Crossing; Price: Rs 499; Pages: 480

From one of China's foremost authors, Jia Pingwa's "Happy Dreams" is a powerful depiction of life in industrialising, contemporary China, in all its humour and pathos, as seen through the eyes of a charming and clever rural labourer who leaves his home for the gritty, harsh streets of Xi'an in search of a better life.

After a disastrous end to a relationship, Hawa "Happy" Liu embarks on a quest to find the recipient of his donated kidney and a life that lives up to his self-given moniker. Traveling from his rural home in Freshwind to the city of Xi'an, Happy brings only an eternally positive attitude, his

devoted best friend Wufu, and a pair of high-heeled women's shoes he hopes to fill with the love of his life.

3. Book: Trickster; Author: Vinaya Bhagat; Publisher: Harper Black; Price: Rs 399; Pages: 338

When she loses her parents in an accident, Diya Mathur's world collapses around her. As far as she knows, she's alone in the world now -- till a mysterious letter arrives from India. Suddenly, Diya has a chance to be part of a family again. But moving from Boston to India also brings Diya closer to the place where the horror of the Chakwa -- the Master Trickster -- first started. As bodies and tragedies pile up around her, Diya's belief in the urban myth of the Chakwa increases. Will the monster that ruined her parents' life now destroy Diya's happiness? Or will she manage to defeat him at his own game? With the help of her newly-discovered friends and family, Diya must fight not just the monster in her nightmares but also make sense of a fast-unraveling web of lies that makes up her life.

4. Book: The Children's Book of Truths; Author: Several (anthology); Publisher: Hachette; Price: Rs 299; Pages: 204

Growing up throws up a lot of questions -- about people, events and the world around us. Sometimes the answers are in simple black and white, wrong and right, but mostly they are not. In this book, 10 truth-explorers and idea-shapers share their thought-provoking views on important topics close to your heart and mind. Drawing on their experiences, they help you see many different sides of a question and arrive at the most important truth -- your own conclusion, your own interpretation, your own answer. Subroto Bagchi writes on Leadership; Shaheen Mistri on Education; Vivek Menon on Nature; Meeta Kumar on the Economy; Manjula Padmanabhan on Gender Bias; Omair Ahmad on Conflict; Bibek Debroy on God and Religion; Roopa Pai on Stories; Hartosh Singh Bal on Science and Maths; and finally Kapil Dev on Sports.

## Kerala Blockchain Academy gets membership in Linux Foundation

The Kerala Blockchain Academy (KBA) of the state-run Indian Institute of Information Technology and Management-Kerala (IIITM-K) has become the first Indian institution to be granted membership by Hyperledger project hosted by Linux Foundation.

With this, the city-based KBA has become an associate member along with Cambridge Centre for Alternative Finance, of the University of Cambridge, in the Hyperledger ecosystem, which was launched in 2016 with a technical and organizational governance structure and 30 founding corporate members.

An open source collaborative effort created to advance cross-industry blockchain technologies and achieve global collab-



oration of leaders in finance, banking, internet of things (IoT), supply chain, manufacturing and technology, Hyperledger aims to enable organizations to build robust, industry-specific applications, platforms and hardware systems to support

their individual business transactions by creating enterprise-grade, open source distributed ledger frameworks and code bases.

The KBA, the first of its kind in the country is a joint initiative of the IIITM-K and the global

Blockchain Education Network (BEN) and seeks to explore the possibilities of leveraging blockchain technology for public good, capacity building initiatives, promoting disruptive innovations and entrepreneurship.

## Class X Sanskrit paper being circulated on social media fake: CBSE



New Delhi: In the wake of the recent CBSE question paper leaks row, the Central Board of Secondary Education issued a notification, presaging students against the circulation of a fake class X Sanskrit question paper that is doing the rounds on social media.

"It has been brought to notice that a question paper of Class X - Sanskrit is being circulated on social media through Youtube link. This question paper is verified to be an earlier year's question paper. Students are hereby alerted not to believe or subscribe to any such sites," said a press release by the CBSE.

The leaks of class XII Economics and Class X Mathematics question papers have caused quite the ruckus, with the board having to re-schedule those two examinations, which in turn has enraged students nationwide.

The re-examination for class XII Economics has been scheduled by the board for April 25, while no confirmed date has been announced for the re-exam for class X Mathematics.

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## Can't force parents to buy books from schools: Rajasthan education department

Jaipur : State education department has issued a circular, directing private schools not to force parents to purchase books and uniform from school or a particular shop. The circular issued by the directorate of education, Bikaner, says that any school found forcing parents to do so will face punitive action. It has also asked schools not to change the uniform for at least five years.

The move came after govt took note of news reports highlighting how parents are being harassed by the schools who are forcing them to purchase stationary, books and uniform from the school or the designated shops. They are charging price more than listed on the product. The department has asked the schools not to force parents or face action. "Schools are not allowed to see these prod-

ucts under their brand. They are not allowed to see these products. Parents are free to purchase books, uniforms, tie and shoes from the place they want. Schools are only allowed to suggest three places or shops to purchase," read the circular.

"State has advised the schools that if they flout the norms they will face punishment upto de-recognition," said the circular.

The private schools have published the list of books prescribed on the website. "The books will ensure that parents can purchase them from where ever they want. It is also learnt that some schools are changing the school dress every second year. Cracking down on these schools, the circular clears that schools should not change the uniform before five years.

## SC/ST Atrocities Act protests: Educational institutions in Punjab to remain shut, public transport suspended tomorrow

Following a call for shutdown in Punjab on April 2 by various Dalit communities against the Supreme Court's amendments under the SC/ST Atrocities Act, Captain Amarinder Singh-led state government announced that all public transport services would be temporarily suspended on Monday. Educational institutions will remain closed and mobile internet services will be suspended in the state. While the CBSE exams will continue at selected centres, PSEB practical exams will be rescheduled.

Security has also been beefed up ahead of tomorrow's protests. A large contingent of police force has been deployed at various parts of the state and the Army has also been roped in. Punjab Chief Secy Karan A Singh, in a letter to the Secretary, Dept of Defence, said, "Army in Punjab to remain ready for any eventuality as state govt may need their assistance in maintaining law and order," reported ANI.

Valmiki leader Dharamvir Sethi has called for a complete shutdown of Punjab's Phagwara. Addressing the protesters last week, senior Valmiki community leaders Dharamvir Sethi alleged that the Modi government was anti-Dalit. The agitators also burnt an effigy of Prime Minister Narendra Modi during the protest, reported PTI.

Meanwhile, Chief



Minister Amarinder Singh appealed the Dalit community to maintain peace and harmony in the state. Noting Punjab had the highest population of Scheduled Castes in the country, constituting nearly 32 percent of state's population, a statement issued from the CM's office, said that his government "accords the highest priority to ensure their all-round welfare and committed to safeguard their interests".

"The Chief Minister said that the Punjab Government was already committed for the welfare of Scheduled Castes, which was evident from the fact that the Punjab Vidhan Sabha unanimously adopted a resolution to express solidarity with our SC brethren during its recently concluded Budget Session

seeking the NDA Government's intervention to legally pursue the case in which a Supreme Court verdict had diluted provisions of the SC/ST (Prevention of Atrocities) Act," a spokesperson for the Chief Minister said, reported IANS.

Several dalit groups have also called for a nationwide strike against the dilution of the act. Political outfits -- the Prakash Ambedkar-led Bharip Bahujan Mahasangh, the Peasants and Workers Party, the Janata Dal, and the Communist Party of India -- and Left-backed unions including the Centre of Indian Trade Unions have come out in support of the protest. The Rashtriya Seva Dal, the Jati Aant Sangharsh Samiti, the Sanvidhan Sanvardhan

Samiti, and National Dalit Movement for Justice, among others have also joined the protest.

The government, meanwhile, has decided to file a review petition against the apex court's orders. "There is widespread concern regarding this issue. We understand the sensitivity of the matter. The government has taken note of the judgment of the Supreme Court laying down new norms as far as the SC and ST Act's operation is concerned. I have instructed the Ministry of Law to consider the desirability of filing a review. Appropriate follow-up actions are to be taken by the ministry," Prasad said. The move comes a day after a delegation of Dalit MPs met Prime Minister Narendra Modi over the issue.

## Quest of the unknown: Finding a spiritual path in the modern world

Title: Stalking God: My Unorthodox Search for Something to Believe In; Author: Anjali Kumar; Publisher: Orion Spring; Pages: 232; Price: Rs 399

The human being is a curious creature and is filled with questions which are yet to be answered by nature and science: What is the meaning of life? Why are we here? What happens when we die? Is there a God? And many more. Similar questions plagued author Anjali Kumar, who was also a lawyer at Google.

When she started asking questions her search engine couldn't answer, she embarked on a series of misadventures to find God -- or at least some form of enlightenment.

"Stalking God: My Unorthodox Search for Something to Believe In" is the story of Kumar's quest to find a spiritual path in the modern world. The journey was filled with wonder, wild and sometimes frightening.

"In 2010, when my daughter Zia was born, I decided that I needed to find God. I told myself that she would eventually ask me questions that I couldn't answer and that completely unravelled me... I made a firm commitment to myself -- and



to her -- that I would make a valiant effort to find us a comfortable spiritual home," Kumar writes in the Introduction.

Narrated from the open-minded perspective of a spiritual seeker rather than a religious scholar, the book offers an honest account of some of the less-than-mainstream spiritual practices that are followed by millions of people in the world today as she searched for answers to life's most universal questions.

Kumar, a part of a rapidly growing population in America that is highly spiritual but religiously uncommitted, was convinced that traditional religions were not a fit for her. She was also aware that she couldn't simply Google these answers.

She set out on a spiritual pilgrimage, looking for answers. During the quest, she headed to the mountains of Peru to learn from the shamans, attended the techie haunt of Burning Man, practised transcendental meditation, communed with angels and visited saints, goddesses, witches and faith healers. She even hired a medium to commune with the dead. "As I watched the man burn, and the following day as I watched the Temple of Promise burn, I knew this to be true: We are temporary. And spectacular. In life and in death. There is an irony to the juxtaposition of our extreme importance and our complete irrelevance," she writes in the book.

Her light-hearted story offers a revealing look at

the timeless and vexing issue of spirituality in an era when more and more people are walking away from formal religion.

Before starting her journey, when she raised the issue with her friends and family, she realised that she "was late to the party". "Apparently, while I had been negotiating contracts at Google, the rest of the world had been on a quest to find enlightenment, spiritual clarity, and salvation," she writes.

During the quest, she realised that "virtually everyone asked for essentially the same three things... Health. Happiness. Love".

Her journey taught her so much more: "What I found was completely unexpected. This book tells that story."

## HAPPY RETURNS OF THE DAY

### BIRTHDAY GREETINGS

Name : .....  
Date of birth : .....  
Address :- .....

Happy Birthday



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