

30 Naxalites neutralised in Chhattisgarh

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE/AGENCIES ■ New Delhi/Bijapur/Kanker (Chhattisgarh)

In a fresh offensive against Naxals, security forces killed at least 30 members of the banned CPI (Maoist) in two separate encounters in Chhattisgarh's Bastar region on Thursday. Union Home Minister Amit Shah said the security forces have achieved another big success in their march to make the country Naxal-free with the two encounters. "The Modi government is moving forward with a ruthless approach against Naxalites and is adopting a zero tolerance policy against those Naxalites who are not surrendering despite all the facilities being offered to them, ranging from surrender to inclusion. The country is going to be Naxal-free by March 31 next year," Shah said in social media post in Hindi. Giving details about the encounters, offi-

cial said while 26 Naxalites were killed in Bijapur district, four Maoists were gunned down in Kanker by a joint team of the BSF and District Reserve Guard (DRG) personnel of the state police. An official said a gunfight broke out around seven am in a forest along the border of Bijapur and Dantewada districts when a joint team of security personnel was out on an anti-Naxalite operation in Gangaloor police station area in Bijapur. The bodies of 26 Naxalites besides firearms and explosives were recovered from the spot, Inspector General of Police, Bastar Range Sundarraj P said. A jawan of the DRG unit was also killed in the gunfight, he said. Another encounter took place in the morning in a forest along the border of Kanker and Narayanpur districts when a joint team of the DRG and Border Security Force (BSF) was out on an anti-Naxal oper-



Security personnel during an encounter with Naxalites in Bijapur district in Chhattisgarh PTI

ation, Kanker Superintendent of Police Indira Kalyan Elesela said. The bodies of four Naxalites and automatic weapons were recovered following the action, he said. Search operations were underway at both the encounter sites, police said. With the latest action, 113 Naxalites have been killed in encounters in the state so far this year. Of them, 97 were eliminated in the Bastar division comprising seven districts including Bijapur and Kanker. According to a statement issued by the Union Home Ministry in New Delhi, as many as 104 Naxals were arrested in different parts of the country and 164 have surrendered in 2025 so far. In 2024, 290 Naxalites were neutralised, 1,090 were arrested, and 881 surrendered. A total of 15 top Naxal leaders have been neutralised so far. Between 2004 and 2014, there were a total of 16,463 incidents of Naxal violence.

However, during the tenure of the Narendra Modi government from 2014 to 2024, the number of violent incidents decreased by 53 per cent, dropping to 7,744, the statement said. Similarly, the number of casualties of security forces decreased by 73 per cent, from 1,851 to 509, and the number of civilian casualties decreased by 70 per cent, dropping from 4,766 to 1,495. In 2014, there were a total of 66 fortified police stations, but under the Modi government's tenure their number has increased to 612, the statement said. Similarly, in 2014, 126 districts in the country were affected by Naxalism, but by 2024, the number of such districts has drastically reduced to only 12. In the past five years, a total of 302 new security camps and 68 night landing helipads have been established by the government, the statement said.



Concrete barricades being removed after the eviction of agitating farmers from the Shambhu border in Patiala district PTI

Farmers protest site razed

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Chandigarh
 A day after Punjab Police detained protesting farmers and demolished their temporary structures, traffic resumed on the Shambhu-Ambala Highway on Thursday after more than a year, and Khanauri border point is also set to open, with Haryana Police removing roadblocks on their side of the road. The road clearance exercise continued even as angry farmers held protests at several places in Punjab including Moga, Tarn Taran, Muktsar and Faridkot against the last evening crackdown on the protesters. A group of farmers, including women, entered into a scuffle with police personnel in Moga while on their way to hold a protest outside the deputy commissioner's office. Meanwhile, in a statement issued in Delhi, the Aam Aadmi Party reaffirmed its support to farmers but emphasised the urgent need to reopen key roads to protect Punjab's economy. The protesting farmers lashed out at the AAP government for detaining their leaders and removing protesters from the Shambhu and Khanauri border points, where they had been camping since February 13 last year after their march to Delhi was thwarted by security personnel. As the protests got stretched, farmers built temporary structures on the highway to accommodate protesters and sustain their agitation. Haryana Police had fortified the border points with cement blocks, iron nails and barbed wire to prevent any attempt by the farmers from Punjab to move towards the

national capital. Thus, the traffic on the Shambhu-Ambala and Sangrur-Jind roads remained closed for over a year. On Thursday, security personnel from Haryana removed the cement barricades on their side of Shambhu-Ambala Highway, opening the road for traffic, while barricading on the road at the Khanauri border point is still being removed. Earlier in the day, Punjab Police resumed its operation to dismantle the remaining part of the temporary structures on the Punjab side of the Shambhu and the Khanauri points to clear the roads. Police took trolleys to an open ground so farmers could later take them by showing their identity proofs. Meanwhile, farmers claimed that those detained have started a hunger strike in protest against the police action. The Samyukta Kisan Morcha (Non-Political) and the Kisan Mazdoor Morcha — the two organisations spearheading the protests — have announced to hold dharnas outside the offices of deputy commissioners in protest against the Punjab Police crackdown. Both the bodies slammed the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government in Punjab for evicting the protesters and detaining farmer leaders on Wednesday. Criticising the police action, a group of farmers held a protest in Gidderbaha in Muktsar district while another group, also comprising women, entered into a scuffle with police personnel in Moga while going to protest outside the DCP office.

SC reprieve for acid attack victims over compensation

PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ New Delhi
 In a landmark Order, the Supreme Court on Thursday said acid attack survivors could approach their respective State Legal Services Authority in case there was a delay in receiving compensation. A bench comprising Chief Justice Sanjiv Khanna and Justice Sanjay Kumar took note of the submissions of the counsel of Mumbai-based NGO Acid Survivors Sahas Foundation that such survivors were finding it tough to receive compensation from authorities in Maharashtra. "Just get in touch with the State Legal Services Authorities (SLSAs)," the CJI said. The bench added, "The victims will be at liberty to approach the State Legal Services Authorities in case of delay in payment of compensation." The SLSAs were further directed to maintain a chart, including details of the time the survivors or their family members sought the compensation and the day they received it. The

bench said the delay in the disbursement of the compensation to acid attack survivors will be brought to its notice. Observing the Centre and 11 states hadn't filed their replies to the petition, the top court granted them four weeks and posted the hearing in the May 5 week. The hearing related to a 2023 PIL of the NGO seeking the strict implementation of the court's directions issued in the famous Laxmi v. Union of India in 2014. The order, among other things, said acid attack survivors should receive free treatment in both public and private hospitals and compensated with a minimum of ₹3 Lakh by the State Government concerned as aftercare and rehabilitation cost. The plea, filed through advocate Shashank Tripathi, underscored the continuing struggles of acid attack survivors despite the court's efforts to regulate acid sales, punish perpetrators, and provide medical, psychological, and social rehabilitation. Seeking directions for enhancement of the compensation



SC observes the Centre and 11 states hadn't filed their replies to the petition, the top court granted them four weeks and posted the hearing in the May 5 week

amount, the plea also sought that the acid attack survivors should be heard by a fast-track court. Despite the top court's order mandating an additional ₹1 Lakh compensation along with the ₹3 Lakh minimum compensation under the Victim Compensation Scheme 2016, many survivors hadn't received adequate financial relief, it added. Several survivors, the plea said, were still awaiting the monetary compensation years after their attacks, leaving them financially vulnerable. The plea said despite amendments and schemes being notified, systemic inefficiencies came in the way of benefits for survivors, who were forced to go through complex bureaucratic processes to claim their rights. Private hospitals continued to demand advance payments before providing emergency care, despite the court's directions and the high cost of reconstructive surgeries remained a barrier for many survivors, it added.

MLAs face Babugiri, says Delhi Speaker

RAJESH KUMAR ■ New Delhi
 Citing instances where senior bureaucrats at the helm of Delhi government departments were not making themselves available for communication with MLAs, Assembly Speaker Vijender Gupta has written to Chief Secretary Dharmendra about how heads of government departments under them should deal with newly-elected legislators. Gupta alleged that officers "don't even acknowledge" MLAs' letters and calls. Delhi's bureaucracy was often seen at odds with the previous Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) government. In his letter on Wednesday, Gupta sought the Chief Secretary's attention to the procedure and protocol to be adhered to by the government officers while dealing with the members of the Assembly. Terming it "a serious matter," Gupta said, "This is with reference to the procedure and protocol norms to be adhered to by the government officers and officials while dealing with the Hon'ble Members of the Delhi Legislative Assembly. A few instances have been brought to my notice where the communications of the Members in the form of letters, phone calls or messages have not even been acknowledged by the concerned officer." Gupta said he expected that all administrative secretaries, head of departments, Delhi Police, DDA and other agencies would be asked to follow a strict

compliance to the norms. "...Action taken in this regard may be intimated to me at the earliest," he said. The Speaker also sought to be updated about action taken in the matter. Reacting to Gupta's letter, AAP leader and former minister Saurabh Bharadwaj took a dig at the BJP, accusing them of enabling bureaucratic defiance for years. "For a decade, BJP taught Delhi officers to ignore ministers and MLAs don't take their calls, don't respond to letters. Now, when the BJP is in power, they are expected to align with the new administration and heed the elected government and lawmakers, and Gupta's letter serves as a reminder of just this. The Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure lays down instructions for prompt disposal of references from Members of Parliament and State Legislatures. It instructs that communications received from a Member of Parliament/State Legislature should be attended to promptly. Any Information sought by a Member of Parliament and State Legislature should be supplied, unless it is of such a nature that it would have been denied to him, it instructs further. The guidelines concerning official dealings between Administration and Members of Parliament and State Legislatures have been issued by the Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and Pensions and reiterated from time to time. The provisions of the Central Secretariat Manual of Office Procedure regarding prompt disposal of communications from MPs have also been reiterated from time to time. However, keeping in view the instances of occasional non-observance of the above guidelines, a need was felt by the Committee of Privileges of the Lok Sabha for consolidating and reiterating the existing instructions.

He expected that all administrative secretaries, head of departments, Delhi Police, DDA and other agencies would be asked to follow a strict compliance to the norms — VIJENDER GUPTA, ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

Elon Musk's X sues Centre over content blocking

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Bengaluru
 Social media giant 'X' (formerly Twitter), owned by US billionaire Elon Musk, has filed a lawsuit in the Karnataka High Court against Government of India, challenging what it called unlawful content regulation and arbitrary censorship. It raised concerns over the Centre's interpretation of the Information Technology (IT) Act, particularly its use of Section 79(3)(b), which 'X' argues violates Supreme Court rulings and undermines free expression online. The lawsuit alleged the government is using the said section to create a parallel content-blocking mechanism, bypassing the structured legal process outlined in Section 69A. 'X' claimed this approach contradicts the Supreme Court's 2015 ruling in the Shreya Singhal case, which established that content can only be blocked through a proper judicial process or the legally defined route under Section 69A. According to the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting (I&B), Section 79(3)(b) mandates online platforms to remove illegal content when directed by either a court order or a government notification. If a platform fails to comply within 36 hours, it risks losing its safe harbor protection under Section 79(1) and could be held accountable under various laws, including the IPC. However, X has contested this interpretation, arguing that the provision does not grant the government independent authority to block content. Instead, it accused authorities of misusing the law to impose arbitrary censorship without following due process. Under Section 69A of the IT Act, the government has the power to block public access to digital content if it is deemed a threat to national security, sovereignty, or public order. However, this process is regulated by the 2009 Information Technology (Procedure and Safeguards for Blocking for Access of Information by Public) Rules, which require a structured review process before blocking decisions are made. 'X' has argued that instead of following these procedures, the government is using Section 79(3)(b) as a shortcut, allowing content to be removed without the necessary scrutiny. The platform sees this as a direct violation of legal safeguards meant to prevent arbitrary censorship. However, 'X' has refused to onboard an employee onto the Sahyog portal, claiming it acts as a "censorship tool" that pressures platforms to remove content without proper legal review. The lawsuit argues that this is yet another attempt by the government to control online discourse without judicial oversight.

Israel pounds Gaza again

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ Deir-Al-Balah (Gaza Strip)
 Israeli strikes killed at least 85 Palestinians across the Gaza Strip overnight and into Thursday, according to local health officials. The strikes hit multiple homes in the middle of the night, killing men, women and children as they slept. The Israeli military said it struck militant targets. Later that day, it said that "projectiles" fired from Gaza set off air raids sirens in central Israel. It appeared to be the first rocket attack out of Gaza since Israel ended the ceasefire with a surprise bombardment of the territory early on Tuesday. The Israeli military also restored a blockade on northern Gaza, including Gaza City that it had maintained for most of the war. More than 400 Palestinians were killed on Tuesday alone, mostly women and children, according to Gaza's Health Ministry.

Team India to get ₹58 crore cash reward from BCCI

PRESS TRUST OF INDIA ■ New Delhi
 The BCCI on Thursday announced a cash reward of ₹58 Crore for the Indian cricket team that won the ICC Champions Trophy earlier this month in Dubai. The Rohit Sharma-led India defeated New Zealand by four wickets in the final to grab their third Champions Trophy title. The financial windfall will cover the players, coaching and support staff and members of the men's selection committee headed by Ajit Agarkar. The Board did not give a break-up of the reward in its statement. "Winning back-to-back ICC titles is special and this reward recognises Team India's dedication and excellence on the global stage," said BCCI president Roger Binny in a release. Binny said the Champions Trophy triumph is a testament to India's strong cricketing eco-system. "This was also our second ICC Trophy in 2025, following the ICC U19 Women's World Cup triumph and it highlights the strong cricketing ecosystem in place in our country," he said.



In fact, it was India's third ICC trophy in the last eight months as they had won the last year's T20 World Cup, beating South Africa in the final. BCCI secretary Devajit Saikia said the victory justified India's top-ranking in white ball formats. "Their dominance in world cricket is a result of years of hard work and strategic execution. This victory has justified India's top ranking in white-ball cricket, and we are sure the team will continue to excel in the years to come," said Saikia. India dominated the Champions Trophy from the start, registering four commanding victories en route to the final. India began their campaign with a solid six-wicket win over Bangladesh,

then secured a convincing six-wicket triumph against Pakistan. They continued their momentum with a 44-run victory over New Zealand before overcoming Australia by four wickets in the semi-final. "The dedication and commitment shown by the players have set a new benchmark, and we are confident that Indian cricket will keep raising the bar on the global stage," Saikia added. BCCI vice-president Rajeev Shukla said Indian players displayed excellent composure under pressure during the ICC marquee event. "The players exhibited remarkable composure under pressure, and their success is an inspiration to aspiring cricketers across the country. "The team has once again proved that Indian cricket is built on a strong foundation of skill, mental toughness, and a winning mentality," he said. Prabhtej Bhatia, the BCCI treasurer, and joint secretary Rohan Gauns Desai too lauded the team and said the governing body will continue to work towards strengthening the cricketing infrastructure in the country.

Security forces dismantle Maoist bunkers in Saranda region



PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In a significant development in the ongoing anti-Naxal operations in the Saranda-Kolhan region, security forces have successfully seized an improvised explosive device (IED), dismantled five fortified Maoist bunkers, and recovered a large quantity of ammunition along with essential supplies. The coordinated operation, launched in response to intelligence inputs regarding the movement of top CPI (Maoist) leaders, is being carried out by a joint task force consisting of Chaibasa Police, COBRA battalions, Jharkhand Jaguar, and CRPF units.

Acting on credible intelligence, security forces initiated a special joint operation on March 4, 2025, focusing on the dense forest and rugged terrain spanning the Chotanagara and Jaraikela police station limits. The operation intensified on March 18, when security forces engaged in a fierce gun battle with Maoist insurgents near Radha Poda village under Jaraikela police station. Following the intense exchange of fire, a meticulous search operation was launched to identify and dismantle insurgent hide-outs. On March 19, at approximately 2:45 PM, security personnel successfully located and destroyed five heavily

fortified Maoist bunkers in the Radha Poda forest area. The operation also led to the recovery of a substantial stockpile of arms, ammunition, and essential commodities believed to be used by the insurgents to sustain prolonged operations. A bomb disposal squad was deployed to neutralize an IED and safely dispose of other explosive materials found at the site. The seizure of these bunkers is considered a major setback for the Maoists, who have long relied on the difficult terrain of Saranda to establish their strongholds and evade security operations. These bunkers served as strategic bases for planning and ex-

cuting attacks against security forces, and their destruction is expected to disrupt the operational capabilities of the insurgent group in the region. Security forces remain on high alert and have continued search and combing operations to prevent any resurgence of Maoist activities. The operation is part of a larger strategy aimed at restoring peace and stability in the insurgency-affected areas of Jharkhand. Senior officials have reiterated their commitment to eliminating extremist threats and ensuring that local communities can lead their lives free from the influence of insurgents. The success of this mission highlights the growing

effectiveness of coordinated intelligence-driven operations in countering left-wing extremism. Officials have urged civilians to remain vigilant and report any suspicious activities to authorities, emphasizing that community support plays a crucial role in achieving long-term security in the region. "As security forces push forward with their campaign to uproot Maoist influence, efforts will continue to strengthen law enforcement in affected areas and support developmental initiatives to provide alternative livelihoods for communities historically impacted by insurgent activities," said an official.

ESL's 'V for Society' Initiative Strengthens Community Impact



PNS : BOKARO

Vedanta ESL successfully concluded its "V for Society" Employee Volunteering Week, reinforcing its commitment to sustainability and community welfare. Over 50 ESL employees engaged in various social initiatives, including a cloth distribution drive, plantation efforts, mural painting, digital literacy sessions, and arts and crafts workshops. As part of the initiative, employees contributed to community upliftment by painting a hut for local farmers at Wadi Farm, conducting digital and financial literacy sessions for Skill School youth and Project

Jivika women, and collaborating with students at Prerna Drawing Center on creative projects. Additionally, 100 saplings were planted at Wadi fields, and essential clothing items were distributed to underprivileged communities. ESL's CSR Head, Kunal Daripa, highlighted that the initiative not only benefits communities but also nurtures employees' leadership and teamwork skills while fostering a culture of compassion. Vedanta ESL, a leading steel manufacturer in Jharkhand, continues to drive sustainable development while maintaining high environmental standards.

Signing of 2 MoUs by SAIL/MTI with IIM Lucknow & SHRM

PNS : RANCHI

Two Memorandum of Understandings (MoU) were signed by SAIL-MTI with IIM Lucknow & SHRM on 19.3.2025 for academic collaboration in the presence of K K Singh, Director (Personnel) SAIL, Sanjay Dhar, Actg. ED (HR-L&D), MTI and Achal Khanna CEO-SHRM India, APAC & MENA signed the MoU at an event held at SAIL Corporate Office, New Delhi.



The event was attended by B S Popli, ED (HR) SAIL, Manas Rath, CGM (HR), Corporate Office/SAIL and by Sudhir Gadh Chief Growth & Strategy Officer SHRM India, APAC and MENA; Ashish Kaul: Director, Knowledge & Advisory and Business Head, PSE SHRM; Gaurav Bansal Head Marketing & Communications - SHRM India, APAC, & MENA; Neetika Mithal: Senior Knowledge Advisor, SHRM and Nishant Parashar: Sr. Manager, Business Development PSE-SHRM. From IIM Lucknow it was attended by Anju Sharma (General Manager, Management Development Programmes, IIM Lucknow). The MoU envisages collaboration between SAIL and IIM Lucknow organizing customized leadership Programmes for SAIL



Executives, faculty support for each other, nomination in open executive education programmes of IIML. The MoU also envisages collaboration in the areas of Joint research, development of case studies leading to publications, Joint consultancy for Third Party, etc. The MoU envisages collaboration between SAIL and SHRM mainly for Leadership Development through Journey Based Programmes. The MoU also envisages collaboration in the areas of

Employee Engagement, Research & Thought Leadership, Consulting and Advisory Services, Well-being Programs, etc. Collaboration with reputed institutions is part of the overall L&D Strategy of SAIL which will address the unique challenges faced by high-ranking executives and equip them with the strategic insights, leadership skills, and technical expertise needed to drive growth and innovation within the organization.

Salary deductions ordered for 89 teachers who failed to register their attendance online

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

In a strict move to enforce accountability in the education sector, salary deductions were ordered for 89 teachers who failed to register their attendance online via e-Vidyavahini. The decision was made during a review meeting of the Education and Welfare Department held at the Collectorate Auditorium, Jamshedpur, chaired by Project Director ITDA and Deputy Development Commissioner Aniket Sachan. Officials emphasized that online attendance registration is mandatory for both students and teachers, ensuring transparency and discipline in schools.



In addition to attendance monitoring, the meeting addressed several key educational welfare initiatives. To expedite scholarship payments, officials were directed to coordinate with bank branches to resolve delays caused by errors in bank accounts and NPCI mapping. Block Education Extension Officers (BEEOs) were tasked with facilitating biometric updates in children's Aadhaar to prevent further payment issues. Swift resolution of bank account discrepancies was mandated to ensure timely scholarship disbursements. Regarding bicycle distribution, all fully assembled

bicycles are to be distributed in the presence of public representatives, and cycle fitters from surplus blocks are to be relocated to other areas to accelerate the process. Officials were also directed to ensure 100% utilization of school grants for uniform distribution, DIAS enrollment, and inclusion of all students under the Samagra Shiksha Abhiyan and Aapar program. School infrastructure improvements were also prioritized, with school grants to be utilized for ensuring better availability of drinking water, electricity, and toilets. Schools were instructed to enhance maintenance, ensure cleanliness, and promote tree plantations. For the CM Special

Scholarship Scheme, direct benefit transfers (DBT) to 7,366 students for the financial year 2024-25 were reviewed, with officials instructed to achieve 100% fund disbursement, as 78% of children had been covered so far. The meeting was attended by District Education Officer Manoj Kumar, District Education Superintendent Ashish Pandey, along with BEEOs, BPOs, APMs from the Jharkhand Education Project, BACs, BRCs, JES, and other relevant officials. These decisions aim to improve the efficiency of welfare schemes, enhance school infrastructure, and ensure that students receive timely support across Jamshedpur.

Tata Zoological Park invites citizens to name its new tigers

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR



Tata Steel Zoological Park is offering residents a unique opportunity to participate in naming its two newly arrived tigers—one male and one female. The tigers, which arrived at the zoo on Thursday, March 13, 2025, are currently under a mandatory 30-day quarantine period. To engage the community in this special occasion, the zoo is inviting name suggestions from the public.

Citizens can send their suggested names via SMS or WhatsApp to 8709572018 by Wednesday, March 26, 2025. Each entry must include the sender's name and place of residence. A selection committee will review the submissions, and the most meaningful names will be chosen for the tigers. The final names will be officially announced on April 1, 2025. The individuals whose name suggestions are selected will be duly informed and rewarded with four complimentary visitor passes for a special tour of the zoo. This initiative not only strengthens public involvement but also fosters a sense of belonging and appreciation for wildlife conservation.

"Tata Steel Zoological Park encourages all residents of Jamshedpur to participate in this exciting event and contribute to a historic moment at the zoo. Don't miss your chance to leave a lasting legacy—send in your tiger name suggestions today," said an official.

Dhanbad MLA demands release of funds for payment of due honorarium

PANKAJ : DHANBAD

MLA Raj Sinha on Thursday raised the issue of non-payment of honorarium to officers and employees of various departments who worked during the Lok Sabha as well as the Assembly elections 2024 in different districts under the state including Dhanbad during the Zero Hour in assembly. Sinha demanded from the government to release funds for payment of the honorarium of all the employees and officers engaged in the Lok Sabha and Assembly elections 2024 immediately.

He also raised a question relating to financial irregularities of around Rs 50 crore in health centers and hospitals across the state by the National Health Mission in the financial year 2023-24. He raised questions over the expenditure to the tune of Rs 50 crore in the name of Janani Suraksha Yojana, National Child Health Program, female sterilization and cataract operation. Sinha also questioned how many needy people got the benefit from the expenditure made in Janani Suraksha Yojana, National Child Health Program, Female Sterilization and Cataract Operation Scheme. Sinha demanded to provide the account statement of expenditure in these schemes besides a high-level investigation of the financial irregularities and identification of the culprits and legal action against those who syphoned off the sum.

Mental wellness lessons for students

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

On the occasion of International Day of Happiness, Narbheram Hansraj English School organised a Mental Health Workshop. The theme for the international Day of Happiness 2025 is 'Caring and Sharing', emphasizing the power of kindness, compassion and generosity in fostering a happier world. The session aimed at fostering emotional resilience, stress management, and overall mental health awareness among young learners. This initiative came in response to the growing need for mental health recognizing that students face academic pressures, social challenges, and personal struggles that can impact their well-being. The programme included interactive and motivating



workshops by eminent guest speakers, Dr Suprabha Dey, Assistant Professor at Amity University of Education Lucknow and Mr. Durga D Pathak, a management expert who has worked for 37 years at Tata Steel in the Human Resources and Industrial Relations Division. The Principal, Paramita

Roy Chaudhury emphasized the importance of prioritizing mental health in the school. "Our goal is to create a safe and supportive environment where students feel heard, valued, and empowered to seek help when needed." The Chief Guest for the event was Nakul Kamani, President of Narbheram

Hansraj English School and one of the leading entrepreneurs of the town. He also stated that mental wellness sessions are very important for preparing students to face real life challenges. The enrichment session was initiated by Shivani Goel, President of Rotary Club of Jamshedpur, Steel City.

Death Anniversary of Shaheed Thakur Ji Pathak observed

PNS : JAMSHEDPUR

The death anniversary of the esteemed city-based national leader, Shaheed Thakur Ji Pathak, was commemorated across various states of India, including Jharkhand, Bihar, Karnataka, Odisha, Uttar Pradesh, West Bengal, and Andhra Pradesh. The event witnessed participation from numerous members of the Shaheed Thakur Ji Pathak Welfare Society, along with its national president and general secretary. As part of the tribute, the members visited old age homes where they distributed food and clothing to the needy. They also undertook a tree plantation drive to honor the leader's commitment to social welfare and environmental conservation. During the event, the National Wing President of the society, Surya Pathak, spoke about the invaluable contributions of Shaheed Thakur Ji Pathak. He highlighted the leader's dedication to humanity and his relentless fight for the rights of the poor while being a part of the Janata Party. Recalling his struggles, Surya Pathak noted that Shaheed Thakur Ji



Pathak had been imprisoned multiple times for standing up for the underprivileged and had played a significant role in assisting farmers. He also emphasized the leader's close association with former Prime Minister Chandra Shekhar Ji, stating that people continue to remember him for his selfless service. Furthermore, the society's national secretary stated that the legacy of Shaheed Thakur Ji Pathak remains deeply embedded in India's administrative history. He mentioned that in many government offices in Delhi and across several states, the leader's name is still recognized, and official records acknowledge his contributions. The event served as a reminder of Shaheed Thakur Ji Pathak's enduring impact on the nation and his unwavering commitment to justice and equality.

DIC BSL reviews safety measures at CRM Complex, HRCF Dept



PNS : BOKARO

BSL's Director In-Charge, Birendra Kumar Tiwari, conducted a safety walk today across the CRM Complex and HRCF Department to assess workplace safety measures. He was accompanied by Executive Director (Operations) C. R.

Mahapatra, Executive Chief General Manager (Safety) Anand Rautela, Chief General Manager (Technical) Lakshmi Das, CRM-III Chief General Manager Arun Kumar, CRM-I & II Head Biswajit Mishra, HRCF Department Head, and other senior officials. During the safety walk,

DIC Tiwari interacted with department executives and employees, emphasizing the importance of PPE usage and compliance with safety protocols. He also stressed the need for improved housekeeping on the shop floor and provided directives to further strengthen safety measures.

TWO ARRESTED FOR SHOOTING AT A MAN IN GARHWA

NITYANAND DUBEY : GARHWA

The police have cracked the shooting incident that occurred on March 7, 2025, in the Chiniya police station area of Garhwa district. In this case, Garhwa police have arrested two suspects. This information was provided by SP Deepak Kumar Pandey during a press conference at the auditorium of the district collectorate. He mentioned that the incident was carried out due to a dispute related to the MGNREGA scheme. On March 7, around 3:30 PM, Yogendra Prasad (40 years old), a resident of Sigsigkhurd village, was near Table Ghati when two armed assailants on a motorcycle shot at him. Yogendra managed to escape with his life, but a bullet got lodged in his neck, which was later removed through surgery. He is currently in good health. A long-standing dispute existed between Yogendra Prasad and the husband of the Panchayat Deputy Mukhiya, Mandeep Yadav, related to the MGNREGA scheme. Yogendra had opposed several schemes, causing significant financial loss to Mandeep Yadav and his associates. Due to this enmity, Mandeep



Yadav conspired to murder Yogendra with the help of his accomplices, Nitesh Singh and Amit Kumar Singh, also known as Babloo Singh, before going to jail. Nitesh Singh and Babloo Singh arrived at Table Ghati on a white Apache motorcycle. They followed Yogendra as soon as he arrived there. Babloo Singh fired at him with a country-made gun. After investigation and raids, Garhwa police arrested the main suspects, who

have been identified as Amit Kumar Singh alias Babloo Singh from village Karui, police station Manjhiyawan, Garhwa, and Nitesh Kumar Singh alias Neetu Singh from village Gongo, police station Pipratand, Palamu. The police recovered a country-made gun, one live bullet of 0.315 bore, the white Apache motorcycle (JH-14H-0366) used in the incident, two mobile phones, and the clothes worn by the criminals at the time of the incident.

Irfan threatens to cut down coal, iron supply to Delhi

Demography of Santhal has changed so much that if you throw a stone anywhere, it will hit a Bangladeshi, says Tiwari

PNS : RANCHI

Health Minister Irfan Ansari has warned BJP and the NDA Government in Centre stating that their leaders sitting in Delhi should not show us eyes, otherwise we will shut down Delhi. Health Minister Irfan Ansari said that we too have a keen eye on Delhi and BJP.

Health Minister Irfan Ansari was reacting to BJP's national spokesperson Tuhin Sinha's remark where he raised the question of corruption and infiltration in Jharkhand. He said that we are preparing an account of our five-year tenure and achievements. BJP leaders sitting in Delhi should not blame us.

He said that BJP is unable to digest the government running in the state under the leadership of a tribal Chief Minister, so its leaders sitting in Delhi are making baseless statements. Health Minister Irfan Ansari



Chief Minister Hemant Soren along with others during the ongoing Budget Session of the State Assembly in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu



Speaker rabindra Nath Mahto during the ongoing Budget Session of the State Assembly in Ranchi on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

we will pack up Delhi's bags and cut off electricity. Irfan Ansari said that by stopping the mineral wealth, we will send a message that stop challenging us.

Meanwhile, in other development BJP MLA Satyendranath Tiwari has given a big statement regarding Bangladeshi infiltration in Santhal. While replying to Health Minister Dr. Irfan Ansari,

he said that the demography of Santhal has changed so much that if you throw a stone anywhere, it will hit a Bangladeshi.

It is worth noting that Dr. Irfan Ansari had challenged the Leader of Opposition Babul Marandi on Wednesday that if he shows even

one Bangladeshi infiltrator, he will resign from politics. At the same time, the issue of Bangladeshi infiltration in Jharkhand was raised by the National Spokesperson of BJP in a press conference in Delhi. Describing it as correct, BJP MLA Satyendranath Tiwari said that his party is the largest party in the world and our leaders can hold press conferences anywhere. BJP MLA from Garhwa Satyendranath Tiwari said that Bangladeshi infiltration has increased so much that 500 voters have increased at each booth. He said that 35 tribal women became Mukhiya in Santhal but their husbands' names are Muslim. What is this?

MLA Satyendranath Tiwari was questioned about the scam allegations against former minister Mithlesh Thakur. To which he said that it is not us but the ED that has accused former minister Mithlesh Thakur of embezzling more than five thousand crore rupees.

Body of Jharkhand man brought home from Russia

Action on demand of the deceased's father in the State Migrant Control Room

PNS : RANCHI

Due to the promptness of the Labour, Employment, Training and Skill Development Department of the Jharkhand Government, the body of late Ravi Kumar, who was working as a steel

fixer in Russia's OOO LEV Story, which is the corporate partner of Esta Construction Company, was brought to his hometown Garhwa. Let us tell you that late Ravi Kumar's father Sachchidanand Chaudhary had informed about his son's

death in the State Migrant Control Room run by the department. Thereafter, the control room contacted the Protector of Emigrants and established contact with the Second Secretary (Consular) of the Indian Embassy, Moscow. As a result, the com-

pany expedited the process of repatriation of the body and the embassy also provided NOC to the body of the deceased after completing the necessary documentation. The body of late Ravi Kumar Chaudhary was sent from Moscow to Delhi on 19

March by flight number SU 232 and his body reached Delhi on 20 March. The Deputy Commissioner of Garhwa played an important role in establishing coordination at the departmental level in bringing back the body of Ravi Kumar Chaudhary.

Shankaracharya Swami Shri Sadanand Saraswati Maharaj felicitated

PNS : RANCHI

Under the aegis of Shankaracharya Abhinandan Samaroh Samiti, a grand civic felicitation, religious assembly and discourse of Dwarka Sharda Peethadheeshwar Shankaracharya Jagatguru Swami Shri Sadanand Saraswati Maharaj Ji was organised in Marwari Bhawan on Harmu Road in Ranchi on Thursday.



Jagatguru Shankaracharya Swami Shri Sadanand Saraswati Ji Maharaj was felicitated by the citizens of Ranchi by the prominent social and religious organizations of Ranchi- Agrawal Sabha, Marwari Sahayak Samiti, Jharkhand Provincial Marwari Conference, Ranchi District Marwari Conference, Shri Maheshwari Sabha, Marwari Brahmin Sabha, Digambar Jain Panchayat, Haryana Sangh, Khandelwal Vaishya Sangh, Vijay Vargiya Sabha, Marwari Sain Samaj, Marwari Youth Forum, Ranchi Marwari Women Conference and several other organisations.

On this occasion, Swami Shri Sadanand Saraswati Ji guided the devotees present in an important religious gathering. In Shankaracharya Ji's discourse, he highlighted the importance of Indian culture, Vedas and Upanishads. Swami Ji said that Indian civilization always gives the message of following the path of truth, non-violence and religion. He said that arro-

gance destroys human life. We all should protect saints, sects and scriptures. And all Hindus should have knowledge of their religion. We should give priority to moral values in our lives and purify the soul by following the path of religion. Swami Ji especially appealed to the youth to connect with their cultural heritage and not lose their identity in the name of modernity.

He said that it is very important to maintain a balance between modernity and tradition, so that we can stay connected to our roots and at the same time keep up with the world. He said that conversion is a big problem and there is a need to create awareness about it. There should be a provision for strict punishment for those who convert. We are already working on this and many organizations are also working on it. He said that a

Sanatan Dharma Board should be formed and all the temples should be subordinate to it. And a cow mother should be declared as the national mother. He said that all the Hindus living in Hindustan would like a Hindu nation but a Hindu nation can be formed only by amending the Constitution. Sanatan Dharma is the Hindu religion and it is very important to have unity and discipline among the followers of Sanatan Dharma.

After the religious meeting, Shankaracharya Ji blessed all the religious lovers. And said that the city of Ranchi is settled in a very peaceful and religious environment and the people here always follow the path of religion and spirituality, he talked about promoting such events in Ranchi so that people can get more religious and mental peace.

Thunderstorms, rain witnessed in many parts of State

PNS : RANCHI

The residents of Jharkhand can look forward to some continued respite from the recent heat wave affecting the State as significant changes in the weather conditions with forecasts predicting light to moderate rainfall, thunderstorm, lightning and hailstorms are expected till March 23.

Jamshedpur were recorded at 31.7 and 33.5 degree Celsius with a temperature drop of 4.5 and 3.6 degrees respectively.

For March 21, the MET Centre Ranchi has issued an orange alert for the entire State. Parts of southern Jharkhand and the adjoining central regions are likely to receive hails, thunderstorm, lightning as well as gusty winds with a speed of approximately 50-60 km per hour. The northern parts of the State may witness thunderstorm, lightning accompanied with strong winds of speed around 40-50 km per hour.



The weathermen have also predicted widespread rainfall across the State for March 21 and March 22. Parts of southern, central and north eastern Jharkhand is predicted to experience thunderstorm and lightning as well as winds with a speed of around 40-50 km per hour on March 22.

"The change in the weather is likely to continue till March 23 and the temperature is expected to be on the rise from March 24 onwards. There has been a drop in the maximum temperature at various parts of Jharkhand on Thursday and it is expected to further fall by Friday," informed Director MET Centre, Ranchi Abhishek Anand.

The weathermen have also stated that during the pre-monsoon period thunderstorms accompanied with strong and gusty winds can be quite severe and can uproot trees, poles and walls, therefore, residents are advised to stay indoors, stand away from trees and electric poles.

of this scheme. He said that the Jharkhand government is taking credit for this as its achievement, but under this scheme, a premium of ₹500 is being charged from government employees, whereas in the Pradhan Mantri Ayushman Bharat Yojana this premium is borne by the government. This has put an additional financial burden on the employees. Ajay Sah expressed surprise and said that when the health cards of 99% of the employees have not been made, then on what basis did the government pay the premium of March to the insurance company? Seeking an answer from the government, he said that this entire scheme is being run only for show, while the real needs of the employees are being ignored.

He demanded the Jharkhand government to immediately remove the shortcomings of this scheme and provide better health facilities to the employees.

As per the statistics released by the MET Centre, Ranchi, till 5:30 pm on Thursday, maximum rainfall was recorded in Hazaribag at 14.5 mm. Gumla received 6.5 mm of rain followed by Deoghar at 3.0 mm, Jamtara and Khunti 2.0 mm and West Singhbhum which got 1.5 mm of rain.

Owing to the change in the weather, a fall in the maximum temperature levels was also observed across the State. Jamtara recorded the highest drop in the daytime temperature. The maximum temperature in this city on Wednesday was recorded at 36.6 degree Celsius while on Thursday evening it was recorded at 22.8 degree Celsius stating a drop of 13.8 degrees. The holy city of Deoghar too saw a drop in the maximum temperature by 12.9 degrees from 36.8 degree Celsius on Wednesday to 23.9 degree Celsius on Thursday.

In the last 24 hours, the temperature in the State capital also came down by 2.8 degrees to 32 degree Celsius on Thursday as compared to 34.8 degree Celsius on Wednesday evening. On Thursday, the daytime temperature in Bokaro was observed at 28.2 degree Celsius showing a drop by 8.9 degrees. Daltonganj and



Street vendors selling vegetables during sudden turn weather in the city on Thursday. Pix by Vinay Murmu

Guv addresses seminar on 'Inclusive Development of Tasar Silk Industry in India'

PNS : RANCHI

Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar while addressing the national seminar on 'Inclusive Development of Tasar Silk Industry in India' organized by Central Tasar Research and Training Institute (Ministry of Textiles, Government of India), Ranchi and Bio-diversity Board and Forest Department, Jharkhand at Central Tasar Research and Training Institute, Ranchi today said that Tasar silk industry is not only an agriculture based industry but it is also an integral part of the tradition and culture of the tribal community.

a large number of local people is linked to it.

Describing the Tasar silk industry as an example of environment-sensitive and sustainable development, he said that it not only strengthens the rural economy but also promotes forest conservation. The Governor said that about 10 million people are directly or indirectly associated with the production of tasar silk and various schemes are being implemented by the Government of India through the Central Silk Board and the Ministry of Textiles, which is promoting innovation and entrepreneurship in this sector.

Sharing his previous experiences, the Governor said that he got the opportunity to work as Union



Governor Santosh Kumar Gangwar presents a certificate to a farmer during a seminar on 'Inclusive Development of Tasar Silk Industry in India' in Ranchi on Thursday. PNS

Minister of State for Textiles (Independent Charge) in May 2014 in the government led

by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. During this period, he closely observed the efforts

being made for the welfare of silk farmers and weavers and made every possible effort to increase their income. He said that special attention is required in policy-making to advance the tassar producers of Jharkhand and make their livelihood sustainable.

The Governor said that the demand for tassor silk is continuously increasing in the global market and we have to take advantage of this opportunity and give a special identity to Indian tassor silk.

For this, special attention needs to be paid to branding, quality control, export promotion and technological advancement. He called for further promotion of research and innovation in this sector. He also mentioned

that Saranda forest of Jharkhand is often called the 'Tasar Capital of India' and it is believed that Tasar originated here. Research and Development (R&D) has to be given priority to further strengthen this sector.

The Governor called upon the scientists and researchers to pay special attention to the by-products and product diversification of Tasar silk, so that the income of local artisans and weavers can be increased.

On this occasion, he observed the Tasar products and their processing processes. A book/research paper was also released by the Governor. Also, persons who made outstanding contributions in this field were honoured.

Self-Propelled Inspection Car inaugurated at RRD

PNS : RANCHI

A new Self Propelled Inspection Car was inaugurated by Divisional Railway Manager Jasmeet Singh Bindra at Hatia Railway Station here on Thursday.



Self Propelled Inspection Car (SPIC) is a special vehicle used for inspection of tracks, bridges, tunnels and other infrastructures. This vehicle can run independently on the track without the help of any other engine or locomotive. This vehicle is an important

tool for the smooth and safe operation of the railway system. Its modern technology, high efficiency and autonomous operation capa-

bility helps railway officials in monitoring tracks and infrastructures. It not only improves operations but also enhances safety standards,

making railway traffic more safe and efficient. This high quality Automated Inspection Vehicle is equipped with all the modern

facilities, it is fitted with high quality cameras, sensors and other equipments which help in assessing the condition of tracks and structures. On the occasion of inauguration of this new Automated Inspection Vehicle, Senior Divisional Mechanical Engineer Balram Prasad Sahu, Sr DCM cum CPRO Shuchi Singh, Sr DOM Shreya Singh, Sr DE (Coordination) Saket Kumar, Sr DPO Raja and other officers and staff were present at Hatia station.

DIC, BSL conducts surprise inspection of BGH

BOKARO : BSL's Director In-Charge, B. K. Tiwari, conducted a surprise inspection at BGH. He was accompanied by CMO In-Charge Dr. B. B. Karunamay and Chief General Manager (Technical) Lakshmi Das. During the visit, Tiwari interacted with patients in various wards and inquired about their treatment from the doctors. He also reviewed hospital housekeeping, cleanliness, and other facilities, instructing medical staff to ensure continuous improvements.

Between Giggles and Goodbyes

A heartfelt collection of vignettes capturing the humour, warmth, and depth of a mother-daughter bond, writes **SWATI PAL**

Writing about the parent — child bond or about children growing up, is no easy task. One can descend to complete sentimentality or become a dead bore. Reading 'Din about Chins, Vignettes about Mother-Daughter,' penned by the prolific author, **Santosh Bakaya** was thus an extremely invigorating experience. Not only does she write with great ease but her writing has a remarkable blend of wit and philosophy, making the reader both smile as well as tear up. Santosh Bakaya has to be met with. I did. She is so full of life and empathy. Her laughter and the warmth in her eyes hold the promise of friendship and a deep-rooted generosity of spirit.

The book begins with a poem, 'Hush what is that?' extracted from Learning and Creativity (pub 2016) which will tug at your heartstrings. The too true and sweet narrative of a feisty mom chasing her daughter to put on socks, will fill any parent with nostalgia. The role reversal at the end will bring a sigh and a wistful smile to your face. The poem sets the tone for the vignettes. Words have a certain tempo as they are penned by Santosh Bakaya, they seem to gurgle and splash around and one of the devices that help in doing this is her use of alliteration such as 'Giggling at a gaggle of geese,' 'plucky pups, the mischievous monkeys, the grandiose green of the gulmohar.' The words have a rhyme and rhythm as one can see in the initial 'From the Writers Desk' and the overall effect is captivating. She manages to encapsulate the life of her daughter from birth to late teens and the reader will feel as if the child is someone s/he knows. One can picture the child prancing around to the melody of her favourite Bollywood number, one can hear her ribbing her mother (what an amazing variety of names she has for her mother) and admonishing her for being loud or not so aptly dressed. The daughter is special and yet could well be any daughter...so universal is the appeal in the way she has been described by Santosh Bakaya. The elation of being a loved and needed mother, the

desire to understand every mood at every moment of her daughter's life, the mixed feelings of reluctance to let go and yet, the pride at seeing the larger universe to which her daughter belongs - Bakaya may be writing about herself but in many ways, she has written for every mother.

The title vignette is droll, just like Santosh Bakaya's humour. You discover why there is a din about chins in the Bakaya household and you enter the family not as a voyeur but as an invisible member. Iha is mercurial and you will love her as much as Santosh does. And you will be curious to know more about the personal lives of all the members of the family, so subtly does Bakaya draw you within its folds.

Memories jostle with one another and Bakaya moves effortlessly as well as with speed between them. 'Of Teddy bears, calories and clouds' is one such example of Iha as a little girl imagining herself to be a teddy bear in a ditty used by her mother to make her walk and years later, the mother recalling those times. Iha now has complete control of her life and the mother grasps at the memories of her little girl, almost as if she is clutching on to a time when she called the shots for her daughter. There is profundity in the moving simplicity of narration - the philosophy that time and tide wait for nobody and that all we have are memories of time past; the umbilical cord between mother and child remains unseen but strong, understood by both and expressed at times. Another vignette that is touching even as it is written with



Bakaya's characteristic wry humour is 'Oh the horror of it!' One never forgets the lisping of children and parents always remain the safest refuge for children, no matter how grown up they are, that's what this beautiful vignette lovingly underlines.

As said earlier, Iha is mercurial and you will fall in love with her. Capricious of temperament, she is generous and will give the shirt off her back if needed as she does in the vignette, 'Red towel' and at the same time, she is grounded, not forgetting to scold her father for appearing in front of the domestic help, in, of all things, a red towel! The remarkable blend of wicked humour camouflaging a deep thoughtfulness is all too evident in the next vignette, 'I want you to have

LANGUAGE, LOVE, HARMONY

The vignette, 'Why are you teaching her Urdu?' seems a little different at first reading as it foregrounds the perpetuation of hate politics between India and Pakistan and the politicising of language. It is a significant vignette putting into focus the author's views about cross border conflict and harmony. But it is young Iha's questions, 'How can one hate a language, mom?' or again, 'Why attack music, is it not the food of love?' that will haunt the reader. Many of the Vignettes will bring a tear to the eyes of the reader or a lump in the throat as does 'Yummy mummy anything for a hungry tummy' while there is poetic strain all along, most evident in such vignettes as 'The fantastic feat of feisty feet'.

a good time,' in which the reader is amused, both by Iha's antics as much as by the author mother who ends the vignette with the lines. 'As she left the room, I furtively bent down to salvage my fallen jaw from the ground. No, she did not turn back to see me stooping so.' Again, in 'The Inside Story' we are enchanted by Iha's glee at her first tattoo and her matter-of-fact attitude at having got a scholarship for her essay.

Iha, like children do, constantly surprises her mother and teaches her more than she knows. We see the author invariably wondering why she hadn't thought of something that Iha did, as we see in 'Is Christmas already around the corner?' Memories of these lessons learnt may make the author lachrymose as she admits readily but for the reader, it is again a sharp reminder that indeed, the child IS father of the man. In the vignette 'Injustice,' the author observes about Iha, 'Injustice anywhere was, of course, a threat to justice everywhere, she has realised that, and could not tolerate belligerence in any form'. Over and over again we see Iha's generosity as she abundantly gives away her newly bought hoodies in the vignette, 'Which brand?'

Many of the Vignettes are quirky and end unexpectedly; the title arouses your curiosity and makes you think along a certain direction, but the ending is like a jack in the box, popping up to tickle your funny bone. You will need to read 'Love never dies' to understand this observation.

There is a lot of bantering between mother and daughter, sharper because of a shared bond over language and literature. While we see that in many Vignettes, it is pronounced in 'Theflurry about egg curry.' We see this even in 'I am jiggled,' a vignette that shows the camaraderie between the mother and the daughter and the Roald Dahl connect.

There are lessons to be learnt from these Vignettes, Institutions need to be careful about the mental health of their students, else they may scar children forever.

(The author is the Professor and Principal, Janki Devi Memorial College, University of Delhi)

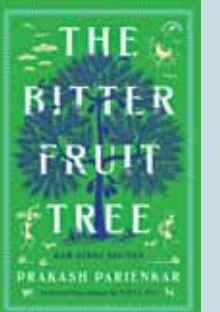
STORIES EVERYWHERE FOUND

Many of the vignettes have Iha saying that her mother should concentrate on food and not listen in on conversations of others, for food for thought. But it is clear that Santosh Bakaya finds a story everywhere and in everything, be it dins about chins or her daughter, Iha. And we all love a good storyteller.

MARCH READS



Book: Goa
Author: Subodh Kerkar, Kunal Ray
Publisher: Aleph Book
Price: ₹595



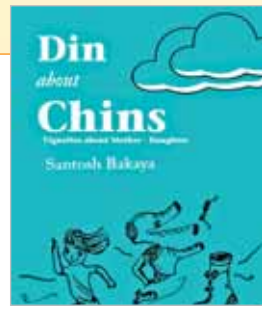
Book: The Bitter-Fruit Tree
Author: Prakash Parienkar
Publisher: Niyogi Books
Price: ₹370



Book: Each Little Bird That Sings
Author: Jayantika Davé
Publisher: Rupa
Price: ₹495



Book: Futuresmith
Author: James Allen
Publisher: Rupa
Price: ₹250



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Din about Chins
Author: Santosh Bakaya
Publisher: Penprints, Kolkata, 2025
Price: ₹450/-



NEW LAUNCH

POETRY THAT SETS YOU FREE

'Mother, why can't I be like them? Because you are meant to be you.'

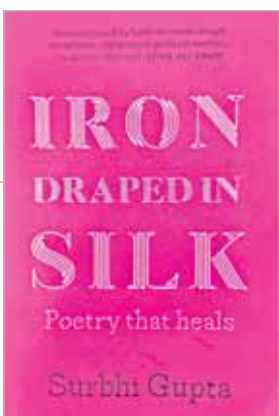
BY TEAM VIVA

These words, simple yet powerful, set the tone for 'Iron Draped in Silk: Poetry that Heals' by **Surbhi Gupta**. The collection is a heartfelt exploration of self-acceptance, resilience, and the quiet power of embracing one's own identity. With verses that peel away the layers of doubt and societal expectations, Gupta urges the reader to trust in their own magic, to stand firm in their truth.



One of the most moving sections, 'Trust the Magic' Within You, is beautifully complemented by perfect illustrations of a mother and daughter, capturing the essence of love, reassurance, and the strength passed down through generations. The poetry within this section speaks to every person who has ever questioned their worth, reminding them that their existence is not meant to be measured against others but celebrated for its own unique brilliance.

In pieces like "You are you, not them!", she challenges the reader to let go of external validation and embrace the freedom of self-acceptance. The emotions are raw, the words unfiltered, carrying the weight of lived experiences. In one particularly striking poem, a woman looks into the mirror, seeing herself as she once was, content, unbothered by others' opinions, only to realise how easily she let external voices shatter her confidence. But through self-love, she rebuilds, proving that healing is possible when one learns to nurture the soul within. For every woman who has ever felt unheard, unseen, or unworthy, This book is a reminder that strength and softness can coexist. With its deeply emotional verses and evocative illustrations, it speaks to the heart, offering comfort, courage, and a quiet revolution, one where women reclaim their voices, their confidence, and their right to be exactly who they are.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: Iron Draped in Silk
Author: Surbhi Gupta
Publisher: White Falcon Publishing
Price: ₹699/-

Turning Pages into Painting

A definitive tribute, 'Bimal Das Gupta: An Ode to a Legend,' explores his artistic evolution, abstract mastery, and enduring legacy in modernism, says **SAKSHI PRIYA**

Bimal Das Gupta's legacy is one that deserves far more recognition than it has received over the years. A pioneer of abstraction in Indian modernism, he defied artistic conventions, mastering multiple mediums with an effortless fluidity that set him apart. On the occasion of his 30th death anniversary, *Bimal Das Gupta: An Ode to a Legend* pays tribute to his extraordinary contributions, offering a deep dive into his artistic journey and the sheer brilliance of his work.

Edited and curated by **Archana Khare Ghose** and curated by **Vikram Mayor**, Art Curator of Gallery Silver Scapes, and **Uday Jain**, Art Curator of Dhoominal Gallery, the book is a comprehensive collection of essays, archival material, and personal anecdotes. It features contributions from notable art critics, historians, and artists, including **Ashok Vajpeyi**, **Ina Puri**, **Prayag Shukla**, and **Niren Sengupta**, each offering unique perspectives on Gupta's impact on Indian modernism. The National Gallery of Modern Art (NGMA) has also contributed images from its permanent collection, reinforcing his place in India's artistic history.

The book meticulously traces Gupta's artistic evolution, starting with his early watercolours from the 1930s, where his deep connection to nature is evident. His landscapes from this period, such as the Fantasy series, demonstrate his mastery of light and composition. His fascination with marine landscapes, developed from his frequent travels by ship, is reflected in his seascapes from 1970 to 1982, capturing the ever-changing moods of the ocean. The book also highlights his experimentation with Neo-Tantric abstraction in the late 1960s, where symbols, dots, and strokes of red evoke deeper philosophical meanings, as seen in *Prakriti*.



His shift from figuration to abstraction is explored through essays that detail his influences—from the landscapes of Bengal and Rajasthan to his exposure to European modernism during his travels to Poland, Germany, and France. This period marked a turning point in his career, inspiring semi-abstract and fully abstract compositions such as *Houses*, a constructivist cityscape that showcases his evolving artistic language.

The book includes rare archival material, such as a 1949 oil painting that demonstrates his early forays into abstraction, blending cubist influences with Indian motifs.

'The Cosmic Dance,' an abstract interpretation of Shiva and Parvati, is another highlight, capturing movement and energy through vibrant colour choices. His later works from the 1980s, particularly his acrylic pieces, reveal a striking interplay of opacity and transparency, imitating the wash-like effect of watercolours.

Through *Bimal Das Gupta: An Ode to a Legend*, his story resurfaces with renewed vigour. The book offers an in-depth understanding of his artistic brilliance, celebrating an artist who saw beyond form and colour, capturing the essence of nature and abstraction in a way that remains unparalleled.



ABOUT THE BOOK

Book: An Ode to a Legend
Publisher: Gallery Silver Scapes & Dhoominal Gallery
Price: ₹5000/-



Gauache, pastel and charcoal on imported paper (1991)

strokes of red evoke deeper philosophical meanings, as seen in *Prakriti*.

