



Woman's cricketing legend Mithali Raj retires

PG 09 »



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# 2022

**The sixth Rajya Sabha seats are from Maharashtra**

Here is a list of states going to polls on June 10

Uttar Pradesh	11
Maharashtra	06
Tamil Nadu	06
Bihar	05
Rajasthan	04
Andhra Pradesh	04
Karnataka	04
Madhya Pradesh	03
Odisha	03
Punjab	02
Haryana	02
Jharkhand	02
Telangana	02
Chhattisgarh	02
Uttarakhand	01

Seat numbers stand **MVA and BJP** In Maharashtra

- In Maharashtra, the ruling coalition Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition has the strength to ensure its victory in all the three seats it holds, while the BJP can comfortably win two of its three seats.
- The six Rajya Sabha MPs to be elected from the states would require 42 votes to win. The ruling MVA has 151 votes which are enough to win three seats, but it has fielded four candidates. On the other hand, the BJP has 106 MLAs and can win two seats but has fielded three candidates.
- The MVA needs 15 more votes to secure the seat, which BJP would bag with 13 more seats. Both the MVA and the BJP are reaching out to smaller parties and Independents — a group of 25 MLAs.

**Dr. Vaidehi Taman**  
@VaidehiTaman

Amid the hype to the contest for the sixth Rajya Sabha seat from Maharashtra, chaotic lobbying is also on in the Shiv Sena for a nomination to the Maharashtra Legislative Council (MLC). According to Sena functionaries, Sachin Ahir from Mumbai and Amsha Padvi from Nandurbar are frontrunners. Two senior Sena MLCs, Diwakar Raote and industries minister Subhash Desai, are retiring.

While the party will drop Raote, who was transport minister in the previous Sena-BJP government, a decision is yet to be taken on renominating Desai, a sitting minister in the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) government and a key coordinator. A source said the party is likely to drop at least one of the veterans; chief

minister Uddhav Thackeray will take a decision on this.

Ahir, who was in the NCP, joined the Sena before the 2019 assembly polls but did not contest from Worli seat. Aaditya Thackeray won the seat by a large margin. But the party is clear that it will nominate a common Shiv Sainik just like Kolhapur district unit chief Sanjay Pawar is the nominee for the Rajya Sabha polls.

KC Padvi is the tribal development minister in the current MVA government. The MVA is once again pitted against the BJP for 10 seats in the Maharashtra Legislative Council elections on June 20. The electoral college comprises the 288 members of the Maharashtra Legislative Assembly. "Each candidate needs a quota of 27 votes to win. The Sena has enough votes to get its two candidates elected. The party is clear that it will pick hard core party workers over celebrities," the Sena

functionary said.

Just days ahead of the crucial Rajya Sabha elections, the familiar "resort politics" has begun with the ruling Maha Vikas Agadi in Maharashtra corraling its MLAs to a five-star hotel in south Mumbai as part of a strategy to ward off poaching.

Earlier, both Congress and BJP had shifted their MLAs to different resorts in Rajasthan and Haryana to eliminate the possibility of cross-voting. Elections will be held on June 10 to fill 57 Rajya Sabha seats from 15 states falling vacant due to the retirement of members on different dates between June and August. Prominent among those retiring is Union minister Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Congress leaders Ambika Soni, Jairam Ramesh and Kapil Sibal, and BSP's Satish Chandra Misra.

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## Editoritis

## Rajya Sabha Polls 2022 Maharashtra

## Big trade - Bargain - Backbiting

Editoritis



Dr. Vaidehi

The Rajya Sabha election has scorched up in Maharashtra, a direct descendant of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, dropped out of the race. Maharashtra has a 288-member assembly which can elect six seats to Rajya Sabha. Each candidate needs a quota of 42 votes to win. Banking on this calculation, the BJP can safely win two seats, the Shiv Sena one, the NCP one, and the Congress one. The Shiv Sena has fielded one more candidate, banking on extra votes from the NCP and the Congress.

BJP has 105 MLAs while Shiv Sena 55, NCP 53, Congress 44, Bahujan Vikas Aghadi three, Samajwadi Party, AIMIM, and Prahar Janshakti Party two each, MNS, CPM, Peasants and Workers Party, Rashtriya Samaj Paksha, Swabhimani Party, Jansurajya Shakti and Krantikari Shetkari Party one each. There are 13 Independents, while one seat is vacant.

Shiv Sena's Sanjay Raut and Sanjay Pawar filed their nomination papers for the elections and expressed confidence in winning the Rajya Sabha polls in 2022. Raut said they wanted the polls to be deferred so that there is no horse-trading. BJP has fielded three candidates in Maharashtra for the Rajya Sabha polls. The Shiv Sena leader said Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA)

has four candidates in the Rajya Sabha elections and the ruling alliance will win all four seats.

After the BJP kept 113 MLAs, including their independents, in five-star hotels, criticism also started against them. Shiv Sena also did the same. They locked their MLAs in a five-star hotel. The discussion that Hitendra Thakur, who considers ERV Shiv Sena as his elder brother, will lean towards BJP in Rajya Sabha elections caused a stir in the political circles on Tuesday. He was met by Girish Mahajan, who had brought big leaders from other parties into the BJP.

Rajya Sabha elections in four states on June 10, various parties have accommodated legislators from at least three states in resorts, away from potential poaching by rival parties. A practice frequently seen before Rajya Sabha elections; this underlines the importance parties give to seats in the Upper House.

The tenure of six Rajya Sabha members from Maharashtra — Piyush Goyal, Vinay Sahastrabuddhe and Vikas Mahatme (all three from the BJP), P Chidambaram (Congress), Praful Patel (NCP) and Sanjay Raut (Shiv Sena) ends on July 4. Giving a stern message to the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) ahead of the Rajya Sabha elections 2022, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) coalition of Shiv Sena, Nationalist Congress Party (NCP), and Congress held a show of solidarity on Tuesday night in Mumbai.

The meeting was attended by all the big figures of the MVA coalition, including Sena's Uddhav Thackeray, NCP's Sharad Pawar, and Congress leader Mallikarjun Kharge. During the meeting, Thackeray exuded confidence that all four candidates of the MVA will win the Rajya Sabha polls.

Maharashtra is expected to witness fierce competition between the BJP and the ruling MVA. Six seats will fall vacant in Maharashtra and as per the numbers, the BJP will win two seats while the MVA government will bag three seats. A tough competition is expected for the sixth seat between BJP's Dhananjay Mahadik and Sena's Sanjay Pawar. Both sides have refused to withdraw their candidates for the sixth seat.

Reportedly, the MVA alliance had tried to reach out to the BJP, asking the saffron party to withdraw its sixth candidate in return for help in the Maharashtra legislative council elections. However, the BJP had

rejected the offer after which the Sena shifted its MLAs to a hotel to thwart attempts of poaching.

The Lok Sabha (lower house) and the Rajya Sabha (upper house) are the two houses of India's Parliament. Currently, the Rajya Sabha has a sanctioned strength of 245 Members of Parliament (MPs). Of them, 233 are elected from states and Union Territories (UTs). India's President nominates the rest from the fields of art, literature, science and social services. India's Vice-President is the Rajya Sabha chairperson of the Upper House which also has a Deputy Chair. A critical role of Parliament is to make laws. And no bill has been deemed a law till it has been passed by both houses before being sent to India's President for his assent. The idea behind having the Rajya Sabha is to ensure richer debates, with the participation of experts from various walks of life, before bills are approved or disapproved.

Lok Sabha MPs have a five-year tenure. They are elected simultaneously. The Lok Sabha is dissolved when national elections are announced. But the Rajya Sabha is never dissolved. Like in the case of the Lok Sabha, each state is allocated Rajya Sabha candidates based on its population. Its MPs are elected by MLAs for six years. Since one-third of them retire every second year, polls are held to fill their vacant seats. In case of death, disqualification or resignation, bypolls are held. A member chosen to fill such a vacancy will serve the remainder of his predecessor's term.

One might think if a party has more MLAs than others, its Rajya Sabha candidates will definitely win. That's not necessarily the case. Balloting in Rajya Sabha polls follows a proportional representation principle and a single transferable vote system to ensure only the majority does not dictate the process. Each MLA's vote is counted once. But MLAs don't vote for each seat. Instead, they have to list different candidates in order of preference. If a qualifying number of voters choose a candidate as their first choice, he or she is elected. The remaining votes go to the next candidates, but with a lesser value. So, MLAs also vote for candidates from other parties. But MLAs have to show their ballots to an authorised agent from their party to check cross-voting. Independents don't have to show their ballot.

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# Voices



## Letter's to the Editor

### Save trees

As per government data, 3 trees are chopped every hour for the last 3 years by the permission granted by the Delhi Forest department for the development of work in the city. This permission is granted under some of the sections in the Delhi Preservation of Trees Act but the point to be worried about is that the trees are not being transplanted and it takes years to grow a sapling into a fully-grown tree. Only one-third portion of the trees gets transplanted within their survival period. The forest department should keep an eye on these ongoing illegal and unlawful activities. This irresponsible activity is not tolerable regarding the safety of trees and nature. Cutting and transplanting of trees by agencies need to be done under the given law and if it isn't working then new laws must be made and precisely followed by one and all. On the one hand, there are many activities and works taking place to save the trees and on the other hand, people are doing wrong towards nature. So, this needs to come to an end and for that government officials must pay attention to this and work towards it.

- Ishika Sahu

### Agni-4 successfully launched

India successfully fired Agni-4 intermediate-range ballistic missile (IRBM). It can hit a target under the range of 4,000kms and even cover many cities in China. It is also capable of carrying nuclear warheads. The successful test reaffirms India's policy of having a 'Credible Minimum Deterrence Capability'. Agni-4 is the fourth in the Agni series of missiles. The latest test came in the backdrop of persisting stand-offs between the Armies of India & China at the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in Eastern Ladakh for the last two years.

- Abhinav Upadhyay

### 'Boycott of Indian goods in the Gulf straightened up BJP and Modi? (Editoritis)

Rightly points out the over-enthusiasm of media trials about Hindu-Muslim debate on channels which roughs the wrong feathers. Actually, all over the world, there is a little angst against Muslim religious people as they pose threat to others. In India, Hindus are always sidelined and Muslims were pampered by ruling parties under the name of secularism, but now Hindus have found their voice is something that is not digested by Gulf countries also. They keep quiet when European countries say or write or display their feelings against Muslims but Indians, they believe are below them so they are boycotting Indian goods as Prophet Mohammad is wrongly quoted by someone. All this is a very petty politics which is not good for the international level.

- Maya Hemant Bhatkar

### Fourth wave around the corner

According to estimates, India logged 4,270 new coronavirus infection cases on Sunday, most cases occurred in Kerala. India just faced two horrific waves then we just somehow tamed the third, and now the fourth wave worries the whole country. Corona is spreading in some states because Covid has not gone and as the doctors and researchers predicted covid may never go, we have to enhance our immunity and maintain precautions. Corona Virus is dominating not because of temperature level as it depends on Immunity level and social activities of people. The Economy system of the country has gone into loss due to Lockdown So only lockdown is not a Solution. According to the government, the daily positivity rate was recorded at 1.03%, WHO considers a positivity rate above per cent little dangerous.

- Mansi Parihar



# Treat women with dignity

Incidents of rape are on the rise in various parts of the country. It is strange that despite increased awareness of these crimes, they continue to spread. Survivors speak about their experiences to create awareness but nothing has changed. In fact, they have even spread to educational institutions.

Rape is one of the major problems faced by women today. It is a huge issue that plagues the world. It is a worldwide issue and is not specific to any one country. Rape also can impact anyone at any time. It is not specific to any one neighbourhood, race, gender, sexual orientation, age, or financial status.

Rapes continue to happen frequently, and yet many are not reported to the police. Rape is widely thought to be the most underreported crime. There are many stigmas that go along with rape, so it makes it difficult to come

forward. Also, it is sometimes difficult to prove rape when there are no physical signs. The victim may also fear being further victimized through the investigative process, so the crime is not reported.

Sexual assaults and rapes are such violent crimes that not only leave the victim physically assaulted but also emotionally traumatized or even dead. These molesters or rapists think they are strong enough to do such hideous acts and get away from them by sweeping their sins under the rug. In spite of all laws, awareness and education, these criminals are not held accountable for their evil acts.

In a country like India which is projected to be a global superpower and economically equipped, how can we live with such backwardness? Why is it that a woman's position in our society is still considered so low that any person can insult

her dignity and get away with it? Today, women are not safe in any part of the world. They are considered sex objects by men who only want to satisfy their carnal desires. Rape is a four-letter word and all men know that.

Women are an integral part of every society. Although women's status and role have been elevated beyond being a homemaker, the priority is still given to men in politics, education, employment and related occupations.



- Jubel D'Cruz

Writer and Columnist

Readers are requested to mail Letters to the Editor only at [afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com](mailto:afternoonvoicedesk@gmail.com)  
No postal letters will be entertained  
(The views expressed are authors' own.)



Photocredit : Sagar Kambli

Students of an art school paid tribute to singer KK on his sudden demise.

# City

## Be a part of World Ocean Day 2022

**O**n the occasion of World Ocean day. In the year 1992, in Global forum to have celebrated this day to provide platform to the NGO's speaking on environmental issues. Almost, over 70% of our Earth is covered by the Ocean that comprises over 95% of the total planet water. Ocean produces 50% of the Plane's oxygen and it is the major source of protein for the people living on Earth. The sea has employed millions of people around the world through various means. From mining the ocean resources like pearls, oils and minerals and the supply of seafood Ocean plays an inevitable role in human lives. India also joins the clean Sea Campaign in February 2017, launched by United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Let's all be a part of something great and take a pledge to always keep our Oceans clean.

Our correspondent **Akash Nirmal** spoke to **Jay Shringarpure** one of the renowned social activists and environmentalist of Mumbai, here are excerpts of the interview.

**What Indians can do to make our ocean clean?**

It should start from our home. If we segregate our home dry and wet waste

and remove plastic from dry waste, then recycle plastic. It will never reach to the ocean. My team is already working towards the plastic that is already available in and around Ocean. We have started from Dadar beach, going towards Mahim beach and now we are working on 40 beaches in Maharashtra. We are also creating the awareness through Social media, college visits and going door to door to recycle their plastic waste.

**What are your suggestions to those who eat food from the stall on the ocean area and throw the waste into the ocean? How to manage that?**

In foreign countries, they have herbal connected to their beach. But they know how to manage their waste. BMC should be able to tell the food stall how they can manage their waste and support them. Like in Goa, they also have beaches but their oceans are clean because they know how to manage their waste and not throw in the ocean.

**What action government can take against serial offenders?**

Indian lacks bio waste management

as compared to western countries. For example, in countries like Australia, New Zealand and Dubai, if people are throwing waste in an ocean, they are fined and punished. In India we do not have such strict rules and the deterrence for law, here people take instructions casually. Government need will to deal with such issues with strong laws and vigilance. Meanwhile, people too should understand their asocial responsibility. It is the matter of civic sense.



### Social media friend raped woman

**A** case has been registered against a man for allegedly raping a 26-year-old woman he befriended on social media in the eastern suburb of Chembur here, police said on Wednesday.

The incident took place earlier this week when the 35-year-old accused allegedly met the victim and took her to an undisclosed location in Chembur and raped her, an official from Tilak Nagar police said.

The accused had gotten acquainted with the victim on social media and during their online chats, the latter had informed him that she was under a lot of debt and needed help to repay them, he said. Kamble had allegedly told the victim that he would help her repay the debts, and following the assault, the accused stopped taking her calls, the official said.

Based on a complaint, an FIR under section 376 (rape) and other relevant provisions of the IPC has been registered against the accused, who has not been arrested as yet, he added.

- PTI

### Intercity Bus traveller feels lack of uniformity of service

**N**ueGo, the flagship inter-city electric mobility coach brand of GreenCell Mobility, conducted first of its kind interview-based study with over 2800 respondents across ten cities in partnership with Kantar, the world's leading insights and consulting company.

First, of its kind, the inter-city bus traveller sentiment study finds that comfort, hygiene, and safety are top considerations for travellers; safety is most important to passengers in the south while comfort is relatively more important to those in the north and west.

88 per cent of travellers ready to experience premium electric buses. Post COVID-19, cleanliness and hygiene have become critical to consumers in all facets of life. Safety is the third most important consideration at an overall level. Among women, however, the hierarchy of factors influencing the choice of mode of travel is different. Safety is the top consideration among women, followed by cleanliness. The

order of these factors also differs by Zones. Safety is most important to travellers in the South, while comfort is relatively more important to those in the North and the West.

Travellers in the North also seem to be more price-sensitive as it is the second most important consideration to them, while it ranks fourth in the West and third in the South. Ashok Agarwal, MD & CEO, Green Cell Mobility, said, "NueGo services will soon be rolled out across 75 Indian cities, starting on the Indore-Bhopal route in early June. A customer-centric brand, NueGo buses are a climate-friendly alternative focused on delivering the brilliant basics to the Indian travellers which are at par with global standards."

A unique service offering, NueGo buses will be fitted with innovative technology and offer end to end convenience through customer lounges, app bookings, live tracking, and a seamless customer experience.

- ANI

### Police file charged sheet against Rana Couple



**T**he Police filed charged sheet against Rana couples who have been accused to assault policeman after they went to arrest them. Navneet Rana and Ravi Rana charge sheet are filed in the Khar Police station. The

allegation was assaulting policeman who went to arrest them on 23rd April 2022.

The police submitted the 85-page charge-sheet to the metropolitan magistrate court at Borivali. The charges on couples are section 34 and 353 of the IPC. Mohan Mane, senior police inspector of Khar police station, said the couple was charged with assault on public servant and was served a notice two days ago that the charge sheet was being filed against them on Wednesday.



**Apart from property damage and loss of life, other crimes against farmers will be withdrawn by the government - Deputy Chief Minister Ajit Pawar**

# Rajya Sabha Polls



# Rajya Sabha Election 2022

## The sixth Rajya Sabha seats are from Maharashtra

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While 11 seats are falling vacant in Uttar Pradesh, six members each are retiring from Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, five from Bihar and four each from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka. Three members

each from Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, two each from Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Punjab Jharkhand and Haryana, and one from Uttarakhand are also retiring.

A race is on for electing the rest 16 MPs from four states - Maharashtra, Rajasthan, Karnataka and Haryana. The elections to fill 57 Rajya Sabha

seats across 15 states will be held on June 10 and the results will be declared the same day. While the BJP's tally is likely to remain 100, the Congress' share in the Upper House may increase by a couple of seats.

Elections to the seats that will fall vacant because of the retirement of members on different dates between June

and August. Prominent among those retiring are Union ministers Piyush Goyal and Mukhtar Abbas Naqvi, Congress leaders Ambika Soni, Jairam Ramesh and Kapil Sibal, and BSP's Satish Chandra Misra.

While 11 seats are falling vacant in Uttar Pradesh, six members each are retiring from

Tamil Nadu and Maharashtra, five from Bihar and four each from Andhra Pradesh, Rajasthan and Karnataka. Three members each from Madhya Pradesh and Odisha, two each from Telangana, Chhattisgarh, Punjab Jharkhand and Haryana, and one from Uttarakhand are also retiring.

### Where numbers stand :

In Maharashtra, the ruling coalition Shiv Sena-NCP-Congress coalition has the strength to ensure its victory in all the three seats it holds, while the BJP can comfortably win two of its three seats.

The six Rajya Sabha MPs to be elected

from the states would require 42 votes to win. The ruling MVA has 151 votes which are enough to win three seats, but it has fielded four candidates. On the other hand, the BJP has 106 MLAs and can win two seats but has fielded three candidates.

The MVA needs 15 more votes to secure the seat, which BJP would bag with 13 more seats. Both the MVA and the BJP are reaching out to smaller parties and Independents — a group of 25 MLAs.

The BJP currently has 95 MPs and the Congress 29 in the 245-member house. The BJP will suffer losses in Andhra Pradesh,

where it has three outgoing members, Jharkhand and Rajasthan but is hopeful of making up for its in states like Uttar Pradesh and Uttarakhand, where it recently retained power.

The saffron party crossed an important milestone when it touched the 100 mark in the Rajya Sabha, a feat achieved by the Congress in 1988. It hopes to be close to the magic figure of 123 along with allies to complete its poll promises.

The Akali Dal's lone member from Punjab Balwinder Singh Bhunder and Congress' Ambika Soni are likely to make way for members from the Aam Aadmi Party whose huge strength in the assembly will ensure that it wins both seats.

Five BJP MPs are among the 11 retiring Rajya Sabha members from UP, and the party along with its allies is in a position to win eight seats, while the opposition Samajwadi Party may retain its tally of three. The elections are also likely to see the BSP's presence in the upper house reducing to a mere one.



Given their strength, the BJP with 121 MLAs and Congress with 70 members are sure to win two seats and one seat respectively. The contest will be for the fourth seat. Despite lacking the numbers to win a Rajya Sabha seat, the JD(S) with 32 MLAs has fielded its lone candidate Kupendra Reddy. There's an all-out fight for the fourth seat between Lehar Singh Siroya (BJP), Mansoor Ali Khan (Congress) and the JD(S) candidate. Interestingly, none of the three parties have the required votes to win the fourth seat, which is why they are reaching out to one another seeking support.

The entry of media baron Kartikeya Sharma, who is supported by both the JJP and the BJP — has made the contest close in the state. Sharma's entry has queered the pitch for Congress' Ajay Maken who is eyeing a second term in the Upper House. Sharma needs 31 votes to win — four more than the surplus of the BJP-led alliance. Congress has 31 but fears cross-voting from its camp. JJP leader Ajay Singh Chautala has said all 10 MLAs of the party will support Sharma.

The entry of another media baron Subhash Chandra, who is backed by the BJP, has made the contest close for the fourth seat where Chandra will be challenging Congress' Pramod Tiwari.

In the 200-member Rajasthan assembly, each candidate needs 41 votes to win.

The Congress has 108 MLAs and the BJP has 71 votes. The BJP has 30 surplus votes and to win a second seat, it needs another 11. To win a third seat, the Congress needs 15 more votes. Smaller parties and independents will, therefore, play a critical role in who wins the seat.



## Rajya Sabha polls: Rajasthan Cong MLA writes to EC

Congress MLA and deputy chief whip of Rajasthan Assembly Mahendra Choudhary has demanded that the Election Commission (EC) take action against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) as well as Subhash Chandra, the BJP-backed independent Rajya Sabha candidate, for allegedly adopting horse-trading and corrupt

practices, ahead of the June 10 Rajya Sabha polls. In his letter to Chief Electoral Officer on Tuesday, Choudhary pointed out that the total number of MLAs in the Rajasthan Legislative Assembly was 200 and that the ruling party in the state the Congress has the support of 126 MLAs including 108 MLAs of Congress, 13 of Independent, two of Bharatiya



Tribal Party (BTP), two of Communist Party of India (Marxist) and one of Rashtriya Lok Dal (RLD). Choudhary said BJP has 71 MLAs in the state and Rashtriya

Loktantrik Party (RLP) led by Hanuman Beniwal has three MLAs.

Earlier there was an alliance of BJP and RLP but now that alliance is broken," he said. He said that the Congress has 126 votes against 123 required to win three seats, while Chandra has 33 votes and he is short of eight MLAs to win.

Explaining the statistics,

Choudhary said, "Considering the total number of MLAs supporting Congress, it is clear that the party can elect three Rajya Sabha MPs directly. The weightage of an MLA's vote has been estimated at 100 in this Rajya Sabha election. It means a Rajya Sabha member will be elected on 4,001 weightage votes.

# Nation

## Smriti Irani attacks Delhi CM over ED's recovery from Satyendar Jain's residence



Union Women and Child Development Minister Smriti Irani on Wednesday launched a fresh attack on Delhi Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal seeking his reply on his colleague Satyendar Jain, who is in the custody of the Enforcement Directorate in a money laundering case. "I asked ten questions to Kejriwal around 12.30 pm on June 1. The eleventh question was whether Kejriwal still think that Satyendar Jain did not do theft.

Does Kejriwal believe that Satyendar Jain keeps no black money? Does he believe that Jain is innocent? I have not received the reply to any of my questions yet till June 8," Irani asked while speaking to ANI. Mentioning that the ED has

recovered around Rs 2.80 crore in cash, and 133 gold coins weighing over 1 kg from the residence of Jain and his aides, Irani asked whether Kejriwal still finds Satyendar Jain "innocent" despite these recoveries. The Union Minister reminded "Kejriwal had said that he checked the papers himself", and asked whether he did not check such huge cash processed by Satyendar Jain.

The CBI has accused Satyendar Kumar Jain and others of the commission of offences under the Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988. Jain was arrested after the ED in April this year attached immovable properties worth Rs 4.81 crore owned by companies named Akinchan Developers Pvt. Ltd, Indo Metal Impex Pvt Ltd, and others under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act, 2002 in connection with the disproportionate asset and money laundering case registered against Jain, his wife Poonam Jain, and others.

- ANI

## KT Jaleel files complaint against allegations made by Swapna Suresh



Image Courtesy : ABP

Former Kerala minister and CPI(M) leader KT Jaleel on Wednesday filed a police complaint against allegations levelled by Kerala gold smuggling case prime accused Swapna Suresh. According to Jaleel, there is a conspiracy hatched by Swapna Suresh and former MLA PC George and BJP.

"Allegations against me are baseless. This is a BJP and UDF conspiracy. They are trying to tarnish the image of the existing government. This conspiracy should be investigated," said

Jaleel. Swapna Suresh had on Tuesday revealed that she has declared in court about the involvement of chief minister Pinarayi Vijayan, his wife and daughter in the 2020 gold smuggling case. Suresh also alleged that there is a threat to her life and that she has sought protection. "I have already given 164 statements in court about a threat to my life. I have declared in court about all the people involved in this case. I have also filed a petition seeking protection in court. They are considering it. I have declared in the court about what is the involvement of M Sivasankar (then principal secretary to Kerala CMO), the Chief Minister, CM's wife Kamala, CM's daughter Veena, his secretary CM Raveendran, then Chief Secretary Nalini Netto IAS, then minister KT Jaleel," she said.

"These comments by the accused are part of the political agenda. The public had already dismissed this agenda. After an interval, they are making the accused repeat the same statement. There is not even an iota of facts in this allegation. If you think that by spreading these lies, you can destroy the determination of the government and political leadership, I am reminding you that this is a futile exercise," he said.

"I strongly believe that society will give an apt reply to those who think that they can benefit from this," the Chief Minister added. Stating that the public will dismiss the "fake allegations" aimed at tarnishing his government, Vijayan said that it works for the "comprehensive development and social welfare of Kerala".

- ANI

## NHAI sets new Guinness World Record

Union Minister Nitin Gadkari on Wednesday announced that a new Guinness World Record was created by NHAI in laying 75 km of bituminous concrete in a single lane on NH53 in 105 hours and 33 minutes. In a video message shared by Gadkari on Twitter, he said, "Commemorating 75 years of India's independence and under the aegis of Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav announced by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, NHAI has created a world

record that was certified by the Guinness World Records."

Gadkari congratulated all the engineers, contractors, consultants, and workers from NHAI and Raj Path Infracon Pvt Ltd for the efficient implementation of the project that has helped in the successful completion of this world record. He said the record has been made for laying 75 km of bituminous concrete in a single lane on NH 53 between Amrawati to Akola Districts in 105 hours and 33 minutes.

- ANI

## Not a single seat must remain unfilled': SC

The Supreme Court on Wednesday asked the Medical Counselling Committee (MCC) to ensure that not a single NEET PG seat should go waste while slamming the board for "playing with the future" of medical students. The court said that not a single must remain unfilled, saying that you are "playing with the future of students".

The apex court has also asked the MCC to file an affidavit on the plea seeking to conduct a Special Stray Round of counselling to allow the



candidates to participate in the vacant seats which are available after the conduct of the stray vacancy round of All India Quota (AIQ). The vacation bench of Justices MR Shah and

Aniruddha Bose asked counsel for MCC and Centre to file an affidavit today during the course of the day explaining why seats were vacant.

The court listed the matter tomorrow for further hearing. During the hearing, the court expressed dismay to hear that 1,456 seats have remained vacant. The counsel appearing for MCC sought time to file an affidavit regarding this. The MCC counsel also said that 2022 counselling will get delayed and there will be a cascading effect.

- ANI

## 42 ton drugs destroyed in India on Drug Destruction Day

The Central Board of Indirect Taxes and Customs (CBIC) destroyed 42000 kg of narcotics at 14 locations across the country, informed the officials on Wednesday. The move came in wake of the Drug Destruction day on June 8 The Union Minister for Finance and Corporate Affairs Nirmala Sitharaman virtually witnessed the destruction process. "The drug destruction process was held at 14 locations across the country in

a safe and non-hazardous manner through the incineration approved by the State Pollution Control Boards," said CBIC in an official statement.

The destruction was conducted at, Kutch in Gujarat, Mumbai and Pune in Maharashtra, Virudhunagar in Tamilnadu, Patna in Bihar and Siliguri in West Bengal. "This event will highlight our commitment to people that we shall be earnest in our job to bring a logical end to every

smuggler, both through the court of law and thorough destruction of material which they bring in," tweeted the minister. In another tweet, she said, "Law enforcement agencies are committed to making sure that not even a milligram of the drug enters into the country. I am convinced that field formations of DRI and Customs will work together so that our country remains safe from drugs."

- ANI

## Cabinet approves transfer of in-orbit communication satellites to NSIL

To ease the business in the Space sector, Union Cabinet chaired by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday approved the transfer of 10 in-orbit communication satellites from the Government of India (GoI) to M/S NewSpace India Limited (NSIL).

"The Space Sector reforms mandated NSIL to undertake end-to-end commercial space activities and function as a full-fledged satellite operator.

It's functioning as a single-window operator will facilitate the ease of doing business in the space sector," read an official statement.

The NSIL is a wholly-owned Public Sector Enterprise of the Central government under the administrative control of the Department of Space.

According to the statement, this approval is expected to trigger domestic economic activity in the space sector and increase India's share in the global space market.

- ANI

## World

**Jaishankar welcomes Iranian counterpart to New Delhi**

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar welcomed the Iranian Foreign Minister Dr Hossein Amir-Abdollahian on Wednesday, saying the discussion between the visiting minister and Indian officials will reflect the close ties between Tehran and New Delhi.

"Welcoming FM @Amirabdollahian to New Delhi. Our discussions today will reflect our close and friendly relations," EAM Jaishankar tweeted. Earlier today, the Iranian Foreign Minister arrived in New Delhi. He is slated to hold talks with India's high-ranking officials aimed at expanding strategic cooperation between the two countries.

"The visit to India is aimed at expanding ties between the two countries and holding strategic consultations over cooperation regarding regional issues and international developments," Iran Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

India's relations with Iran are unique and historic. Iran is an important partner and a close neighbour.

He held constructive meetings with the top Iranian leadership and discussed several issues, including the development of Shahid Beheshti Terminal, and Chabahar Port. The Government of India took over the operations of a part of Shahid Beheshti Port, Chabahar in Iran.

India started interacting with Iran on Chabahar Port around 2003 but a major push was received in the second half of 2014, resulting in the signing of an MOU between the two countries for the development of Chabahar Port in May 2015. This MOU translated into a formal 10-year Contract for Equipping and Operating the Chabahar Port, which was executed on 23rd May 2016, during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Tehran.

- ANI

**5.0 magnitude quake hits China's Xinjiang**

A 5.0 magnitude earthquake jolted China's Xinjiang region on Wednesday, according to the China Earthquake Networks Center (CENC).

The quake jolted the Pishan county in the region at 2:52 pm today, Xinhua News Agency reported.

The epicentre was monitored at 36.09 degrees north latitude and 77.78 degrees east longitude, with a depth of 10 km, the CENC said. Earlier, on June 1, a 6.1-magnitude earthquake rattled Lushan County of Ya'an City in southwest China's Sichuan Province at 5:00 pm.

The epicenter, with a depth of 17 km, was monitored at 30.37

degrees north latitude and 102.94 degrees east longitude, according to the agency.

The epicenter was monitored at 38.52 degrees north latitude and 97.33 degrees east longitude, with a depth of 10 km, as per Xinhua.

No casualties were reported in that earthquake. Two days before, on April 13, a 5.1-magnitude earthquake had jolted Xingwen county of Yibin city, in China's Sichuan Province.

Earlier on March 26, a magnitude 6.0 earthquake jolted China's Qinghai province. The quake had struck the city of Delingha in the province at 12.21 am.

- ANI

**Is Islamabad safe for a walk: foreign embassies**

Diplomats from over 35 countries in Islamabad have expressed concerns over the law and order and crime situation in Pakistan's federal capital, local media reported on Wednesday. The foreign officials belonging to the Far East, Central Asia, Middle East and Africa, met senior officers of the capital police on Monday to discuss security-related issues, sources in the police told Dawn newspaper.

A similar meeting was scheduled for Tuesday but it was postponed due to the unavailability of the capital police chief, the report added. During a briefing on Monday, the security staff of some embassies showed concerns over road blockades and sealing of Red Zone which hampered their movements. This comes in the backdrop of the recent



protest march organized by former prime minister Imran Khan, that led to large-scale violence in the capital.

Embassy staff even asked the police to inform the embassies about security measures prior to any protest gathering so that events could be rescheduled according to the circumstances. They expressed concerns over the security situation in Islamabad.

Another security staffer asked

if Islamabad was safe for a walk, Dawn reported. Concerns were also raised over the spike in street crime in the federal capital, the report said. As per international standards, countries shared crime statistics of their respective capitals with all embassies located there. As a result of this, requests were made to share the crime statistics while calling for greater transparency.

- ANI

**22 killed in Balochistan**

At least 22 people were killed and a child was injured after a passenger van plunged 100 feet into a ravine near Killa Saifullah in Balochistan. The incident took place on Wednesday morning when the ill-fated van, with approximately 23 people on board, had left Loralai for Zhob, reported Dawn.

"The vehicle fell from a hilltop near Akhtarzai and 22 travellers aboard were reportedly killed in the accident," said the district's deputy commissioner, Hafiz Muhammad Qasim. Rescue 1122 officials said that a minor boy was injured in the accident and was referred to Quetta for medical treatment.

Foreign Minister Bilawal Bhutto Zardari expressed grief over the incident. In a tweet, the Pakistan Peoples Party media cell said that the party chairman has extended sympathies to the bereaved families. Bilawal urged authorities to ensure adequate medical treatment for the injured persons and called on them to take steps to avoid such accidents in the future.

- ANI

**Pak govt imposes ban on wedding ceremonies**

Amid the ongoing electricity shortage and worsening power cuts, the Pakistan government has imposed a ban on wedding functions after 10 pm, to be effective from Wednesday. The Restriction has been implemented on the orders of Pakistan Prime Minister Shehbaz Sharif, Geo TV reported citing sources. It further stated that the orders have been issued to reduce the number of dishes served in the ceremonies.

The guests will be served only one dish, adding that a notification in this regard will be issued soon. The sources said that Islamabad police and city administration have been directed to strictly implement the ban, and in case of any violation the administration must take strict actions against

the violators, Geo TV reported. This comes amid the ongoing protests against the federal government for the power shortage in the country.

Currently, the basic power tariff is Rs 16.91 per unit and with an increase of Rs 7.9078 per unit, it will be more than Rs 24 per unit, reported Geo News. Meanwhile, it was reported a week earlier that Pakistan is facing an acute electricity crisis resulting in a power shortfall of 6,500 megawatts (MW) accompanied by long hours of load shedding, lasting up to 12 hours.

Against a demand of 26,000 megawatts, the power supply in the country remained at 19,500 megawatts, reported Ary News. Rural areas in Pakistan are experiencing power cuts for up to 12 hours. Further, the electricity shortfall of Lahore Electric Supply Company (LESCO) has reached 800 megawatts. Although the electricity demand is 4,800 megawatts, the electricity supply is 4,000 megawatts.

The closure of several power plants in Pakistan due to lack of fuel and other technical pitfalls has caused an electricity shortfall, resulting in power outages. Few powerplants also received capacity payments post-shutdown as well.

- ANI

# Business

## Loans to get costlier, credit cards to be linked to UPI: Five new RBI announcements

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Wednesday retained its growth projection at 7.2 per cent for the current fiscal on the back of improvement in urban demand and gradual recovery in rural India. Unveiling the third monetary policy for the current fiscal, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the Indian economy remained resilient, and the central bank will continue to support growth. Here are 5 new announcements made by the RBI:

1. The RBI expects growth in the first quarter of the current fiscal at 16.2 per cent, which will taper to 4 per cent by the fourth quarter. Das, however, cautioned that there are risks from the ongoing Russia-Ukraine war. The central bank earlier in April slashed the GDP growth projection for 2022-23 to 7.2 per cent from its earlier forecast of 7.8 per cent.

2. The RBI on Wednesday allowed credit cards to be linked with the unified payments interface (UPI), which will enable more people to make payments



using the popular platform. At present, UPI facilitates transactions by linking savings or current accounts through users' debit cards.

3. RBI raised the interest rate by 50 basis points to a two-year high of 4.9 per cent as it doubled down to tame inflation that has surged in the last couple of months. The rate hike comes on the back of a 40 bps increase effected by RBI at an unscheduled meeting on May

All six members of the Monetary Policy Committee

(MPC), headed by RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das, unanimously voted for the latest rate hike, which is likely to make loans costlier.

4. RBI upped inflation projection for the current fiscal to 6.7 per cent from 5.7 per cent forecast in April. RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said the upside risk to inflation persists and the recent spike in tomato prices would fuel food inflation. Also, high global crude oil prices would add to the upside pressure on inflation.

## BPCL winds up data room after govt puts off privatisation



has through a letter dated June 3, 2022, called off the present tender to sell its entire 53 per cent stake in the company.

"Accordingly, all the activities in connection with the disinvestment including the data room are being discontinued," the firm said.

The move by the central government to call off the expression of interest (Eoi) followed two out of the three bidders walking out.

BPCL had in April last year opened a virtual data room, mostly containing financial information on the company, for the qualified bidders signing Confidentiality Undertaking (CU).

State-owned Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd (BPCL) has discontinued all activities associated with the disinvestment of the company after the government dropped plans to privatise the firm for now.

In a stock exchange filing, the company said the government

## World Bank announces \$1.49 billion additional financing support for Ukraine

The World Bank Board of Executive Directors today approved \$1.49 billion of additional financing for Ukraine under the Public Expenditures for Administrative Capacity Endurance in Ukraine Project. This new financing is part of the total support package of over \$4 billion that the World Bank is mobilizing, which is up from the earlier estimated \$3 billion. Nearly \$2 billion of this funding has been disbursed.

Funding from this latest project will be used to pay for wages for government and social workers. The project has benefited from financing guarantees from the United



Kingdom, the Netherlands, Lithuania, and Latvia; parallel financing from Italy and expected future guarantees, including from Denmark. The

project has also been co-financed by contributions to a new Multi-Donor Trust Fund (MDTF) from several countries, including Switzerland.

## Pakistani rupee nosedives to all-time low of 202.83 against US dollar

The Pakistani rupee on Tuesday surpassed all prior records against the US dollar after shedding sheds Rs 2.77, or 1.37 per cent, against the US dollar in the interbank market. It plummeted to an all-time low of 202.83 against the US dollar in the interbank market as demand increased due to oil-related payments and ambiguity regarding the revival of the multibillion, reported Geo News.



Image Courtesy : Indiabloom

According to data released by the State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), the local currency surpassed its previous record low of Rs 202 recorded on May 26. Moreover, for the first time in its history, the local currency made a historical drop of Rs 4.00 in a single day and surpassed Rs 204 threshold against the greenback in the interbank market during the intraday trade, reported a local media.

## European shares slip as Credit Suisse drags banks lower after profit warning

European shares fell on Wednesday as a 6% slide in Credit Suisse following a profit warning dragged on lenders, while investors braced for the European Central Bank's meeting on Thursday and the US Federal Reserve's next week.

The pan-European STOXX 600 index was last down 0.3%, giving up opening gains. Banks fell 0.7% after Credit Suisse said it was likely to see a group-wide loss in the second quarter as volatility hit its investment bank.

"The question is whether banks



Image Courtesy : nasdaq

are able to manage the volatility intelligently, and (the Credit Suisse warning) basically then makes people nervous overall," said Sebastien Galy, a senior macro strategist at Nordea Asset Management. Capping the losses, energy stocks advanced as oil prices traded higher on the expectation of low US inventories.

**BSE Sensex**  
54892.49  
(-0.39%) ▼

**Currency exchange**

**Nifty** **NSE**  
National Stock Exchange of India Ltd  
16356.30 (-0.37%) ▼

1 USD 77.7300 (INR)  
1 GBP 97.6184 (INR)  
1 EUR 83.0015 (INR)

**Top Gainers**

Scrip Name	Price	%Gain
Tata Steel	1,086.75	1.71
SBI	471.30	1.70
Titan Company	2,128.85	1.34
Dr Reddys Labs	4,199.15	1.33
Bajaj Finance	5,954.30	1.29

**Top Losers**

Scrip Name	Price	%Loss
Bharti Airtel	663.30	-3.21
ITC	267.90	-2.19
Reliance	2,724.05	-1.76
UPL	735.15	-1.48
Asian Paints	2,705.20	-1.44



## Women's cricketing legend **Mithali Raj retires**

**T**he Test and ODI captain of the Indian women's national cricket team, Mithali Raj, on Wednesday announced her retirement from all formats of international cricket. Mithali is retiring as the leading run-scorer in the women's ODIs. She represented India in 232 matches, scoring 7805 runs at an average of 50.68.

In Tests, Mithali has smashed 699 runs in 12 matches with a brilliant average of 43.68. She also has 2364 runs in 89 T20Is. Mithali, who made her debut in 2002, is regarded as the greatest Indian women's batter. She captained the side to two 50-over World Cups. At 16, Raj scored an unbeaten 114 on ODI debut and soon established herself as a vital clog in India's batting order. In October 2019, Raj, at 36, became the first woman to complete two decades in ODI cricket.

"I set out as a little girl on the journey to wear the India blues as representing your country is the highest honour. The journey was full of highs and some lows. Each event taught me something unique and the last 23 years have been the most fulfilling, challenging & enjoyable years of my life," Mithali said on social media on Wednesday.

"Like all journeys, this one too must come to an end. Today is the day I retire from all forms of International Cricket," she added.

- ANI

## Shooter Avani Lekhara breaks world record

**T**okyo Olympics gold medallist Avani Lekhara clinched a gold medal with a world record score of 250.6 in Women's 10m Air Rifle standing SH1 here at the Chateauroux Para-Shooting World Cup on Tuesday and secured a place at the Paris Paralympics 2024.

The 20-year-old shooter broke her own world record of 249.6.

Poland's Emilia Babska bagged

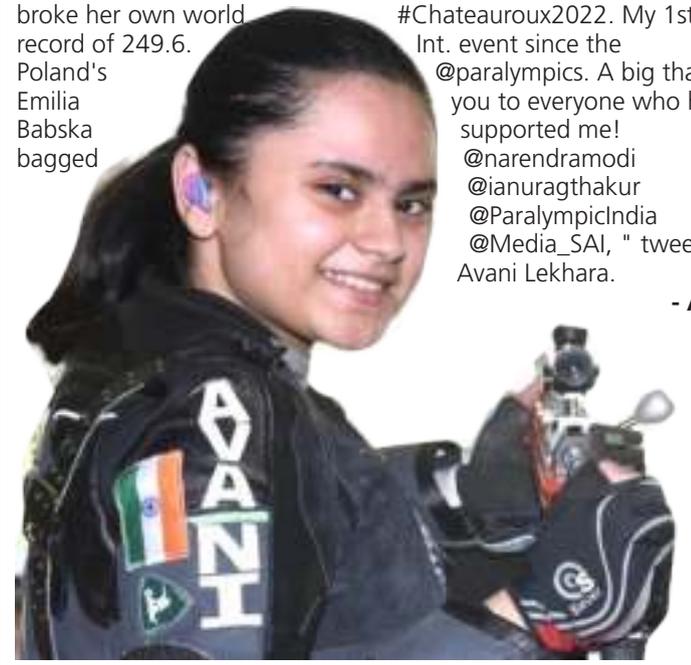
the silver medal with a total of 247.6, while the bronze was won by Anna Normann of Sweden with a total of 225.6. SH1 category is for athletes with lower limb impairment for competition in rifle events.

"Proud to bring home the gold medal in the R2 10M Air Rifle SH1 event with a WR score & s 1st #Paris2024 Quota, at the #Chateauroux2022. My 1st Int. event since the

@paralympics. A big thank you to everyone who has supported me!

@narendramodi  
@ianuragthakur  
@ParalympicIndia  
@Media\_SAI, " tweeted Avani Lekhara.

- ANI



## Daughters of 3 labourers win medals at KIYG

**A**part from a singular and fierce desire to excel in sports, Andhra Pradesh's early medallists in the Khelo India Youth Games (KIYG) here - Rajitha, Pallavi and Sireesha have one more thing in common. Each of them comes from a heart-wrenchingly poor background. Let alone struggling to keep the fire in their bellies alive, their parents have been battling for years to stoke just the 'chulhas' in their tiny hutments. Late on Tuesday evening, after a windfall of medals, June Gallyot, the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) official, could not hold herself back.

"The entire camp got so excited that we partied all through the evening," she said. Rajitha sprinted to gold in the Girl's 400 metres while Sireesha

took the bronze behind her. Pallavi, then, lifted the first gold for Andhra Pradesh in the 64 Kg category. "Each of them has a very sad story to tell. This is poverty at a different level," June explained. "This is of course not the common strain only in athletics. It's the same story in several other sports," she said.

The only redeeming factor is that sports are providing talented girls like this trio a platform to forget their woes for brief spells, of not leave them behind. Over the last few years, Khelo India Games have discovered innumerable such motivated gems and provided them succour and scholarship, even helping some of them rise to the topmost level. Rajitha, belonging to the Koya tribe, lost her father at a young age.

- ANI



## Maharashtra Open Chess: Amonatov wins title

**T**op-seed Farrukh Amonatov of Tajikistan pipped India's

Arjun Kalyan and Belarusian Aleksej Aleksandrov to the post to clinch the inaugural Maharashtra International Open Grandmaster chess tournament here on Wednesday.

Amonatov finished equal on 8.5 points from 11 rounds



with Aleksandrov and Kalyan but won the top prize on the basis of a better tie-break score.

Amonatov and Aleksandrov settled for a draw in the final round game.

Aleksandrov took the second place while Kalyan finished third.

Indian Grandmaster Kalyan, overnight on 7.5 points, defeated GM Alexei Federov in the last

round to catch up with the leaders but missed out on the title owing to an inferior tie-break score.

Another Indian GM Deep Sengupta finished fourth with a tally of eight points while compatriot L R Srihari, with the same number of points, settled for sixth place.

Two other Indians, M R Venkatesh and Neelesh Saha secured 7.5 points each to end ninth and 10th respectively.

- PTI

## Joe Root advances to second place

**E**ngland batter Joe Root secured second place in ICC Men's Test Player Rankings on Wednesday, following his match-winning knock against New Zealand in the first Test. The former England skipper rose to two spots to sit in second place behind Australia's Marnus Labuschagne.

Root's sudden rise comes on the back of his match-winning century in the first Test against New Zealand at Lord's, an

innings that also saw the right-hander become the second Englishman and 14th player overall to register 10,000 Test runs.

The 31-year-old moves within just 10 rankings points of Labuschagne and could close the gap even further when the second Test between England and New Zealand commences in Nottingham on Friday. With Root's rise, it also sees a small re-shuffle within the top five as Australia's

Steve Smith drops one place to third on the latest ranking.

There are also some changes in the latest Test bowler rankings, with towering New Zealand pacer Kyle Jamieson the biggest mover on the back of his six wickets for the match against England. Jamieson rises two places to claim third, with India speedster Jasprit Bumrah (fourth) and Pakistan quick Shaheen Shah Afridi (fifth) dropping one spot apiece.

## Opinion

Few things are as universal as ever-present. "Book", which involves two parties – the author and the reader -clearly grabs that space. As readers evidently outnumber authors, let's take a peek at the reader perspective.

"What a book means to you, why you read a book?". For me, it's the love for words and the images they can bring to life; other people's ingenuity fascinates me. Our books define us, delight us. In short, reading opens the world to us. "Reading books", the safest hobby to tell a panel, reveals a certain level of intellect. For some, it's a lifestyle.

Having said that, my questions for book lovers:

How do you choose what books you want to read? Go with popular names? What would you ask when you meet your favourite author? Any book made you cry, changed your life? What genres do you love/avoid? Do you prefer to see a movie or read a book with the same title?

Any favourite quote? Read any title with an unclear ending about what the author meant? What book nobody should die without reading? How to motivate the dwindling readership? Which book you last re-read? What would you call your book-shelf? Does the tiny font hurt you....? If your "To Be Read" list is long, what's your mindset? Are you emotionally connected to books? And more...

"The man who does not read has no advantage over the man who cannot read"

- Mark Twain

# They're bound to books!

## Part I

Here're some bibliophiles' senses:

### Parimal Kumar (61)

Global Data Quality Manager (Retd.), Unilever Group, Crossword specialist

#### My take

I read for exposure, create impressions with right social gatherings. Once I liked the author, I start reading all his/her books. Eg. Jeffrey Archer, Arthur Hailey. I'm hooked to "Atlas shrugged" by Ayn Rand, read eight times so far. The title changed my life for good. Being honest to yourself is something that's self-fulfilling without any necessity to impress anyone.

#### My pet quote:

"You've been a failure all through your life, one more will not make a big difference" – Harold Robbins ("Where Love has Gone"). Every Indian must read "Freedom at Midnight" by Dominique Lapierre and Larry Collins. Include "Book reading" in the curriculum. Ensure pupils read a book a month, assign external marks.

Having read about 400 books, named my bookshelf "My Collections", I would

caution the book lovers to keep books in good state. White-ants munched its way into 300 of my volumes. Donate your old books to libraries.

### Punyasri (20)

Student, B.A. (English), Writer, Mayapur, West Bengal

#### My take

Books are whole new world that I can escape into. They subconsciously teach me a lot. I will credit half of the development of whatever maturity I have to the knowledge I got from books.

My picks are blurb-based, sometimes skim through the inside to get a feel for the tone of the story. I like message-oriented, especially the emotional ones. The classics have my special place. The story, not the names, is the focus.

My favourite title: "To Kill a Mocking-bird" by Harper Lee. I would like to have known the author's experiences with prejudice, and how she reacts, responds and deals with it. The title inspired me to

squish the ugly head of prejudice underneath the bottom of my shoe. I re-read to remind me to keep treating everyone fairly.

Being a victim of prejudice as a kid, having the world of grown-ups and prejudice being delivered from the eyes of a child was like the closure I needed to put my insecurities at rest. It helps me move forward. In a world where families pose double standards in moral values to their own kids, the Atticus Finch character was like a breath of fresh oxygen in a pit of vacuum... hope, one day, I can be as good a parent when I have kids.

Can books ruin life? They might give you a scare or rude awakening, but I doubt they can ruin life. I call my book-shelf: "The hall of dog-ears". Half the thrill of reading a book is in the smell of fresh paper, the crisp sound of crinoline pages and the texture of the smooth but porous surface on your skin.

### Hari Krishna Prahlad (63)

Bank officer (Retd), Blogger & Social media activist

#### My take

Books help escape from drudgery, enjoyment of the language used. Ever a bibliophile, I usually opt for humour, history and philosophy, go with established authors, such as, PG Wodehouse, Mark Twain, Bertrand Russel, Jiddu Krishnamurti. I'm curious to know what atmosphere was most conducive for them to write. I named my collections as "Treasure Island". I was emotionally moved by Joseph Heller's "Catch-22", a must-read.

I prefer a book over a movie with the same title... something cannot be pictorialized. Can books ruin life? It depends on how impressionable the reader's mind is.

The latter part of the Article will be continued tomorrow...



C. S. Krishnamurthy

Columnist and Writer

# Different Strokes



# Old age is not a Burden

**Elders who maintain some hobby or hobby in life, their age-related struggles also get reduced. Mental state has a great influence on physical ability.**

**(Nowadays, due to economic challenges, instead of joint families are changing into nuclear families)**

**O**ld age is the evening of life. This is a phase that everyone has to go through at some point or the other. It is said that in old age a person starts behaving like a child, but in today's context this does not seem to be true. In today's era, children have started growing up prematurely, their understanding gets wings very soon. However, old people seem to be lagging behind due to not keeping pace with the times.

There are many elders, whose struggle not only made them strong, but also made them capable of coping with situations by being well educated. With such self-respecting and active people,

**The seniors in our household are a treasure trove of experience. Thought and tradition. Let us not neglect them, but bring them out of the darkness of despair.**

when physical problems begin to come in the way of aging due to age-related problems, then dependence breaks. They start going into depression. Depression is a serious problem of old age. Many physicians accept this.

Actually, sociality is an essential aspect, without which life is not possible. Reading, writing, participation in social organizations or constant communication with peers gives you new energy and vitality. Loneliness disappears. The happiness and sorrow that you cannot share at home, you can lighten your mind by sharing it with your friends.

Today life is surrendering in front of commercial and economic challenges. As a

result, no one has time to listen to the elders of the house, understand their plight. They can mobilize facilities, hire assistants, but cannot devote time. In such a situation, the elderly person is deprived of the emotional and mental relief that he needs. Physical disability does not allow him to move anywhere.

He begins to feel that there is a burden on others. A self-respecting person never likes this, he likes the path of struggle. Pray and not run away. The thinking of our society is also not very encouraging about the elderly. We marginalize them for life. Japan is the country of the oldest people, the government there provides facilities for

them accordingly.

We don't even have ramps in many places to take them on a wheelchair. It is difficult even for the elderly to get a lower seat in the train. The Railway Department may pat its back by saving fifteen

**Take advantage of their experiences, light your future path with the power of their vision and thoughts, because the struggle and life experience they have is priceless, it is going to be lost.**

hundred crores by discontinuing the concession to senior citizens in the fare, but it will not be called sensitive attitude. There are long queues in hospitals and often proper seating arrangements are not available.

Elders who maintain some hobby or hobby in life, their age-related struggles also get reduced. Mental state has a great influence on physical ability. There are many active writers in my city who have

been active successfully in their eighth and ninth decade of life. He kept getting new energy among the creators and colleagues, he kept going to seminars and events. Firaq is the lion of Gorakhpuri - For the sake of life, take care of any disease / Life does not go on with the help of only health.

The role of creative hobby in life is important. She not only keeps you away from unnecessary worries and troubles, but also keeps you free from the hassle of spending time in old age. The attitude of the people of the house should also be sympathetic and positive in this stage. Unfortunately, due to economic challenges, our families are changing from joint to nuclear families these days.

There is also a shortage of volunteers and medical personnel to serve the elderly in the country. In such a situation, cutting loneliness becomes a problem. Camouflage thoughts and negativity start to take over. If some time is given to dialogue and any of your hobbies, then you can get rid of this disease. But for this, one has to leave loneliness and increase the scope of sociality. Today the communication revolution has provided many avenues of communication, it is also a ray of hope for such lonely elderly people, from where they will get the touch of fresh air of the world.

The seniors in our household are a treasure trove of experience. Thought and tradition. Let us not neglect them, but bring them out of the darkness of despair. Take advantage of their experiences, light your future path with the power of their vision and thoughts, because the struggle and life experience they have is priceless, it is going to be lost. It is our need and duty to preserve it. After all, any society is known by gratitude, not by ingratitude or professionalism.



**Vijay GarG**

Retired Principal Malout Punjab

# Gossip

## Sonam Kapoor shares her joy ahead of her birthday, returns from her 'babymoon'

**M**om-to-be soon, actor Sonam Kapoor and her husband Anand Ahuja who were enjoying a 'babymoon' in Italy have returned home now. The 'Neerja' actor, who will be turning a year older, tomorrow expressed her excitement for her birthday and shared a short video with her husband, on her social media account, on Tuesday.

Taking to her Instagram handle, Sonam dropped a lovely short video with husband Anand Ahuja, wherein she wrote, "Back home. birthday week starts!"

Fans and admirers bombarded the comment section with heart emoticons, showing their love for the couple. Sonam Kapoor is quite active on social media and frequently updates her fans



and followers with photos and videos on her social media handles.

In the summer of 2018, Sonam married businessman Anand Ahuja. Before marriage, the couple met six years ago, in 2016 and they started dating. Sonam Kapoor and Anand Ahuja

announced that they are expecting their first child in the March of 2022.

Meanwhile, on the work front, Sonam will next be seen in the film 'Blind', which also stars Purab Kohli, Vinay Pathak, and Lillete Dubey in supporting roles. The film is a remake of the same-named Korean film of 2011. The actors finished filming in February 2021.

- ANI

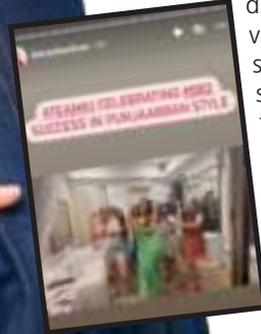
## Kiara celebrates the success of Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2

**K**iara Advani is overjoyed that her latest film, 'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2,' has surpassed the 150 crore milestone. Expressing her excitement for the same, the 'Shershaah' actor shared a short dancing video, on her social media account, on Tuesday. Taking to her Instagram handle, Kiara dropped a short video clip, where she could be seen grooving to the beats of Jug Jugg Jeeyo's song 'The Punjaabban' with her team. Sharing the video, she wrote, "#teamki celebrating #BB2 success in Punjaabban style".

'Bhool Bhulaiyaa 2', directed by Aneez Bazmee, is on a winning streak, grossing over Rs 200 crore at the box office worldwide. Since its release, the Kartik Aaryan, Kiara Advani, Tabu, and Rajpal Yadav starrer movie has amassed almost Rs 157.07 crore in the Indian market. The 'Kabir Singh' actor is also preparing for the release of her upcoming flix, 'JugJugg Jeeyo,' and is going all out to promote it.

Varun Dhawan, Anil Kapoor, Neetu Kapoor, Maniesh Paul, and Prajakta Koli also appear in the film, which is produced under Karan Johar's Dharma Productions brand. On June 24, the film is set to hit theatres. Meanwhile, on the work front, Kiara will next appear in 'RC-15' with Ram Charan and in 'Govinda Naam Mera' alongside Vicky Kaushal.

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## Anupam Kher's upcoming 525th movie



**V**eteran actor Anupam Kher, on Wednesday, finally announced the title for his upcoming flix, which will be his career's 525th film, sharing a set of pictures, on his social media account. Taking to his Instagram handle, the 'Special 26' actor dropped a string of pictures, from which one photo shows Anupam holding a clapper board with "The Signature" written on it. In the second photo, Anupam could be seen posing with the director of the movie, Gajendra Ahire Ghoda.

The third one shows the clapper board only. And the last snap shows a voting list, where his fans gave 'The Last Signature' the maximum votes when asked by Anupam to suggest a name for his new project.

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## 'Joker' 2 in the making, confirms director Todd Phillips

**A**merican director Todd Phillips took to Instagram on Wednesday to confirm the news of a sequel of his 2019 hit film 'Joker'. He also revealed the title of the film is 'Joker: Folie a Deux.' In the Instagram post, Phillips shared a cover page for the script co-written with Scott Silver, with whom he collaborated for the first film.

Phillips also shared a picture that showed American actor Joaquin Phoenix, who also starred

in the 'Joker' reading the script.

According to Variety, post the release of 'Joker', Phillips met with former film chief of Warner Bros, Toby Emmerich, and discussed a probable sequel. Meanwhile, although Phillips has kept the plot details of 'Joker: Folie a Deux.' under tight wraps, the title 'Folie a Deux' which means shared



delusional disorder, hints at how Arthur's villainy might be embraced by the residents of the

fictional Gotham City. Joker's partner in crime, the famous and crazy Harley Quinn might feature in the sequel. However, these are just speculations. For the unversed, Todd's film 'Joker' depicted the life of struggling

comedian, Arthur Fleck played by Joaquin Phoenix who is reframed into an anti-hero, taking the name of Joker, inflicting horrific acts of violence. The film garnered more than USD 1 billion worldwide and was declared a blockbuster, reported Variety. 'Joker' earned 12 Oscar nominations for best director, best picture, and best-adapted screenplay. Further, lead actor Joaquin bagged the best actor award as well.

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## 'Chrisley Knows Best' stars found guilty of fraud

**T**odd and Julie Chrisley, stars of the reality TV show "Chrisley Knows Best," were found guilty by a federal court jury on Tuesday of federal charges of tax evasion and conspiring to swindle community banks out of \$30 million in fraudulent loans. The guilty verdicts against the Chrisleys and their accountant, Peter Tarantino, capped a three-week trial in

U.S. District Court in Atlanta, according to a statement from the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia.

According to prosecutors, the couple spent the money on luxury cars, designer clothes, real estate and travel, while using bogus new loans to pay back some of the old ones. Todd Chrisley ultimately filed for bankruptcy to walk away from more than \$20 million in debt.



Sharing the video clip, Vidya captioned it, "Every trend is not for you". "Bahahahahaha you hilarious but we all know that you can totally smash any trend" while actor Dia Mirza dropped a heart and a laughing face emoticon in the comment section. After watching the video, fans just can't keep calm and they bombarded the comment area with heart and laughter emoticons, showing their love for the actor. Vidya also keeps entertaining her fans