



## BREAKING NEWS

### "IT'S NOW A RACE AGAINST TIME": TURKEY-SYRIA EARTHQUAKE DEATHS TOP 9,500



**Turkey-Syria Earthquake: Officials and medics said 5,894 people have died in Turkey and 2,470 in Syria, bringing the total to 8,364.**

Sanliurfa, Turkey:

Rescuers in Turkey and Syria battled bitter cold Tuesday in a race against time to find survivors under buildings flattened by an earthquake that killed more than 9,500 people.

Tremors that inflicted more suffering on a border area, already plagued by conflict, left people on the streets burning debris to try to stay warm as international aid began to arrive.

But some extraordinary survival tales have emerged, including a newborn baby pulled alive from rubble in Syria,

still tied by her umbilical cord to her mother who died in Monday's quake.

"We heard a voice while we were digging," Khalil al-Suwadi, a relative, told AFP. "We cleared the dust and found the baby with the umbilical cord (intact) so we cut it and my cousin took her to hospital."

The infant is the sole survivor of her immediate family, the rest of whom were killed in the rebel-held town of Jindayris. The 7.8-magnitude quake struck Monday as people slept, flattening thousands of structures, trapping an unknown number of people and potentially impacting millions.

Whole rows of buildings collapsed, leaving some of the heaviest devastation near the quake's epicentre between the Turkish cities of Gaziantep and Kahramanmaras.

The destruction led to Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan declaring Tuesday a three-month state of emergency in 10 southeastern provinces.

### RBI repo rate hike: How will it affect fixed deposits (FDs)?

**RBI repo rate hike:** There will be a direct impact on both bank depositors and new loan borrowers. In its first monetary policy decision after the Union Budget 2023, the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has hiked the repo rate by 25 basis points. This is good news for fixed deposit investors as soon banks will start passing on the benefits to the customers in terms of hikes in deposit rates.

Four out of six members of Monetary Policy Committee (MPC) have decided to go ahead with this hike in the repo rate, RBI Governor Shaktikanta Das said. RBI started its three-day meeting on February 6 amid the rate hiking spree that began in May last year with the aim to keep inflation in check

### Pathaan box office collection Day 14: Shah Rukh Khan's actioner crosses Rs 850 crore mark, enters list of 2023's top 5 films worldwide

**Pathaan box office collection Day 14:** The action-thriller, starring Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham, has found a spot on the list of 2023's top 10 highest-grossers worldwide.

Director Siddharth Anand's action-thriller Pathaan is Yash Raj Films' highest-grosser. It is also the biggest film of Shah Rukh Khan, Deepika Padukone and John Abraham's careers. With each passing day, the film is writing new records, and on its second Tuesday, it didn't show any sign of slowing down as it raced towards new milestones.

After making an impressive Rs 15.7 crore (all languages) on Monday, the film's Hindi version earned in the range of Rs 7.5-8 crore on Tuesday, reported industry tracker Sacnilk. This brings Pathaan's domestic collection to somewhere around Rs 446 cr nett. While the journey to becoming the highest-grossing Hindi film in India seems to be difficult, it definitely doesn't look impossible.



## MAHARASHTRA: MAN HELD FOR DUPING HOMEBUYERS OF RS 50 LAKH IN PALGHAR

The police have arrested a man who allegedly operated a racket involved in cheating homebuyers in Vasai Virar region of Maharashtra's Palghar district, an official said on Tuesday.

The police on Sunday arrested the 28-year-old man, who along with four others had allegedly cheated homebuyers to the tune of Rs 50 lakh, the official said.

The gang, which was operating in the Vasai-Virar region, had recently duped a buyer of Rs 17.5 lakh by selling him a flat on

which a loan had already been taken, senior inspector Pramod Badhak said.

The accused did not give the victim possession of the flat, following which the latter approached the police, he said.

During interrogation, the arrested accused revealed that his gang had cheated homebuyers in the area to the tune of Rs 50 lakh, the official said.

The accused has several cases to his name at different police stations, he added.

## 'ICC SHOULD STEP IN AND DO SOMETHING...': EX-AUSTRALIA CRICKETERS BLAST INDIA'S 'DOCTORED' NAGPUR PITCH BEFORE 1ST TEST

The Nagpur pitch curators rolled only the centre of the wicket after watering it throughout. Extra watering was done outside the left-hander's leg stump. This ploy left the Australian team, and the media puzzled and drew sharp criticism from its former cricketers.

The talk around Nagpur's pitch for first India vs Australia Test match starting Thursday has gained momentum on the eve of the Border-Gavaskar Trophy opener. There were anticipations of the pitch assisting spinners, which is generally the case during Test matches but what made matters interesting was the way the pitch curators treated the 22 yards in Nagpur a day ahead of the Test match. They rolled only the centre of the wicket after

watering it throughout. Extra watering was done outside the left-hander's leg stump. This ploy left the Australian team, and the media puzzled and drew sharp criticism from its former cricketers.

Simon O'Donnell, a former Australia all-rounder, wanted ICC interventions to stop India from gaining an advantage.

"The ICC should step in and do something about it, if they think it's not right," O'Donnell said on SEN Breakfast. If they think the pitch is not right, there'll be an ICC referee at the game and the ICC will be watching this game. But there are so many when it comes to India, we have all of these discussions, and nothing seems to happen. If they really think there's a pitch here that doesn't play to the normal standards of Test cricket and the characteristics of this ground, then the ICC need to do something."

Former Australia fast bowler, Jason Gillespie, who has toured India multiple times, said India are trying to stifle Australia with spin as they feel that is perhaps their best bet to win the four-match Test series and qualify for the World Test Championship final.



## BUDGET SESSION: CONGRESS PRESIDENT MALLIKARJUN KHARGE CALLS PM MODI 'MAUNI BABA,' FACES FLAK FROM RS CHAIR

Budget Session: While leading the Opposition attack during the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha, Kharge said that "one person became rich as his wealth increased 12 times from 2019", which drew objections from the Chair and Treasury bench.

New Delhi: Mallikarjun Kharge, the Leader of Opposition (LoP) and Congress president, on Wednesday faced flak from Rajya Sabha chairperson Jagdeep Dhankar for calling Prime Minister Narendra Modi a 'Mauni Baba' (silent monk). While leading the Opposition attack during the Motion of Thanks on the President's Address in the Rajya Sabha, Kharge said, "The people who spread hatred, if the PM raises an eye on them, they will sit down thinking I will not get a ticket this time. But today he has chosen to remain quiet. He has become a Mouni Baba."

