

## ALL THESE KIDS WERE KILLED BY BOMBS: MEET THE CASUALTIES OF BENGAL'S CRIME COTTAGE INDUSTRY

**THE INDIAN EXPRESS TRACKS DOWN 24 FAMILIES IN FIVE DISTRICTS WHERE BOMB-MAKING IS AN ENTERPRISE WITH MANY CLIENTS, AND ONE THAT HAS LEFT IN ITS WAKE TRAGEDY AND DEATH**

It's been more than six months but for 11-year-old Mahesh Shaw, sitting on an iron cot in his one-room rented house in Kankinara, North 24 Parganas, time has hardly been the healer. The handkerchief wrapped around his left wrist is a constant reminder of that October 2022 morning when he and his friend, eight-year-old Nikhil Paswan, playing near the railway tracks, picked up what they thought was a toy box. It was a bomb — Nikhil was killed in its explosion, Mahesh's left palm was slashed since 2018, the CPM claims 15 of theirs over the last two years, and the TMC dismisses this as propaganda. Mahesh and Nikhil are two of several children across West Bengal who have For, making bombs is now a veritable cottage industry (Part 2 of this series), with makeshift workshops dotting the state — and go with their clients that cut across the political spectrum — and go beyond politics, too. This is at the centre of a renewed political firestorm, after the Congress and state unit of the BJP earlier this week **sought a probe** by the National Investigation Agency into a **blast at a firecracker**.



The BJP claims 224 of their supporters have been killed in the explosion, Mahesh's left palm was slashed since 2018, the CPM claims 15 of theirs over the last two years, and the TMC dismisses this as propaganda. Mahesh and Nikhil are two of several children across West Bengal who have For, making bombs is now a veritable cottage industry (Part 2 of this series), with makeshift workshops dotting the state — and go with their clients that cut across the political spectrum — and go beyond politics, too. This is at the centre of a renewed political firestorm, after the Congress and state unit of the BJP earlier this week **sought a probe** by the National Investigation Agency into a **blast at a firecracker**.

factory that killed nine. The party said crude bombs were being manufactured there even as Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee hit back saying she has no problems with the Central agency probing the incident. Investigating police records, interviewing families of survivors and local officials, **The Indian Express** tracked down 24 families of six children who lost their lives and 18 who were critically injured across five districts between 2021 and 2022: Burdwan, Birbhum, Malda, North and South 24 Parganas. 'How will we lock our kids the whole day?' 'Sometimes it hurts a lot. I can't go to school or even take a bath on my own,' said Mahesh Shaw sitting with his family in Kankinara. 'It was a day after Diwali. Nikhil and I went to play in the field near the railway tracks.'



**STOCK**  
**BGMI unbanned: Battlegrounds Mobile India will return soon, developer Krafton confirms**  
BGMI was removed from the Apple App Store and Google Play Store in June last year due to security reasons.  
**In Short**

- Krafton says BGMI will be available to download in India soon.
- The company adds it is "grateful to the Indian authorities" to resume operations.
- Krafton is yet to reveal BGMI's return date in India.

## SOLVING CRIME: HOW A SIM CARD HELPED MUMBAI POLICE SOLVE ACTOR MEENAKSHI THAPA'S MURDER CASE

**MEENAKSHI THAPA'S HEADLESS BODY WAS RECOVERED FROM A SEPTIC TANK IN ALLAHABAD ON APRIL 16, 2012. ACCORDING TO THE POLICE, THE ACCUSED CARRIED HER HEAD IN A BUS FROM ALLAHABAD TO LUCKNOW AND THREW IT EN ROUTE.**

It was their decision to retain the SIM came from an affluent family. card of actor Meenakshi Thapa that On March 13, 2012, Meenakshi called her mother and landed Amitkumar Jaiswal and said she was travelling with Jaiswal and Surin to Uttar Alveena alias Preeti Surin behind bars Pradesh by Kamayani Express. After she reached in 2012 on charges of murdering her. Allahabad, Meenakshi called her mother again and Meenakshi, who was around 24 years informed her that she was going to Surin's home, the of age, came to Mumbai in search of a police said. job in December 2011. She appeared However, from March 15 onwards, Meenakshi could in several films, including the Kareena not be contacted. Her phone as well as those of Kapoor-starrer 'Heroine' in 2012, and Jaiswal and Surin were switched off, Meenakshi's befriended Jaiswal (41) and Surin (32), mother said. Two days later, on March 17, who worked as coordinators in the film Meenakshi's mother received a text message from an unknown number saying that if she wanted to see her daughter safe, she should pay Rs 15 lakh within three days. The message also threatened that if she informed the police, an obscene video of her daughter would be uploaded on the internet and would be circulated in her hometown, Dehradun. The actor's mother then pretext of work. According to the went to a police station in Dehradun and lodged a complaint. police, they had planned to kidnap her She also informed her son, who was posted in the Army in Jammu and Kashmir. Meenakshi's brother and and seek ransom as they believed she her friend Alok Verma then filed a missing person's complaint at Amboli police station in Mumbai.



**WEATHER**  
**Maharashtra: Experts Warn The Temperature Will Increase Beyond 40**

Mumbai: For the first time in May, IMD issued a heatwave warning for parts of Mumbai and Thane on Thursday. Day temperatures rose almost a 3-degree than a day earlier. While the Santacruz observatory recorded day temperature of 36.9 degrees Celsius, experts said the 'real feel' was higher. A day ago, Santacruz had recorded day temperature of 33.9 degrees. Sticky weather condition is likely to stay till the onset of monsoon, but with a dip in day temperature from Saturday. While Thane Belapur recorded 38 degrees Celsius, it was 39.9 in Thane. Humidity was also high as Colaba recorded 79% and Santacruz 72%. Abhijit Modak, a weather enthusiast and amateur forecaster who runs Konkan Weather blog, said while 36.9 degrees was recorded, the real feel could be over 40 degrees for Mumbaikars due to high humidity. IMD scientist Sushma Nair said the anti-cyclonic flow is aiding to the temperature rise.

## DK SHIVAKUMAR ON WHY HE AGREED TO BE DEPUTY CM: 'RAHUL GANDHI CALLED ME'

Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah for cabinet gains steam as CM, dy. met at Venugopal's residence for names out breakfast on Thursday for the Rahulji called me and said you all first time though they were in the have to work together, DK Capital for the past few days. Shivakumar said on Thursday. (PTI) The Karnataka logjam over the Congress president Mallikarjun CM race between Siddaramaiah Kharge called us and gave this and DK Shivakumar ended on diktat. We all have accepted, Thursday with DK Shivakumar whatever the formula has been agreeing to the formula that generated," Shivakumar added. Siddaramaiah will be the chief Siddaramaiah reached Delhi on minister with DK Shivakumar as Monday and DK Shivakumar on his only deputy chief minister. Tuesday to lobby for their CM candidature. Both of them met Mallikarjun Kharge separately on the agreement while DK Shivakumar spoke Shivakumar on Thursday said that to Kharje, KC Venugopal, Randeep ultimately Rahul Gandhi called Singh Surjewala on the issue. On him and said to work together. Wednesday, both Siddaramaiah and "Everything is well, everything DK Shivakumar met Rahul Gandhi. will be well, everything is going to DK Shivakumar wanted Sonia Gandhi's opinion on the matter as it decision that whatever the high was Sonia Gandhi who made him the command decides, we will abide president of the state party unit. DK by it. Ultimately Rahul Gandhi Shivakumar and Siddaramaiah called me and said that you all talked to Sonia Gandhi, who is in have to work together," Shimla for a vacation. Sonia Gandhi Shivakumar said. **Read | Lobbying, asked them to speak to Rahul and**

## PUNE PIMPRI CHINCHWAD CRIME NEWS | BABARAJE DESHMUKH OF MAVAL TALUKA ARRESTED FOR DEMANDING EXTORTION OF ₹70 LAKH

**PIMPRI:** Pune Pimpri Chinchwad Crime News | The Shirgaon police have arrested Prashant Alias Babaraje Ganpatrao Deshmukh (33), a resident of Maval taluka. Deshmukh is always in the limelight on social media. An FIR has been registered against Deshmukh for demanding an extortion of ₹70 lakh and accepting ₹5 lakh. A 48-year-old civil engineer from Wadgaon Budruk has lodged a complaint at the Shirgaon police station. The police have registered an FIR against Deshmukh took ₹25 lakh as Babaraje Deshmukh under compensation. Deshmukh sections 406, 420, 386 and 387 of cheated the complainant by the IPC. The incident took place neither making a sale deed nor at gat number 196 in Bebadovhal returning his money. Deshmukh in Maval taluka from 2013 to demanded ₹70 lakh from the November 2020. complainant for preparing a sale Deshmukh's five acre land located deed. He threatened to kill the at Gat number 196 in Mouje complainant if he approached the Bebadovhal (Maval taluka) is police and took ₹5 lakh from him.



### ENTIRE 16.5KM OF MUMBAI TRANS HARBOUR LINK DECK TO BE READY BY MAY 26

MUMBAI: Mumbai Metropolitan Region Development Authority (MMRDA) will complete the work of laying of deck on the entire 16.5km sea bridge stretch of Mumbai Trans Harbour Link (MTHL) by May 25-26. The MMRDA's goal is to open the entire bridge connecting the island city of Mumbai to Navi Mumbai by December 2023. Nearly, 180m of the deck remains to be launched. Metropolitan commissioner SVR Srinivas told TOI, "The entire deck will laid by May 25-26, after which vehicles will be allowed to take the bridge." It's necessary to complete the work before the arrival of monsoon as ferrying machinery and material when there's strong current in water will be huge task. "After launch of the entire deck, all energies will be utilised on water proofing, asphaltting and construction of crash barriers," said Srinivas. Simultaneously, systems-related work, installation of CCTV cameras, lamppost and toll infrastructure, will also continue. On May 9, engineers completed the task of launching Orthotropic Steel Deck (OSD),



which are being used for the first time in country for the construction of Mumbai and Trans Harbour Link (MTHL). OSDs are being used for spans up to 180m without any cable stays/suspensions. It will provide unobstructed navigation passage to ships sailing under the bridge. Motorist can zoom past the bridge at a maximum speed of 100kmph. Also, for the first time in India, open road tolling (ORT) system will make conventional toll booths causing traffic snarls redundant.

### SEVEN-HOUR DRAMA AS FLYER ON AIR INDIA'S US-MUMBAI FLIGHT HAS PANIC ATTACK, SCREAMS & SHOUTS

MUMBAI: A senior citizen travelling business class with his wife on a packed Air India flight from Newark to Mumbai on Wednesday suffered an anxiety attack three hours in that left him screaming and shouting intermittently for close to seven hours, even as cabin crew and passengers on board tried to pacify and restrain him, said a witness on the flight. He was about 6 ft tall, probably in his seventies, and appeared to be physically fit...He swung between bouts of calm and cases involved inebriated passengers. rage. He was verbally abusive and on Air crew tried to engage flyer in conversation to calm three separate occasions during the episode, he tried to strangle his frail-looking wife. Passengers and crew where a passenger experienced an anxiety attack, rushed in and restrained him...It was a New York for Mumbai at around 12.20 pm local time. business class passenger who witnessed the incident. The man calmed down only Pravin Tonsakar, seated on 9 K in the business class, after a doctor on board administered him sedatives. 14 K arguing with a flight attendant. Air India did not comment on the incident. He was about 6 ft tall, probably in his seventies, and in the recent past, AI international flights, he appeared to be physically fit. Then, all of a sudden, especially to the US, have been witnessing he started to scream, yell and shout in panic, saying he



### WIFE AMONG THREE ARRESTED IN NAVI MUMBAI TRANSPORT COMPANY OWNER MURDER

THANE: Two persons from Punjab were held for their alleged involvement in the killing of a transport company owner in Navi Mumbai in Maharashtra. This took the number of arrests in the case to three, a police official said on Thursday. Jaspal Singh Khosa Palsingh (48) was murdered while he was out on a morning walk on May 8 in Kalamboli, after which Crime Branch teams were formed to solve the case, PTI quoted Unit II (Panvel) senior inspector Ravindra Patil as saying. "A probe zeroed in on his wife, who was held first. After questioning her, we managed to arrest two Punjab-based contract killers from Kurta LTT terminus in Mumbai. The woman used to fight with her husband often and had allegedly paid Rs 20 lakh to the duo to kill her husband," he said.

### MAHARASHTRA: FIVE HELD AFTER CHILD SELLING RACKET BUSTED IN THANE

Thane child selling racket: Those arrested include the mother of the infant and a 61-year-old doctor, Thane Crime Branch Unit I senior inspector Dileep Patil told media.



Thane child selling racket: Police have arrested five persons in Maharashtra's Thane who allegedly tried to sell a 20-day-old boy, an official said today (May 18). Those arrested include the mother of the infant and a 61-year-old doctor, Thane Crime Branch Unit I senior inspector Dileep Patil told media. "We received a tip-off that a woman doctor from Ulhasnagar was selling infants to needy couples. We verified the tip-off through a decoy customer. On May 17, the doctor told the decoy customer there was a 20-day-old boy who he could adopt for Rs 7 lakh," he said. "She was held while collecting money in her hospital. The other accused include two women from Nashik, a man from Belgaum in Karnataka and the child's mother, who is also from Nashik," Patil said. They have been charged under Indian Penal Code and Juvenile Justice (Care and Protection of Children) Act and further probe into the child selling racket and activities of the accused is under way, the official said.

### MAHA: GANG OF MOBILE PHONE THIEVES BUSTED IN MUMBRA, FIVE HELD

POLICE HAS ARRESTED FIVE PERSONS IN CONNECTION WITH THE THEFT OF HIGH-END MOBILE PHONES IN MUMBRA AND THE ADJOINING AREAS OF THANE DISTRICT



Police has arrested five persons in connection with the theft of high-end mobile phones in Mumbra and the adjoining areas of Thane district, and recovered from them 91 such gadgets and cough syrup collectively worth Rs 9.15 lakh, an official said on Thursday. The arrests were made between May 11 and 16, he said. "Acting on a tip-off that a resident of Mumbra had stocked several stolen mobiles and cough syrup, the police conducted a raid and seized the goods from his house on May 11. A total of 62 mobile phones and 502 bottles of cough syrup were recovered from him," Deputy Commissioner of Police (Zone I) Ganesh Gawade said in a press conference. An offence under various sections of the Indian Penal Code and the Drugs and Cosmetics Act was registered against the accused at the Mumbra police station, he said. "During his interrogation, the accused told the police that one more person was involved in the thefts, following which the police arrested the latter as well," he said. After stealing the phones, the accused used to sell the devices to a mobile dealer. He would in turn hand over the mobiles to two other dealers for cracking the IMEI (International Mobile Equipment Identity) number. The police arrested all three of them and recovered the remaining stock of phones from them, the official said. The prime accused in the case is a history sheeter with offences registered against him in the past - two in Mumbra and one each in Kurla and Thane, according to the police.

### GOLD, SILVER TRADE CLOSE TO DAYS HIGH ON MAY 19; CHECK PRICES IN MUMBAI, DELHI, CHENNAI, KOLKATA

The price of gold and silver on May 19 were at Rs 56,090 per 10 grams and Rs 74,500 per kg respectively, according to GoodReturns. Gold and silver prices on Friday cover the fall of Thursday on the Multi Commodity Exchange. The June Gold futures on Friday gained Rs 87 at Rs 59,810 per 10 grams, whereas silver futures expiring in July were at Rs 72,450 per kilogram, with a jump of Rs 307. The price of gold and silver on May 19 were at Rs 56,090 per 10 grams and Rs 74,500 per kg respectively, according to GoodReturns. Gold price today In Mumbai, Kolkata and Hyderabad, 10 grams of 22-carat gold is at Rs 56,090 and 24-carat gold at Rs 61,190. In Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai, 10 grams of 22-carat gold is at Rs 56,250, Rs 56,180, and Rs 56,490, respectively. In Delhi, Bengaluru and Chennai, 10 grams of 24-carat gold is at Rs 61,350, Rs 61,280, and Rs 61,630, respectively. Silver price today In Mumbai, Delhi and Kolkata, the price of 1 kg of silver is Rs 74,500. In Chennai, Bengaluru and Hyderabad, the price of 1 kg of silver is Rs 78,100.

### ANUSHKA SHARMA'S BODYGUARD FINED RS 10,500 BY MUMBAI POLICE; MAN WHO GAVE AMITABH BACHCHAN A LIFT FINED RS 1000

After netizens pointed out to Mumbai Police about Anushka Sharma and Amitabh Bachchan riding pillion on a bike with riders without helmet, the traffic department issued challans to the respective bike owners. On Monday, actors Amitabh Bachchan and Anushka Sharma were seen in the city taking a bike ride without a helmet. The act did not go unnoticed by netizens who tagged Mumbai Police on social media and requested to take action. Mumbai Police took note of the same and issued challan to the drivers of both vehicles. While Amitabh took a lift from a stranger to reach work on time and posted about the same on social media, Anushka took a bike ride with her bodyguard after a roadblock. In both scenarios, neither the actors nor their riders were wearing helmets. Mumbai Police's Traffic division took to Twitter to share that a fine of Rs 10,500 was levied on Anushka Sharma's bodyguard for riding a bike without a helmet and without a driving license. On Twitter, Mumbai Traffic Police posted photos of the complaint and wrote, "Challan has been issued under Sec 129/194(D), Sec 5/180 & Sec 3(1)181 MV act to the driver along with an fine of Rs 10500 & been paid by the offender." While the fine for not wearing a helmet is Rs 500, the fine for driving without a valid license is around Rs 10000.

### OPEN AI LAUNCHES CHATGPT APP FOR IOS, SAYS ANDROID VERSION NEXT

Months after it took over the Internet, ChatGPT is finally coming to the smartphone. OpenAI has rolled out an app for iOS in the US. OpenAI's AI-powered ChatGPT which has become the go-to tool for millions is now on its way to your smartphone. The San Francisco-based company has announced its ChatGPT app for iOS. The app is currently live in the US and will be rolled out to other countries in the coming weeks. The company claims that the app syncs user history across devices and comes with the latest OpenAI model improvements. The app for iOS comes with in-built voice input feature owing to the integration of Whisper, OpenAI's open-source speech-recognition system. Besides, ChatGPT Plus users will get exclusive access to GPT-4's capabilities, early access to features and faster response times on their iOS devices. The company has said that it will focus on an exclusive app for Android users next. "With the ChatGPT app for iOS, we're taking another step towards our mission by transforming state-of-the-art research into useful tools that empower people, while continuously making them more accessible," the company said in its blog post. What's in for iOS users? The app users will get access to instant responses that come with precise information without the hindrance caused by ads or multiple results. This is tailored advice for all those seeking advice on travel, DIY, cooking, or craft.



VIRAL TWEET