



A magician died in Kolkata, trying to replicate American stuntman Harry Houdini's famous escape act. Is it a sign of the flailing fortune of magic in India?

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**Modi II, Budget I**

The Budget will be watched as much for any big ideas to kickstart growth as the BJP Cabinet's patchy record on fiscal prudence

**BIG PICTURE** PAGES 14-15

**Bringing up baby**

Lying abandoned for four days, a 2-year-old fought wounds, heat, hunger, thirst and maggots. The next chapter for Gudiya



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The site of the wall collapse in Pune on Saturday. The victims were construction labourers and their relatives. Arul Horizon

**15 killed in Pune as housing society wall collapses on makeshift shelters**

**EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE** PUNE, JUNE 29  
 FIFTEEN PEOPLE, including four children and three women, were killed when the wall of a housing society collapsed on some makeshift tin sheds, which housed labourers working at a neighbouring construction site, in Kondhwa area of Pune on Saturday.

Three others were injured in the incident. The victims, all construction workers and their relatives, were sleeping when the wall of the Alcon Stylus housing society, near Talab Park on the outskirts of the city, collapsed at about 1.30 am, said officials.

According to Pune Municipal Corporation (PMC) officials, it appeared that the compound wall, about 150 feet in length, was not strong and had been further weakened by the excavation work underway at the neighbouring construction site, which had caused the wall to tilt slightly. The rainfall may have aggravated the situation — the city received 132.7 mm of rainfall in the 24 hours between Thursday 8:30 am and Saturday 8:30 am.

"The victims are from Balrampur and Mahisal tehsils of Katihar district in Bihar... Their bodies will be sent by flight to Patna, from where they will be sent to their homes," said Pune District Collector Naval Kishore Ram.

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**Kartarpur: India proposes next round of talks in July**

**SHUBHAJIT ROY** OSAKA, JUNE 29

A WEEK after a bridge at Zero Line on the India-Pakistan border at Dera Baba Nanak emerged as the latest bone of contention between the two countries on the Kartarpur corridor issue, New Delhi has proposed to Islamabad that the second round of meeting on the modalities could be held between July 11 and July 14.



Meeting to discuss draft agreement on modalities

**'Significant drop' in infiltrations this year**

**BASHAARAT MASOOD & NIRUPAMA SUBRAMANIAN** SRINAGAR, MUMBAI, JUNE 29

WITH NO encounter being reported at the Line of Control (LoC) between militants and security forces, police and security officials say there has been virtually no cross-border infiltration so far this year — a marked departure from previous years.

**Amid video & bhog, Haryana village mourns six-year-old girl who died in Arizona desert**

**ANJU AGNIHOTRI CHABA** JALANDHAR, JUNE 29

THOUSANDS OF miles from the arid deserts of Arizona, where six-year-old Indian girl Gurpreet Kaur died reportedly of heat stroke while on her way with her mother to the US, a village in Haryana is still in shock. Amid preparations for her bhog (last rites) to be held on Sunday, a video has emerged from the US, of a happy Gurpreet and her mother alighting from a bus in



A video grab of Gurpreet and her mother Satwinder



the desert. The Sunday Express spoke to her family members and others in Gurpreet's Hasanpur village in Thanesar sub-division of Kurukshetra district of Haryana. Gurpreet's paternal grandfather Gurmit Singh said his daughter-in-law Satwinder Kaur, 27, got in touch with him after the incident and told him that after their bus entered the US, they were walking when Gurpreet asked for water. Satwinder, he said, left her

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**Under PMJAY, most claims for dialysis**

**ABANTIKA GHOSH** NEW DELHI, JUNE 29

NINE MONTHS after the Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana (PMJAY) was launched, dialysis has emerged as the most claimed package under the scheme. This, despite the fact that the Pradhan Mantri National Dialysis Programme, which was rolled out in 2016, also provides free dialysis to kidney patients in district hospitals.

The rising number of claimants under PMJAY is proof of India's hypertension and kidney disease burden.

Of the 30.78 lakh beneficiaries in the 277 days since the government's flagship health scheme was launched, 4,55,155 claims of hemodialysis — a procedure where the kidney function is performed by an external contraction when the organ is not working at full capacity — have been cleared. According to

TOP FIVE PROCEDURES	PACKAGES	CASES	MONEY SANCTIONED
Hemodialysis per sitting		4,55,155	Rs 175.89 cr
Cataract with foldable intraocular lens		1,11,469	Rs 79.24 cr
Caesarean delivery		89,749	Rs 101.55 cr
Cataract with foldable hydrophobic acrylic intraocular lens		88,249	Rs 68.77 cr
Other deliveries		82,302	Rs 82.17 cr

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**Auto-driver to IIM case study: His journey on uncharted highway**

**VIVEK DESHPANDE** NAGPUR, JUNE 29

IN 2004, when 26-year-old auto-rickshaw driver Pyare Khan approached the Nagpur branch of ING Vysya Bank for a loan to buy a truck, branch manager Bhusan Bais wasn't impressed since Khan had little by way of collateral. Yet, after Khan's relentless pursuit, Bais finally sanctioned a loan of Rs 11 lakh. Khan bought his truck and repaid the loan within two years, at least two years ahead of the deadline.

transport company, Ashmi Road Transport, leading the charge on Khan's behalf was Bais as the company's Head of Finance, a position he took up after he quit ING Vysya in 2016.

Between the story of these two loans lies the story of how Khan, now 41, scripted one of the most heartwarming entrepreneurial success stories. Registered in 2013, Khan's Ashmi Road Transport Pvt Ltd is now a Rs 400-cr-turnover company that owns a fleet of 125 trucks and hires a fleet of over 3,000 trucks to do ferry steel and power infrastructure across the country, and even abroad. The company has 10 branch offices across the country, with about



Khan's loan application to buy a truck was almost turned down in 2004; now owns fleet of 125 trucks. Monica Chaturvedi

500 employees.

Talking of his days of struggle, Khan says, "My mother Raisa Khatun did odd jobs to feed the four of us — my two brothers, a sister and me. We chipped in by selling oranges at the Nagpur railway station. As soon as I got a driving licence, I joined a courier company as driver but left the job after an accident in Odisha when I was 18. In the late nineties, I bought an auto-rickshaw and ran it for a while," says Khan, adding that in those days, he played the keyboard and was part of Nagpur's Melody Makers group.

"I thought I should buy a bus to ferry our group to programme venues. So I bought one by sell-

ing some of my instruments and other valuables," he says. That venture, however, soon went bust and in 2004, he decided to buy a truck.

There has been no looking back since then. By 2007, Khan had a fleet of eight trucks and in 2013, he registered his company. Khan now undertakes deliveries for companies such as KEC International, JSW Steel, Tata and SAIL.

"In 2016, I undertook an assignment for KEC International to transport their transformers to Bhutan. The transportation entailed laying a 30-km road by cutting trees in some of the troubled areas of the Northeast and propping up weak bridges on the

way to our destination. We reached Bhutan after doing all that but our trucks were stuck at a welcome arch that was lower than the height of our assignment. I requested the Bhutan authorities to allow me to dig the ground and promised to re-lay it later. They agreed and it was done. They issued me a special commendation letter for that," he says.

Those who have known Khan vouch for his integrity. "He is gritty, confident and delivers the assignment without thinking about profit and loss. He even takes up challenging assignments that others refuse," says JSW Nagpur plant

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I am scared, says official attacked by Vijayvargiya's MLA-son

**DIPANKAR GHOSE** INDORE, JUNE 29

THREE DAYS after he was attacked by BJP Indore MLA Akash Vijayvargiya, Indore Municipal Corporation (IMC) officer Dharendra Bayas said he lives in fear and has sought police protection. Speaking to The Sunday Express at length for the first time since the attack on Wednesday, Bayas said that there was no provocation for the attack and that he was simply doing his job.

**WORLD**



**TRUMP LANDS IN SOUTH KOREA, OFFERS TO MEET NORTH'S KIM AT DMZ**  
**WILDFIRES, POWER CUTS IN EUROPE AS HEATWAVE BREAKS RECORDS**  
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**HEALTHCARE**

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