

North Korea

Aamir Khan

Pathankot terror attack

Delhi and District Cricket Association (DDCA)



e-Paper

ice of

| Agency: dna

75

Some of the most fragile districts in ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) of Western Ghats have been heavily cut to size, according to a detailed dna analysis of state government reports on physical demarcation of the region.

Some of the most fragile districts in ecologically sensitive areas (ESA) of Western Ghats have been heavily cut to size, according to a detailed dna analysis of state government reports on physical demarcation of the region.

The demarcation has largely been found in Maharashtra, Goa and Karnataka, which

are looking to tap in to the tourism and commercial potential of the region. The reports also revealed that private companies, such as Lavasa Corporation Limited and Supreme Petrochem Limited, had written to the state government, asking for exclusion of ESA villages that fell in their project site.



In Ratnagiri and Sindhudurg districts, the Maharashtra government has excluded more than 50 per cent of ESA area, while in Goa, which witnessed large-scale illegal mining four years ago, 80 per cent of ESA areas has been excluded. The two districts are considered the most fragile in Western Ghats as thermal power projects, mining, industrial zones and private forest plantations have dented their ecology. More industries are on the anvil in the region.

In July this year, chief minister Devendra Fadnavis signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Coca Cola to set up a Rs500 crore venture in the Lote-Parshuram industrial zone. Local activists said many of the coastal villages that qualified for the ESA tag have been excluded, putting the creek ecosystem in jeopardy. Away from the coast in Mulshi taluka of Pune, Lavasa Corporation Limited (LCL), which had landed itself in controversy over environmental violations five years ago, asked the state government in May this year to exclude 14 villages located in their hill station project from the ESA tag. These villages are in the areas that will be covered under Phase-II of LCL's project, and tagging them as ESAs will prove to be a hurdle for the company.

LCL chief planner Suresh Pendharkar told the state government in a letter, "The

inclusion of these (ESA) villages of Lavasa Hill Station project should be avoided. This inclusion is not in line with the array of government permission granted to it over the past 14 years." dna has a copy of the letter. The state government has included the 14 villages in the ESA category. As per the government, LCL obtained environmental clearance only for Phase-I and that Phase-II will require a permission under the Environment Protection Act,1986. The state government, though, also added that subject to environmental compliance and modifications, LCL can seek a green clearance for Phase-II, even though 14 villages in it will be ESA.

In Karnataka, across Kodagu, Dakshina Kannada and Chikkamagaluru districts, the government has excluded more than 90 per cent of ESA areas. In fact, in Dakshina Kannada district that comprises of coastal and Ghats areas such as Mangalore, Puttur and Sullia, the government did not recommend inclusion of even a single village as ESA, even as the Kasturirangan committee had demarcated 45. Chikkamagaluru and Kodagu districts have witnessed a spurt of development in the recent years and is known for coffee and spice plantations.

In its report, the state government said, "There is vehement and widespread opposition from the people and consent of the Gram Sabhas was also not obtained." The Karnataka government has observed several times that Gram Sabhas have not consented for ESA demarcation, but contrary to this they have also stated that there were time constraints and hence district committees could not reach out to Gram Sabhas. In its recommendations to the Centre, the Karnataka state government has rejected the prohibition on building and construction projects that exceed 20,000 sqm.

On Friday, dna had reported that Maharashtra, Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat and Kerala have recommended that only 19,702.85 sqkm of eco-sensitive area (ESA) should be retained as against the 56,825 sqkm that was identified by the K Kasturirangan-led committee, opening up the rest for development and commercial activities. The state governments were unhappy with the Kasturirangan report and thus the central Government had allowed them to physically verify their ESAs.

FROM AROUND THE WEB



Checkout how Anil Kapoor celebrated his 59th B'day?

LiveInStyle.com



How to party like Sunny Leone?

LiveInStyle.com



Retailers hate this! They don't want you to find out about this online shopping trick

MegaBargain 24



Salary Credited! Take the wise step now

Aditya Birla Money MyUniverse



Are you a strategic thinker? Test your skills with millions of addicted players!

Stormfall



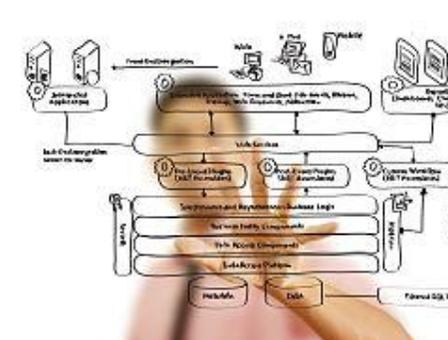
Ekta Kapoor: The Queen of Lavish Parties

LiveInStyle.com



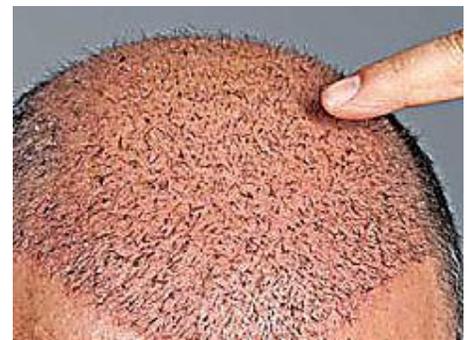
The Reveal - Issue 7

Lexus Global



9 Free Business Productivity Tools For Startups

Tweak Your Biz

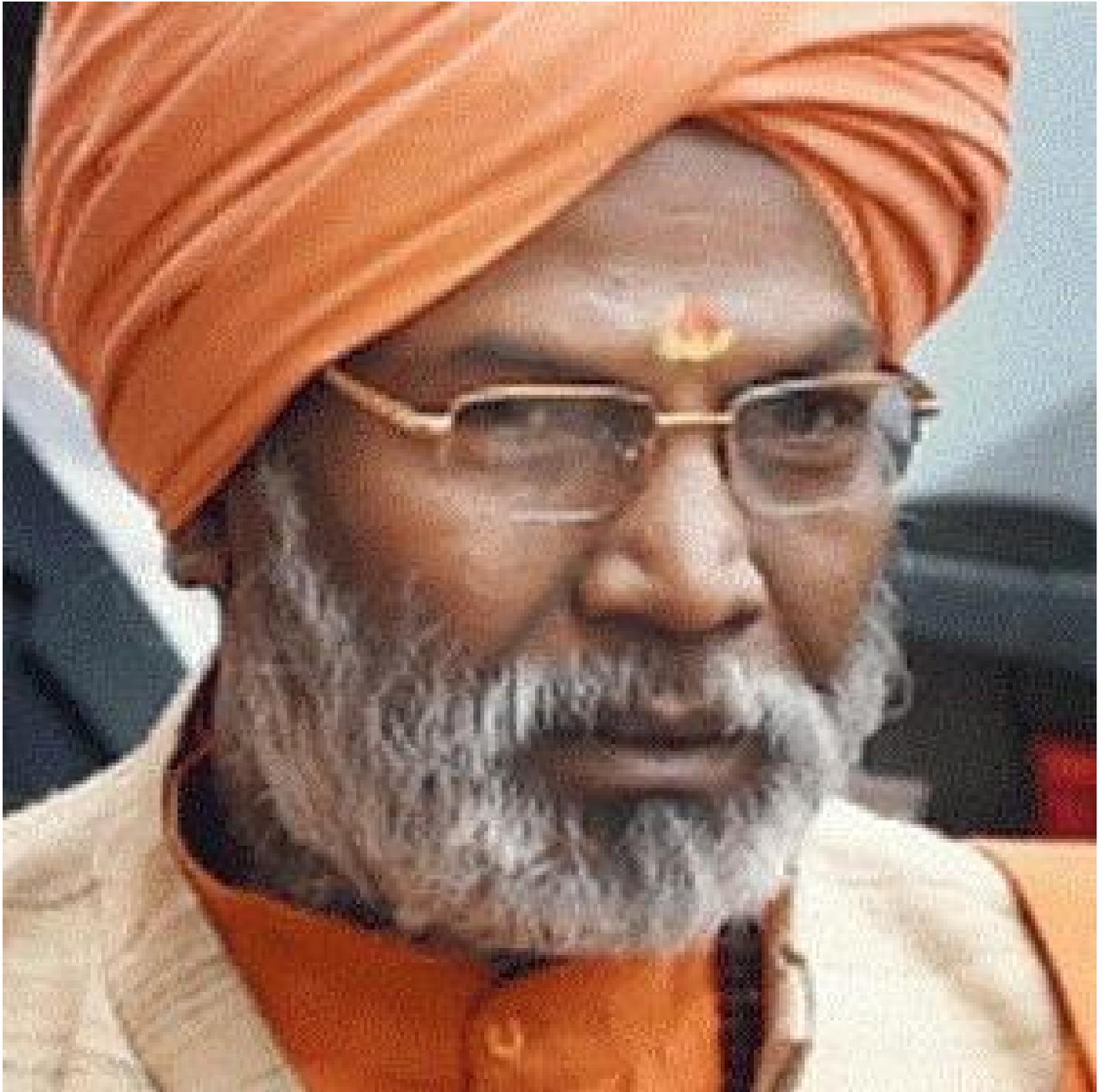


Unique Method May Regrow Lost Hair

Lifestyle Journal

1 Comment - Join the Discussions

ALSO READ



INDIA

Mulayam, Nitish, Mamata, Kejriwal are a danger to nation, says Sakshi Maharaj



INDIA

Student protesters to greet Gajendra Chauhan with cultural programme at FTII meeting today



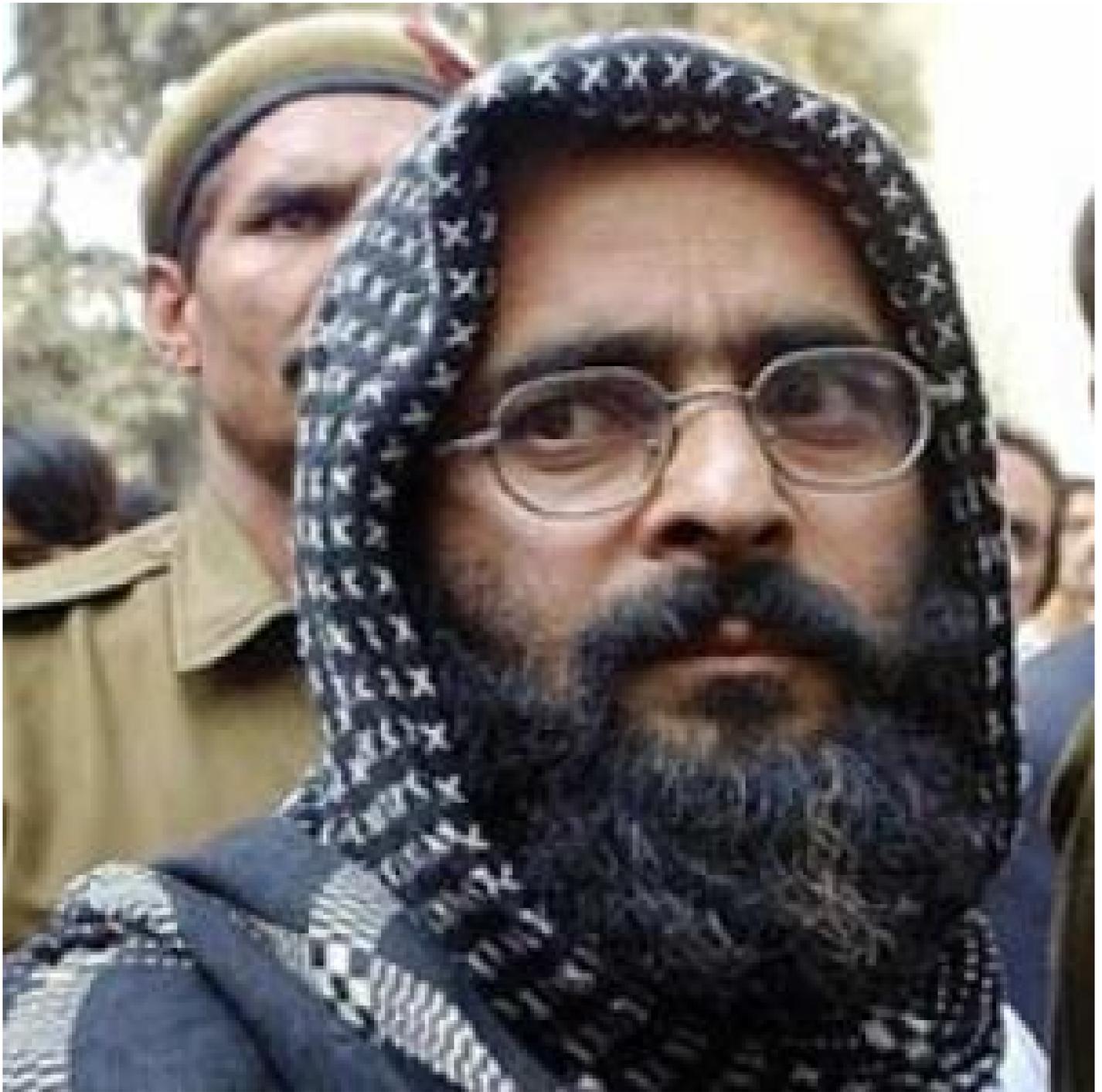
INDIA

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed passes away



INDIA

95% of MGNREGA fund allocation used up, 1.84 crore workers to be affected



INDIA

No takers for Jaish-e-Mohammad's 'Afzal Guru squad'



INDIA

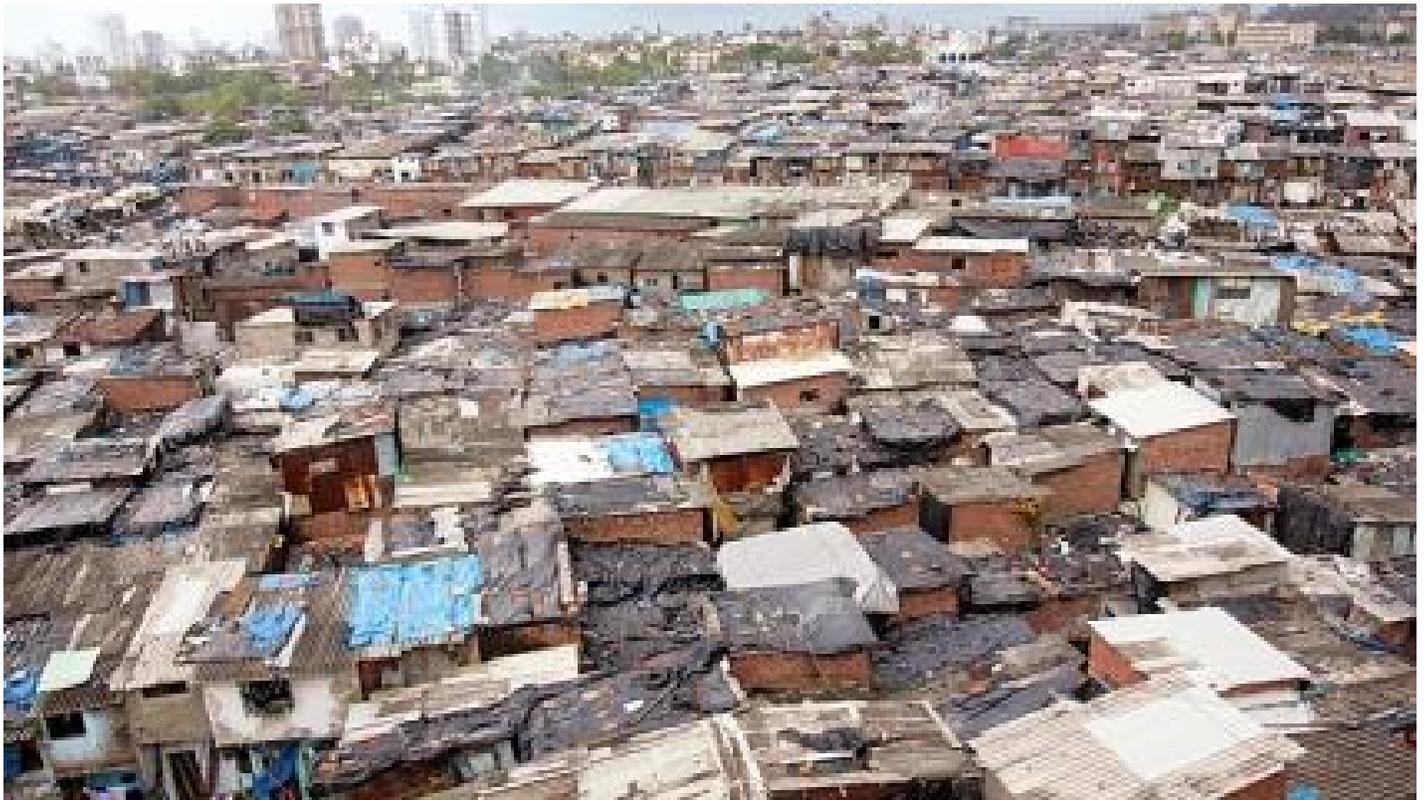
Railways to roll out insurance for commuters, AC local this year



**RECOMMENDED CON
RELATED**



Industries to get approval under Right to Services Act



Asia's biggest slum Dharavi to soon be a thing of the past



India should learn from Israel, says Mohan Bhagwat

VIDEO



Watch: 10-year-old 'watermelon boy' is 2016's first viral hit



Watch: This Pak journalist has the most hilarious reaction to Modi's Pakistan visit



Watch this video before going out for New Year's party

[VIEW ALL](#)

TAGS

Devendra Fadnavis

Environment Ministry

Maharashtra

Goa

Karnataka

An advertisement for a sporty MP3 player. The background is light beige. In the top left corner is the 'ask me bazaar .com' logo. In the top right, it says 'FLAT 69% OFF' with a small 'i' icon. Below that, the text reads 'UNINTERRUPTED MUSIC WHILE YOU WALK' and 'HIGH QUALITY SPORTY MP3 PLAYER'. The price information is 'MRP : ₹999 Selling Price ₹300'. At the bottom, there is an image of a black and blue neck-worn MP3 player with earbuds. A yellow 'BUY NOW' button is in the bottom right corner.

ask me bazaar .com

FLAT 69% OFF

UNINTERRUPTED MUSIC WHILE YOU WALK

HIGH QUALITY SPORTY MP3 PLAYER

MRP : ₹999 Selling Price ₹300

BUY NOW

SOCIAL MEDIA UPDATES

 DNA India



Mulayam, Nitish, Mamata, Kejriwal are a danger to nation, says Sakshi Maharaj...
Attacking the opposition leaders the BJP MP said that Mulayam Singh Yadav, Nitish Kumar, Mamata Banerjee and (Arvind) Kejriwal are a danger to...

[Read more](#)

Crowdynews

[More Updates](#) ↗



Zintro
Fueling the expertise economy

Looking for Experts?

[LEARN MORE](#)

[< Previous Article](#)[Next Article >](#)

RSS to hold show of strength in Congress-NCP bastion

[About DNA](#) [Contact us](#) [Advertise](#) [Reprint Rights](#)

NEWS

Mufti Mohammad Sayeed - A suave politician

dna morning reads: J&K CM Mufti Mohammed Sayeed passes away; Netflix launches in India, 189 countries

Donald Trump says South Korea pays 'peanuts' for US troop presence

Alabama chief justice orders halt to same-sex marriage licenses

Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Mufti Mohammed Sayeed passes away

SPORT

WWE superstar John Cena injured, to miss Wrestlemania 32

Lionel Messi scores twice as Barcelona beat nine-man Espanyol in King's Cup

Afghanistan beat Zimbabwe in thriller to clinch series; people celebrate with gunfire

West Indies dismissed for 330 at lunch in 3rd Test against Australia

Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy round-up: Parthiv Patel's Gujarat thump Bengal, Delhi on the threshold of quarters

ENTERTAINMENT

Mel Gibson joins Jim Carrey, Helen Mirren, and others as presenter at Golden Globes

Revealed: The first look of Suriya in 'Singam 3'

Star Wars Box Office: The Force Awakens to become top-selling film of all time today

Golden Globes 2016: Predictions for the comedy categories

French composer Pierre Boulez dies at 90

MONEY

Rupee down 10 paise against dollar in early trade on devalued yuan

India to grow at 7.8% this year: World Bank

BSE Sensex down nearly 350 points on weakness in China

Oil prices decline on rising US energy stockpiles, weak yuan

Volkswagen may to buy back 1,15,000 affected diesel cars in US

Partner site: Zee News
©2016 Diligent Media Corporation Ltd.