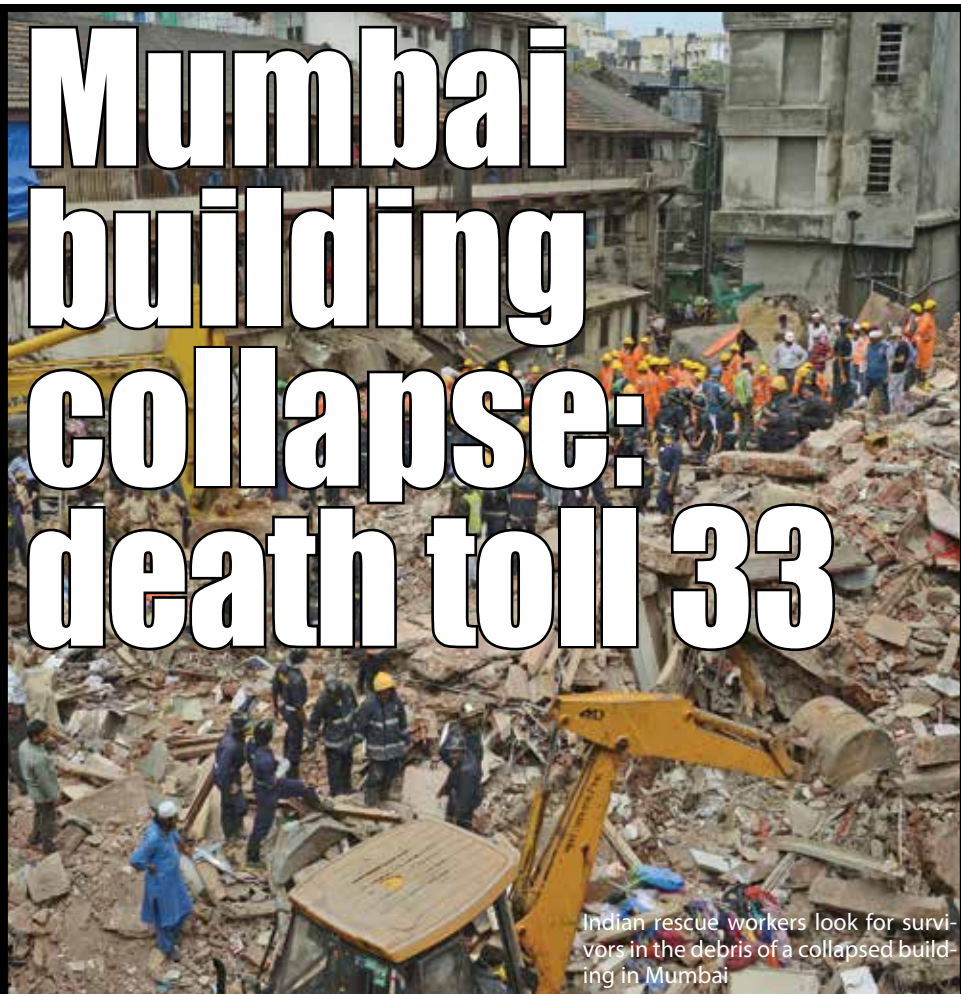


# Mumbai building collapse: death toll 33



Indian rescue workers look for survivors in the debris of a collapsed building in Mumbai

## Mumbai

The death toll from a building collapse in India's commercial capital Mumbai jumped to 33 yesterday as activists decried the latest deadly housing tragedy to strike the crowded metropolis.

Rescuers pulled more than a dozen bodies from the rubble overnight and were still picking through debris yesterday morning in the hope of finding more survivors, over 24 hours after the disaster.

Officials said 22 men, eight women and three children died when the residential building gave way on Thursday morning in the densely populated area of Bhendi Bazaar following heavy rains.

The 117-year-old building had been declared unsafe and

was due to be demolished as part of a redevelopment project that is transforming Bhendi Bazaar, a scruffy colonial-era market that is one of Mumbai's most historic districts.

"Overnight we pulled out 15 bodies, taking the total death count to 33," Tanaji Kamble, a disaster management spokesman for Mumbai's civic authority, said.

The dead included a 12-year-old boy and two girls aged 11 and 14, he added.

Twelve other people were being treated for injuries at a local hospital, Kamble said.

The collapse was the most recent deadly housing disaster to hit the city, highlighting poor construction standards and ageing buildings in India.

It followed severe rains that have wreaked havoc in

many parts of South Asia.

Building collapses are common in Mumbai, especially during the monsoon season from late June to September, when heavy rains lash the western Indian city, weakening poorly built structures.

Millions are forced to live in cramped, dilapidated properties because of spiralling real estate prices and a lack of housing for the poor. Activists say housing societies, private owners and builders often cut corners to save on costs.

Rent control acts also sometimes mean that landlords cannot afford to maintain buildings while poor people choose to remain in homes even after they have been declared unsafe because they have nowhere else to go. (AFP)

# Elderly woman donates \$22 mn to Cologne Zoo

## Berlin

A 93-year-old widow from the United States has donated \$22 million to the zoo in Cologne, Germany, saying she wanted to give back to the city where she and her husband met during World War II, German media reported yesterday.

"We never forgot Cologne," Elizabeth Reichert told the Koelner Stadt-Anzeiger newspaper by phone from her home in Philadelphia.



Tigers at Cologne Zoo

She said she and her Jewish husband Arnulf Reichert both grew up in the western German city. They met in 1944, she recalled, when Arnulf lived in hiding to avoid being

discovered by the Nazis.

They married a year after the war ended and briefly moved to Israel before settling in the US, where they lived the American dream and made their fortune.

## #PollToday



US says Baghdadi likely still alive. Do you think he would surrender if Islamic State goes down?

Yes  No  Cant Say



"The situation is extremely serious... We see a North Korea whose objective is to have missiles capable of transporting a nuclear weapon tomorrow."

Jean-Yves Le Drian  
French Foreign Minister

## Rest in sight

Man fined for calling Moon Northern



A South Korean software developer was fined for editing then leading presidential candidate Moon Jae-In's Wikipedia entry to say that he was North Korean.

## Bomb kills three in Pakistan tribal belt

A bomb attack killed three people and wounded two others in a relatively peaceful area of Pakistan's north-western tribal district.

## Sri Lanka bans plastic after garbage crisis

Sri Lanka banned plastic bags and other disposable products on Friday after the collapse of the island's biggest dump led to a rubbish disposal crisis.

## Man charged with slitting kangaroo's throat

A man who allegedly slit a kangaroo's throat and uploaded disturbing video of the killing to social media has been charged in Australia with destroying protected wildlife

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# US cop who said 'we only kill black people' loses job

## Washington

A Georgia police lieutenant who faced being fired over racially charged comments captured on dash-cam footage has announced his retirement, according to local media.

In the video Lieutenant Greg Abbott told a woman who feared moving her hands during a traffic stop not to worry because "we only kill black people."

Told she could pick up her

cell phone, the woman said she did not want to move her hands because she has seen "way too many videos of cops."

"But you're not black," Abbott replies in the July 2016 video. "Remember? We only kill black people."

Police Chief Mike Register told journalists Thursday that Abbott would be removed from the force, saying "there's really no place for these types of comments in law enforcement."

# Second man held over French girl's disappearance



French gendarmes patrol in Pont-de-Beauvoisin after the disappearance of a 9-year-old girl.

## Pont-de-Beauvoisin

French investigators said yesterday that they had arrested a second man in connection with the mysterious disappearance of a nine-year-old girl during a wedding in the Alps, as the search for her entered a sixth day.

Maelys de Araujo was last seen in the early hours of Sunday at the community hall in the village of Pont-de-Beauvoisin, about 50 kilometres north of Grenoble, where the wedding was held.

Scores of police, search and rescue teams, divers and cavers have spent the week trawling through the heavily wooded area for signs of her.

Investigators suspect that the little girl with dark brown hair and eyes, who was attending the wedding with her parents, was kidnapped.

A 34-year-old man who was in the area on the night of her disappearance was arrested on Friday over "contradictions" in his statement to police, state prosecutor Dietlind Baudoin said.

# US urges Russia to open war games to media

## Vilnius

General Ben Hodges, the commander of US ground forces in Europe, called on Russia yesterday to expand media access to its upcoming military exercises, adding that Moscow's statements could not be trusted.

"If the Russian Federation is truly interested in stability and security, then be transparent, invite media to see everything that they do," Hodges told reporters in Lithuania.

Moscow has said 12,700

troops from Russia and Belarus will participate in the Zapad drills along the NATO's eastern flank from September 14 to 20.

However, western officials have said the preparations suggest it will be a much larger exercise, which would mean that Moscow should allow international observers to monitor the drills.

"The Russians have not given us a lot of reason to trust the numbers that they say," Hodges said, echoing remarks by NATO chief Jens Stoltenberg.