









EDITOR'S SPECS

'Ab ki baar, 10 lakh paar'

The people of Varanasi have decided that they will gift Prime Minister Narendra Modi his third-straight victory from the Lok Sabha seat with a bigger margin of votes and they have given the clarion call of 'Ab ki baar, 10 lakh paar.'

Raisi had built Iran as a key player in the Middle East

D C Pathak

Reactions of the world community to the demise of Iranian President Ebrahim Raisi and some other Iranian dignitaries in a helicopter crash near the Azerbaijan border on May 19, threw light on the importance of Iran as a prime mover behind the recent developments in the Middle East and the geopolitical alignments that are shaping up in the region around the increasing polarisation between the US on one hand and the Russia-China axis on the other.



Iran and the Taliban on the same side of the fence. Iran's political and ideological hostility towards Israel at the same time, led it to support Hamas and set upon its proxies like Lebanon's Hezbollah and Yemen's Houthis against Israel in the Israel-Hamas conflict.

that caused the death of the Iranian President and other leaders. It is relevant to mention that the US had since 2020 mediated to bring about the Abraham Accord between UAE and Israel with the concurrence of Saudi Arabia and that China took a similar initiative in 2023 to secure the restoration of diplomatic relations between Iran and Saudi Arabia.

international

40 killed in Israeli bombing on camp in Rafah: Palestinian media

Gaza | Agencies At least 40 people were killed and some others injured on Sunday evening in Israel's bombing of tents in northwestern Rafah, the southernmost city of the Gaza Strip, Palestinian media reported.



ing intensively in the area and fires engulfing tents still inhabited by many, including children and women.

area" before the strike. In a statement released Sunday night, Hamas slammed the bombing as "complete defiance and disregard for the decision of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) that demanded it to stop its aggression against Rafah."

in which significant Hamas terrorists were operating". The strike was carried out against legitimate targets under international law, using precise munitions and on the basis of precise intelligence that indicated Hamas' use of the area," it added.

Russian spy in German military sentenced to 3.5 years

Dusseldorf | Agencies A 54-year-old German army officer who confessed to spying for Russia has been sentenced to three and a half years in prison by a court in Dusseldorf.



the Russians was classified as official secrets. If he had also betrayed more sensitive state secrets, he could have faced more severe punishments, up to a

life sentence. The captain had claimed that he was driven by fear of a nuclear escalation during Russia's invasion of Ukraine. His defence lawyer argued that he began consuming fake news, propaganda and conspiracies on the social media platforms Telegram and TikTok during a difficult stretch of professional work.

World Health Assembly meets in Geneva after pandemic treaty failure



World Health Organization

Geneva | Agencies The annual meeting of the World Health Assembly, the decision-making body of the World Health Organisation (WHO), began in the Swiss city of Geneva on Monday.

Negotiators failed to reach a consensus on sensitive subjects such as the distribution of medicines, protective materials and vaccines in future pandemics. The Assembly now hopes to decide on the next steps towards achieving a global treaty.

Soldiers among 10 killed in terror attack on Pakistani outpost



Islamabad | Agencies Islamist terrorists attacked a Pakistani military outpost near the Afghan border, killing at least five soldiers in the ensuing fire exchange, officials said on Monday.

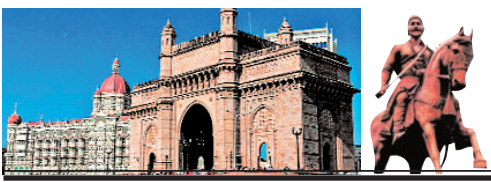
Papua New Guinea confirm over 2,000 buried alive in landslide

Sydney | Agencies The Papua New Guinea (PNG) National Disaster Centre (NDC) has confirmed that more than 2,000 people were buried alive after a massive landslide disaster occurred in Enga province.



director Lusete Laso Mana, the disaster also caused major destruction to buildings and food gardens, as well as led to a major impact on the economic lifeline of

PNG, Xinhua news agency reported. "The main highway to Porgera Mine is completely blocked. The situation remains unstable as the landslide continues to shift slowly, posing an ongoing danger to both the rescue teams and survivors alike," said Mana.



Porsche crash

MVA shows 'bribes black list' of Pune officials, bars, pubs; dares action

Quaid Najmi | Pune

Amid the ongoing probe into the Pune Porsche crash, the Maha Vikas Aghadi (MVA) on Monday alleged that bribes had changed hands between the officialdom and the bars and pubs in the city.



month and into crores of rupees annually. You think you are very smart by destroying Pune. Don't you feel ashamed?" said Dhangekar.

action is being initiated against many more establishments in the city, even as the government earned Rs 500 as State Excise Duty, higher than the previous year.

BMC officials examine Monsoon preparations in eastern suburbs of city

Team Absolute | Mumbai

The Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC) has been making preparations ahead of monsoon in Mumbai and as part of its ongoing preparations, the senior officials on Monday examined the pre-monsoon related works in the eastern suburbs of the city.



The focus of the inspection was on pre-monsoon preparations, including cleaning and maintenance of drainage systems, and addressing areas prone to waterlogging and monsoon-related diseases," the statement said.

including Ram Nagar, Vikhroli complex. During his visit and inspection of the ongoing works, he highlighted the importance of public awareness and instructed officers to educate residents about the risks of natural disasters and the precautions they should take.

Teen drives father's BMW on busy road with man on bonnet

Team Absolute | Mumbai

A man has been arrested in Mumbai after a viral video showed him lying on the bonnet of a moving BMW which was being driven by a 17-year-old boy, the police said.



The case has been registered against the official for allowing his underage son to drive without a driving license," officials said.

Two doctors arrested for 'tinkering' with minor's blood reports

Team Absolute | Pune

The Pune Police on Monday arrested two senior doctors of a government hospital for allegedly 'tampering' with the blood report of the minor accused who was involved in the drink-and-drive Porsche car crash which killed two techies.



second blood test report which was sent to a private hospital, and the investigators plan to carry out a DNA test to match them, as the blood sample

reports had raised doubts. The blood report of the accused minor boy, the son of a prominent realtor Vishal S. Agarwal, had sparked a huge row as it purportedly gave him a clean chit and enabled him to get bail within 15 hours of the fatal May 19 crash in Kalyani Nagar area that killed IT engineers Ashwini Koshta and her friend Aneesh Awadhya, both 24 and hailing from Madhya Pradesh.

2 killed, 4 injured as dumper hits pedestrians, 5 vehicles in Palghar

Team Absolute | Palghar

Two women were killed and four others injured when a speeding dumper hit them in Maharashtra's Palghar district on Monday, police said, reported news agency.

way to their workplace when the dumper coming at a high speed from the wrong direction ran over them and also hit some other persons, he said. Police reached to the spot after being alerted and sent the bodies to a government hospital for postmortem.

Thane to face 24-hour water supply shut down for maintenance on May 29

Team Absolute | Thane

The Thane Municipal Corporation (TMC) has declared a 24-hour water supply halt for necessary pre-monsoon maintenance and repairs. The shut-down will begin at 9:00 am on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, and continue until 9:00 am on Thursday, May 30, 2024.



during this critical maintenance work. "From 9 am on Wednesday, May 29, 2024, Thane Municipal Corporation and the STEM water supply will be shut for necessary pre-monsoon maintenance and repair work until Thursday, May 30, 2024, at 9 am.

Ghodbunder Road, Lokmanya Nagar, Vartaknagar, Saket, Ritu Park, Jail, Gandhinagar, Rustamji, Siddhanchal, Indiranagar, Rupadevi, Srinagar, Samtanagar, Siddheshwar, Internity, Johnson, and sections of Mumbai and Kalwa have all been affected.

receive water," said the Thane civic body in her press statement. The statement further read, "After the closure, there may be a low-pressure water delivery for one to two days until it is restored. However, the Thane Municipal Corporation has urged inhabitants to conserve water and use it sparingly."

Mumbai to see water cut Because lake levels are below 10 per cent, the BMC has finally decided to implement a water cut beginning May 30. The civic authority has agreed to undertake a 5 per cent water cut from May 30 and a 10 per cent cut from June 5 as a preventative step to ensure stock lasts as long as possible.

Maharashtra Class 10 results declared; 95.81 per cent of students clear exam



Team Absolute | Mumbai

The SSC result 2024 class 10 was released by the Maharashtra Board of Secondary and Higher Secondary Education (MSBSHSE) on May 27 at 1:00 PM. 95.81 per cent of pupils passed the SSC exam administered by the Maharashtra Board.

Konkan-registered for the exam in total; 14,84,431 of them passed. Yet again, Girls have outperformed boys with the pass percentage among girls this year being 97.21 per cent and 94.56 per cent among boys in the SSC result 2024.

A solid 5,58,021 pupils achieved distinction marks, which are higher than 75%. This year, the overall pass percentage improved from last year which was 93.83 per cent, with girls at 95.70 per cent and boys at 92.05 per cent.

Cleaner Killed In Dumper Truck Accident In Navi Mumbai

Team Absolute | Thane

Police have registered a case against the driver of a dumper truck in connection with the death of its cleaner following an accident involving the vehicle in Maharashtra's Navi Mumbai, an official said on Monday.

the wheel, the accused allegedly moved the dumper, crushing the former, the official said. The victim was badly injured and died on way to hospital, he said. After being alerted, the police reached the spot and sent the body to a local hospital for post-mortem.





# Kylie Jenner

## DOESN'T OPEN HER WALLET DURING AN OUTING WITH FRIENDS

Los Angeles | Agencies

Reality TV star and make-up mogul Kylie Jenner doesn't always open her wallet during an outing with her friends, says her best friend Anastasia "Stassie" Karanikolaou. In a video shared on TikTok, the two friends are seen inside a car. "Who pays when we go out?" Stassie said while taking out her wallet to buy cookies for both of them. "Kylie always forgets her purse somehow. She never has a purse! So, me." Kylie seemed to be unbothered. She was wearing a yellow jacket with a white tee underneath, and was seen happily dancing while waiting for their order, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#). While Stassie didn't seem to mind picking up the bill, fans were shocked by the information. The two's best friend Hailey Bieber (Hailey Baldwin) was also among the commenters. "Perf activities for a pregnant gal I'm coming next time!!" the model, who is expecting her first child with her popstar husband Justin Bieber, wrote. To that, Stassie said: "Yes yes yes come join the party!!!!!!"



# 'General Hospital' actor Johnny Wactor shot dead during suspected theft in LA

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Johnny Wactor, known for his portrayal of Brando Corbin in the show 'General Hospital', was shot and killed during a suspected catalytic converter theft attempt here. He was 37 years old. Wactor's talent agent, David Shaul, confirmed the actor's death. "Johnny Wactor was a spectacular human being. Not just a talented actor who was committed to his craft but a real moral example to everyone who knew him. Standing for hard work, tenacity and a never give up attitude. "In the highs and lows of a challenging profession he always kept his chin up and kept striving for the best he could be," Shaul said in a statement, reports [variety.com](#). The statement further read: "Our time with Johnny was a privilege we would wish on everyone. He would literally give you the shirt off his back. After over a decade together, he will leave a hole in our hearts forever." As per the Police Department in Los Angeles, a man was shot by one of three suspects attempting to



extract the catalytic converter from his car at about 3 a.m. in the area of Pico Boulevard and Hope Street. The man was pronounced dead at a local hospital. Wactor appeared in more than 160 episodes of 'General Hospital', the longest-running television daytime drama in the US. He made his television debut in the Lifetime drama series 'Army Wives'. He also guest starred in the series 'Westworld', 'The OA', 'Station 19', 'Siberia', 'Agent X', 'Fantastic', 'Animal Kingdom', 'Hollywood Girl', 'Training Day', 'Criminal Minds', 'Struggling Servers', 'Age Appropriate', 'NCIS', 'The Passenger', and 'Barbee Rehab'. He even worked in short films such as 'The Grass Is Never Greener', 'GoldenBox', 'The Con-Artist', 'Flyover States', 'A Most Suitable Applicant', 'The Interrogation', 'Anything for You, Abby', 'The Relic', and 'We Won't Forget', among many others. In feature films, he starred in the 2016 film 'USS Indianapolis: Men of Courage', directed by Mario Van Peebles and starring Nicolas Cage, among many other films.

## LADY GAGA REVEALS HER VERSION OF HARLEY QUINN IN 'JOKER: FOLIE A DEUX' IS VERY AUTHENTIC

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress and singer Lady Gaga has talked about how her portrayal of Harley Quinn, a violent and fierce fighter, is different in the upcoming film 'Joker: Folie A Deux'. In a new interview to promote the Gaga Chromatic Ball film, the star teased how her version of the comic book character is different. "You know my version of Harley is mine, and it's very authentic to this movie and these characters," she told [Access Hollywood](#), reports [deadline.com](#). Gaga said: "I've never done anything like I've done in this movie before, so it's all going to be completely brand new and really fun." In the upcoming film, Gaga stars opposite Joaquin Phoenix in the sequel, which is directed by Todd Phillips. It also stars Catherine Keener, Brendan Gleeson, and Zazie Beetz. The film is part of DC Elseworlds and is not part of the universe that Peter Safran and James Gunn have been building since taking the helm of DC Studios. Gaga is taking on the role of Quinn, which was earlier portrayed by Margot Robbie in films like 'Suicide Squad', 'Birds of Prey', and 'The Suicide Squad'.



## Claudia Jessie reveals she broke her wrist while filming third season of 'Bridgerton'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actress Claudia Jessie, who plays Eloise Bridgerton in the show 'Bridgerton', revealed that the crew went to great lengths to cover up her cast after she broke her wrist while filming season three. Jessie, on an episode of 'The Late Show with Stephen Colbert', said: "They had to make a muff." The costume team made multiple versions of the circular cloth accessory, which Eloise would have used at the time to "warm her hands." Since puffs are typically worn in the winter, the crew made new lightweight styles of the fashion item to justify her character using it during warmer months, reports [eonline.com](#).

"We just made it up," Claudia said. "We were like, 'It's the summer muff, of course!'" Jessie recounted that the injury occurred during an on-set celebration gone wrong. "I did a high kick. I'm not a dancer," she recalled. "The circumference of the dress I had on, it ends at some point. So, when I put my leg up, I was restricted immediately and then I went back." After landing on her wrist, she initially thought it wasn't a major accident. "Everybody was laughing, which I'm glad. I would've hated silence." She got the help she needed in the end. "Obviously, we have medics on set for idiots like me," she added.



## NICKI MINAJ FREED AFTER PAYING FINE IN AMSTERDAM POST ARREST FOR 'DRUG POSSESSION'

Los Angeles | Agencies

Rapper Nicki Minaj, who was arrested over drug possession, was freed after paying a hefty fine in Amsterdam. However, her gig has been postponed. Minaj was released from police custody in Amsterdam after being arrested on Saturday morning for allegedly carrying drugs. Minaj streamed her arrest on Instagram Live, which led to the postponement of her scheduled concert in Manchester, part of her Pink Friday 2 World Tour, reports [aceshowbiz.com](#). The arrest occurred at Amsterdam's Schiphol Airport, where Dutch police reportedly found pre-rolled marijuana joints in her luggage. The rapper denied ownership of the drugs, saying that they belonged to her security personnel. The Netherlands classifies marijuana as "soft drugs," and exporting it is illegal despite its legal status within the country. "They took my luggage without consent," Minaj posted on X. "My security has already advised them those pre-rolls belong to him." Minaj took to her social media accounts, accusing various parties of trying to sabotage her tour. She suggested that her bags were taken and searched without her consent. "They've been trying to stop me from coming to every show. Everything they've done is illegal." Following hours in custody, Minaj was released after agreeing to pay a fine, the amount of which will be determined by the Public Prosecution Service. However, the delay led to significant fallout for her Manchester show.

## ABSOLUTE PIC OF THE DAY



Sabrina Carpenter

## '13 REASONS WHY' STAR DYLAN MINNETTE SAYS ACTING STARTED TO FEEL LIKE A JOB

Los Angeles | Agencies

Actor Dylan Minnette discussed why he paused his acting career to pursue his passion for music with his band Wallows and whether he plans to return to acting. "I was fortunate to find success in (acting). I was on '13 Reasons Why' and it was really popular and definitely reached a peak in what I've had in acting," Minnette said

on the Zach Sang Show. "But it also started to feel like a bit of a job. I was in a very fortunate position, it was always fun for me, always really inspiring, but then it was just starting to feel like just a job." The actor said that his band and music were another passion of his, and as a group, they dreamt of taking it "all the way as far as we can," reports [deadline.com](#). "I feel like I'm in a position

now where I can just kind of like do that for a while and get this the farthest it can be," he said. "The only way that's gonna happen is if I put my 100 per cent time and energy into it and take it very seriously and show the world that we all take this very seriously." Minnette said pursuing his passion for music is "what feels natural and inspiring." Taking a break from acting, Minnette said he is "starting

to have more inspiration" and "something to give artistically and creatively in other fields." "I do feel like I have something to give, and that's probably acting... I feel like I'm starting to feel inspiration for that again," he added. "At some point, when we've fulfilled our Wallows duties and we're all ready to take a break as a band, that's when I'll have the perfect inspiration to do something,"







## "I AM A VERY BAD DANCER,": ANUPAM KHER

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Anupam Kher, who is well-known for his versatile performances in mainstream cinema as well as international productions, admitted at an event here on Monday that he is "a very bad dancer", but he does "dance with emotions".

He also went down memory lane and talked about his first outing as an actor when he was in Class V in school -- he played a monkey in Lord Hanuman's army.

The memory was triggered by the 'gada' (mace) he was carrying at the launch of the live-action film 'Chhota Bheem and the Curse of Damyaan', where he will be seen along with Makrand Deshpande and Navneet Kaur Dhillion. The film will be released theatrically on May 31.

Talking about his poor dancing skills, Kher said, "That is why the audience has not seen me dancing quite often."

Two songs from the film, 'Jamboora' and 'Zara Muskura', were unveiled at the event in the presence of the cast and crew. It was in the context of the songs that the actor was asked about how it felt to dance to the songs.

"I am a very bad dancer," Kher said. "That is why the audience has not seen me dancing that often. But very soon you will see me in a surprise avatar in this film. I wish I was a great dancer too. Actually, I dance with emotions. I believe I dance through my acting."

The senior actor then shared his experience of working with children in the film.

"It was very difficult to match with the energy levels of the kids," he averred. "Their questions, their spontaneity were unparalleled. A very famous director from Hollywood once said to me that when children are in the frame, don't act, because nobody is looking at you."

He went on to note: "I believe that is very true. Working on this film was like a crash course for me. It was a learning experience. I had great fun."

Holding the 'gada', Kher said, "Can you believe it? I am holding a 'gada' right now, and my first-ever role, the first-ever, was of a monkey in Lord Hanuman's. I was then in the fifth standard. This is the first time after school that I am holding a 'gada'. I feel like a 'Bada Bheem'."

Looking very happy to be in the company of child artistes, Kher spoke about what he learnt from them.

## I DIDN'T MANAGE TO BECOME A STAR, BUT I SURELY BECAME A ROCKSTAR : PIYUSH MISHRA



Team Absolute | Mumbai

Piyush Mishra, an alumnus of the National School of Drama (NSD), reflected on his four-decade-long acting journey, sharing how he became 'blindly ambitious to make it big' in the industry.

Piyush, who will soon be seen in the courtroom drama 'Illegal 3', said: "I came to Bombay in 2010 and wanted to be a part of the cinema industry. For one year, I became blindly ambitious and did a few Tamil films, thinking I would make it big, but it took time."

"Matrubhoomi' was one of my first big films. I have worked 20 years in film and 20 years in theatre. Throughout the years, my contacts have increased, and I am not as blindly ambitious now, not that it's wrong. I don't reach out purposefully to find work," he said.

Mishra made his acting debut in 1998 with Mani Ratnam's directorial romantic thriller 'Dil Se', starring Shah Rukh Khan, Manisha Koirala, and Preity Zinta.

He then went on to star in movies like 'Maqbool', '1971', 'Gulaal', 'Rockstar', and 'Tamasha', among others.

The 'Gangs of Wasseypur' actor further said: "The industry is not a bad place, and there are many hardworking people here. I didn't manage to become a star, but I surely became a rockstar."

"I have become morally rich after staying in the industry for so long. This is what it gives you, and you get to learn a lot about the world," he added.



## SARIS ARE COMFORT OUTFITS THAT CAN BE DRAPED WITHIN FEW MINUTES : JUHI PARMAR

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Juhi Parmar, shared that saris are her comfort outfit and can be draped within a few moments. Juhi said: 'Saris are my comfort outfit! I can easily change a sari and drape it within a few minutes because of all the practice that happened during my 'Kumkum' days. I still love wearing saris, and bringing them back onto my social media with iconic songs was a lot of fun.'

The 43-year-old actress said that Yash Raj Chopra's quintessential actresses in a saree are "picture perfect".

"For me, the songs, the attire, all of it is very relatable because they are popular Bollywood melodious tracks, and then to add the Indian garb to it is just special. If you ask me, I have loved watching the Yash Raj quintessential heroine in Switzerland in a sari because everything is so picture perfect," she said.

Juhi, after becoming a sensation as Kumkum, featured in several shows such as 'Karmaphal Daata Shani', 'Sanjivani', 'Yeh Chanda Kanoon Hai', and 'Tantra', among many others.

In 2012, she lifted the winner's trophy in the controversial reality show 'Big Boss 5' hosted by Salman Khan.

Juhi married actor Sachin Shroff in 2009. They got divorced in 2018. The two have a daughter named Samaira, who was born in 2013.



## PRIYANKA CHOPRA CONGRATULATES INDIAN WINNERS AT CANNES FOR SCRIPTING HISTORY

Team Absolute | Mumbai

Actress Priyanka Chopra Jonas, congratulated the Indian talents that scored huge victories at the recently concluded 77th edition of the Cannes Film Festival.

On Monday, Priyanka took to the Stories section of her Instagram and sent her best wish-

es to the winners, Anasuya Sengupta, Payal Kapadia, and Chidananda S Naik.

While Anasuya won the Best Actress Award at Cannes, Payal's film 'All We Imagine as Light' was feted with the 'Le Grand Prix' award, and Chidananda's short film 'Sunflowers were the first ones to know' was honoured with the La Cinef Award for Best Short

Film.

The actress shared three different stories, one each for Anasuya, Payal, and Chidananda.

Lauding Anasuya, Priyanka wrote, "Congratulations @cup\_o\_t on your incredible performance and the history you've created! Onwards and upwards."

For Payal, she wrote that it was a moment for Indian cinema at

the Cannes Film Festival.

The actress wrote: "Biiiig shout and congratulations to you all #PayalKapadia @kantari kanmani @divya prabha @chhaya.kadam.75 @hridhuharoon."

Priyanka wrote for Chidananda, "Congratulations @chidananda\_s\_naik So well deserved."

India had one of its best years at the Cannes Film Festival this time. Payal's film was screened at the Palme d'Or (main segment) of the Cannes Film Festival, becoming the first Indian film in 30 years to compete in the main segment after 'Swaham', which was released in 1994.

## INSTAGRAM PIC OF THE DAY



Alaya F