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Veteran actor Kamal Haasan poses for photographs during a press meet for his upcoming film 'Thug Life', in New Delhi

Dog beaten to death in Delhi's Patel Nagar, one held

NEW DELHI: Delhi Police has arrested a man for allegedly beating a dog to death with a stick in broad daylight in central Delhi's Patel Nagar area, an official said on Monday. "We checked CCTV footage which verified the incident and a man has been apprehended for further questioning. He was later arrested after he confessed the crime," a police official said. Police said the alleged incident happened around 1.30 pm on May 6. A case was then registered against the man under relevant sections of the BNS and provision of the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (PCA) Act on a complaint by PETA. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals (PETA), in a statement, said "Those who abuse animals often move on to harming humans.

Mumbai police seize mephedrone worth Rs 24.47 cr; six held

MUMBAI: The Mumbai police have seized 12.6 kg of mephedrone (MD) worth Rs 24.47 crore and arrested six persons in raids spanning over three months, an official said on Tuesday. The raids were conducted in Mumbai, Navi Mumbai and Karjat in neighbouring Raigad district, an official said here on Tuesday. He said that the police arrested one of the accused with 45 gms of MD in Chembur in March this year. Based on information provided by him, they conducted a raid in Navi Mumbai on May 15 and seized more than 6 kg of the substance worth Rs 13.37 crore. The official said during the probe, the police established the role of drugs peddler SonuPathan and raided a farmhouse in Karjat and seized 5.5 kg of MD worth more than Rs 11 crore, along with materials used to manufacture the drug.

Himachal engineering college principal suspended over sexual harassment charges

SHIMLA: The director-cum-principal of Bandla Hydro Engineering College in Himachal Pradesh's Bilapsur district who was arrested on charges of sexual harassment has been placed under suspension, Technical Education Minister Rajesh Dharmani said Tuesday. HimanshuMonga (51) is accused of causing physical and mental abuse to female students and sending inappropriate calls and messages. The principal was suspended after a committee constituted by the technical education department to probe allegations against him submitted its report, Dharmani said. The minister said such incidents should not happen and the government will take strict action in such cases.

Uttarakhand: Car falls into ditch in Tehri, 4 senior citizens die

NEW TEHRI: Four elderly people died when a car fell into a ditch on the Kirtinagar-Badhiyargarh road in Tehri district of Uttarakhand on Monday, officials said. All four people were returning to a village after attending a religious function organised in Badhiyargarh, they said. They were all residents of Chandigarh and had come to visit their village, Malgarhi, KirtinagarTehsildar Pradeep Kandari said. He said their car suddenly went out of control and fell 40 metres down into a ditch. Teams of the tehsil administration and State Disaster Response Force were deployed for rescue work. Kandhari said that the four people were taken out of the car and immediately rushed to Srikot Base Hospital where doctors declared them dead.

Two killed in tiger attacks in Chandrapur

CHANDRAPUR: A man and a woman were killed in separate tiger attacks in eastern Maharashtra's Chandrapur district on Tuesday, forest officials said. A total of 11 persons have died in attacks by big cats in the district, home to the TadobaAndhari Tiger Reserve, this month.Nanda Sanjay Makalwar (45), resident of Chiroli village in Mul tehsil, who had gone to the forest to collect bamboo sticks with her husband and some others, was attacked by a tiger in Chichpalli forest range in the morning, said a senior official of the Forest Development Corporation of Maharashtra. Suresh Sopankar (52), a resident of Kantapeth, was mauled to death in the same compartment no 524 under Chichpalli range around noon. Sopankar had gone to the forest to graze cattle.

Kingpin among 13 of gang held cable thefts in Delhi's Rohini

NEW DELHI: Thirteen members of a gang have been arrested for their alleged involvement in stealing underground MTNL cable in Delhi's Rohini, police said on Tuesday. A JCB machine and about 10 kgs of stolen cables have been recovered from them, they said. On the intervening night of April 6 and 7, Pankaj (21), Lucky (18) and Abhishek (18) were caught red-handed while digging and stealing the cables in Sector 9 of Rohini, the police said in a statement. Giving details of the arrest, they said that a team noticed suspicious activity involving a JCB machine and several people digging near MTNL infrastructure. On being questioned, the men failed to give a satisfactory explanation, so the team detained them.

Mamata resumes hiring teachers as per SC order,to continue legal fight

PTI, KOLKATA: West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee on Tuesday said her government will start a fresh process for recruiting teachers following the Supreme Court directive, while simultaneously pursuing the review petition seeking reinstatement of those who lost their jobs. Appealing to the teachers who lost their jobs to take part in the fresh process, Banerjee said they will be given the benefit of their experience and age relaxation. The teachers, who have been agitating after their appointments were invalidated by the Supreme Court on April 3, said they felt "disappointed and shattered" by the announcements made by the CM.

"We want all those teachers who lost their jobs to get their jobs back. But we also have to follow the Supreme Court directive on issuing the notification by May 31. I want to tell you that we have been compelled to do this (the fresh recruitment). Do not think we are agreeably doing this," she said, addressing a press conference. "Both the review petition and the process of issuing the notification will go on simultaneously," she said. Banerjee said the state government has been waiting for days for the Supreme Court to take up the review petition. "But, summer vacation is going on at the Supreme Court, due to which it could not be heard. In our petition, we have mentioned that we do not want those who were working to lose their jobs. If



West Bengal chief minister Mamata Banerjee has set the dates for notification of jobs and online applications

there is an order based on the review petition that the jobs will not be cancelled, and those who were working can continue, then we will follow that," she said. Banerjee's statement came amid massive protests by the teaching and non-teaching staff of state-backed schools, who lost their jobs because of the SC order in the School Service Commission recruitment scam. Announcing relief in the fresh recruitment process for the teachers who lost

their jobs, the CM said, "Age will not be a barrier. Those who lost their jobs will be allowed to sit for the exam even if they have crossed the usual age limit. They will also receive the benefit of their experience." She said the notification will be issued on May 30, and the online applications for the fresh recruitment will begin on June 16. It will continue till July 14, and the panel will be published on November 15. Banerjee said the gov-

ernment was aiming to complete the process by November-end. "Written test, scrutiny, challenge, result publication and interview shall be completed in the meantime, if we do not get any result in the review petition," she said. The recruitment process will be conducted for 24,203 posts deemed to be vacant, she said. Appealing to the teachers who lost their jobs to take part in the process, Banerjee said, "It will not be right for you to say that you will not take part in it, then you will not have the job. This is not our order. Some selfish people are behind this. The government did not go to court."

IIT Delhi revamps curriculum after 12 years to reduce students' burden

PTI, NEW DELHI: The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Delhi has completely revamped its curriculum after 12 years with concerns about burden on students and changing industry demands being among the major reasons behind the massive exercise, according to Director Rangan Banerjee.

In an interview to PTI on Tuesday, Banerjee informed that the last curriculum revision was done in 2013. "The industry demands are rapidly changing... there is a whole new emergence of AI and focus on sustainability. The exercise for this revamp began in 2022. Over the last few years we have taken extensive stake-

holder feedback. We have been talking to our alumni, students... our faculty are involved with industry and society. We have tried to incorporate flexibility to make the curriculum more exciting for students," he said. "The concern about burden on students was definitely one of the factors which guided our curriculum revamp. We have restricted the number of core credits per semester and specially in the first two semesters when the first year students join, they will have a relatively reduced load. We have also tried to see that in the first year the class sizes are smaller," he added. Banerjee explained that the reduced class size for

first two semesters will now be 150 instead of 300 to ensure more personalised attention. "We have also focused on learning by doing. So this has been on our minds to reduce the stress but we also want to ensure that we have elements of rigour and choice in our curriculum and then try to minimise the load," he added. An honours programme has been introduced as an add-on to the BTech degree. Additionally, an undergraduate student can now petition for an MTech degree in any available MTech programme at IIT Delhi at the end of their third year. This will allow a student to graduate with both bachelor's and master's degrees in five

years. "One of the important changes that has been introduced in the curriculum is in programming education by integrating AI-based code generators into the introductory course on programming. Students from all BTech streams will have to undergo mandatory training on how to use AI responsibly and ethically to future proof them," he said. "Similarly each graduate will have some training in sustainability. We are providing more opportunities for hands-on learning, internships and teamwork, so that our graduates will be more future ready and will be able to actually make an impact in India and the world," he added.

Suspected Khalistani terrorist killed in blast in Amritsar

PTI, CHANDIGARH: A suspected Khalistani terrorist died in a blast while retrieving explosive material from a vacant area on the Majitha road bypass in Punjab's Amritsar on Tuesday, police said. The intensity of the explosion, which took place around 9:30 am, was such that both arms of the man were blown off. Deputy Inspector General (Border Range) Satinder Singh said the man is suspected to have links with some terror organisation like Babbar Khalsa International (BKI). The man came here to retrieve the explosive material and thereafter, the blast took place, he said.

"The explosive material was in his hands when the blast took place," Singh told reporters in Amritsar. "We are investigating his identity and the terror organisation he belonged to," he said. Replying to a question, the DIG said the man was yet to be identified. "As per circumstantial evidence, it is clear that this man was a member of some terrorist organisation," Singh said, adding police got some vital clues from the man's pocket which indicated his links with some terror outfit. A team of Forensic Science Laboratory is investigating to find out whether it was an IED (improvised explosive device) blast or grenade blast.

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WILL GAUDE'S GOOGLY SPEED UP CABINET RESHUFFLE?

Political analyst Prof Prabhakar Timble, never one to mince words, says Gaude's job is less about idealism and more about survival. "This is his desperate attempt to leave the Cabinet as a hero, playing the anti-corruption crusader card. But really, it gives the CM the perfect excuse to show him the door." Timble also points to a deeper malaise. "Whether it's Gaude, or others like Madkaikar and Michael Lobo, the underlying theme is the same — corruption is not the exception, it's the rule. Leaders may drape themselves in cultural symbolism — Lord Parshuram, Shivaji, Birsu Munda — but what people really need is a clean, transparent government."

As the monsoon clouds gather, so too does political drama in the Goan power corridors. For Gaude, this might have been a last-ditch bid to stun his critics — but odds are, he may have just bowled himself out.

MANIPUR PROTESTS FORCE GUV TO FLY 7 KM FROM AIRPORT TO RAJ BHAVAN

Outnumbering the security personnel, COCOMI activists on Tuesday stormed into the Chief Electoral Officer's office at Lamphelpat and asked the staff to leave the building, before locking up the main gate. The activists also locked up the office of the Geological Survey of India, located a few kilometre away, raising slogans, such as 'apologise or leave Manipur', against the governor. Hundreds of people joined a march against at Lamlong in Imphal East district, raising slogans against attempts to 'disintegrate Manipur'. The march, headed for the deputy commissioner's office, was stopped by security forces a few hundred metre ahead, at Porompat Junction. A 5-km human chain demonstration was also held from Singjamei to Lilong in the Imphal West district. Similar protests were also held in Nambol and Bishnupur town in Bishnupur district. COCOMI (Coordinating Committee on Manipur Integrity) has been demanding a public apology from Governor Ajay Kumar Bhalla over the Gwaltabi incident, and the resignation of the chief secretary, DGP, and security advisor. It was alleged that security forces had stopped a state-run bus, on which journalists were being taken by the government to cover the Shirui Lily festival in Ukhrul district on May 20, near the Gwaltabi checkpoint and forced the Directorate of Information and Public Relations (DIPR) staffers to cover the state's name written on the windshield with a white paper. Over the last week, protests over the incident have rocked the Meitei-inhabited Imphal Valley. Since the beginning of the ethnic strife in May 2023, in which over 250 people have been killed, Meitei groups maintain that the territorial integrity of the state is non-ne-

gotiable in any peace process, while the Kuki-Zo outfits assert that the only solution to resolve the crisis is creating a separate administration for the hill districts where they live. The incident of hiding the state's name on a government bus by security personnel has added to the tensions, which were waning in recent months because of a slew of measures undertaken by the Centre to bring peace in the state.

COVID IN INDIA: 750 NEW CASES IN A WEEK

This has taken the State's total active caseload to 430. Maharashtra follows with 154 fresh cases, pushing its active tally to 210. Delhi, which reported 99 new infections in the past week, now has 104 active cases. Gujarat has registered 83 active cases, including 76 reported in the last seven days. Tamil Nadu currently has 69 active cases, although only three were added this week. Karnataka's active caseload has risen to 47, with 34 new cases. In Uttar Pradesh, all 15 current active cases have been detected within the past week. Rajasthan and West Bengal account for double-digit caseloads, reporting 13 and 12 active cases, respectively. The mortality figures have also seen a slight uptick. Maharashtra has reported three deaths, while Kerala and Karnataka have recorded two and one, respectively. Health authorities in Kerala are currently reconciling mortality data to ensure accurate reporting. Meanwhile, in the backdrop of rising case numbers, health officials have confirmed the presence of two emerging Covid variants, NB.1.8.1 and LF.7, in the country. These strains, currently causing waves of infections in China and other parts of Asia, were detected by the Indian SARS-CoV-2 Genomics Consortium (INSACOG), a central government body. According to NDTV, the World Health Organization (WHO) has categorised both NB.1.8.1 and LF.7 as "Variants Under Monitoring" rather than "Variants of Concern" or "Variants of Interest." The NB.1.8.1 variant has shown signs of higher transmissibility and some degree of immune escape. INSACOG data indicates that a single case of the NB.1.8.1 variant was reported in Tamil Nadu in April. Meanwhile, four cases of the LF.7 variant were detected in Gujarat earlier this May.

ABOVE-NORMAL RAINFALL LIKELY IN JUNE: IMD

From June to September, he said, the country is likely to receive 106 per cent of the long-period average rainfall of 87 cm. Rainfall between 96 per cent and 104 per cent of the 50-year average of 87 cm is considered 'normal', the IMD said. Northwest India is likely to receive normal rainfall, while the Northeast may see below-normal rain. Central India and the southern peninsular region are expected to receive above-normal rainfall, he said. The monsoon core zone is likely to receive above-nor-

mal rainfall (more than 106 per cent of the long-period average) this season. This zone includes parts of Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Maharashtra, Odisha and nearby areas, which depend heavily on monsoon rain for agriculture. Above-normal rainfall is expected in most parts of the country, except for Ladakh, adjoining areas of Himachal Pradesh, northeastern states and some parts of Bihar, Jharkhand, West Bengal and Odisha. Some isolated areas in Punjab, Haryana, Kerala and Tamil Nadu may experience below-normal rainfall. The southwest monsoon reached Kerala on May 24, marking its earliest arrival over the Indian mainland since 2009, when it reached the southern state on May 23. The primary rain bearing system set in over Mumbai 16 days before the usual date, making it the earliest since 1950. The southwest monsoon usually makes its onset over Kerala by June 1, reaches Mumbai by June 11 and covers the entire country by July 8. It starts retreating from north-west India around September 17 and withdraws completely by October 15. Meteorologists emphasise that the date of monsoon onset has no direct correlation with the total seasonal rainfall. The monsoon arriving early or late in Kerala or Mumbai does not mean it will cover other parts of the country. It is characterised by large-scale variabilities and global, regional and local features. India saw 934.8 mm of rainfall in 2024, 108 per cent of the average. In 2023, it recorded 820 mm, 94.4 per cent of the average. In 2022, it saw 925 mm; 870 mm in 2021; and 958 mm in 2020, according to the IMD data. The monsoon plays a critical role in India's agriculture-dependent economy, providing vital water for crops, replenishing reservoirs, and supporting drinking water and hydropower generation. Agriculture supports the livelihood of around 42 per cent of the population and accounts for 18.2 per cent of the country's GDP. TREACHEROUS PILGAO ROADS SWING FOCUS BACK ON MINING OPERATIONS Only after Vedanta dispatched a water tanker and thoroughly cleaned the junction road was transport allowed to resume. "For several days, on the demand of the people, we have been informing the mining company that the main road is getting muddy and slippery and there may be accidents, but they are ignoring this. A major accident could have happened on Monday when a car skidded, after which we decided to stop ore transport on the main road," said Swapnil Phadte, Pilgaon panch member. "Earlier, the mining company used to clean the muddy road by washing it, but now they've stopped doing that. Families taking kids to school feel scared that there will be an accident," said Amit Nair, a local resident.

