











## Bengaluru Mall Sealed For 7 Days By Karnataka Government; Know The Reason



On Thursday, the Karnataka government ordered the closure of a mall in Bengaluru for seven days following an incident where a farmer was reportedly denied entry due to wearing a 'dhoti' and a white shirt. This incident sparked widespread condemnation from members of the Legislative Assembly across various political parties. G.T. Mall is situated on Magadi Main Road in Bengaluru. The Karnataka government strongly condemned the alleged insult to the farmer, describing it as a clear violation of dignity and self-respect that cannot be tolerated. Urban Development Minister Byrathi Suresh informed the House that he consulted with the BBMP commissioner regarding potential actions. He asserted that the government possesses the necessary authority, and immediate legal actions will be taken against the G.T. World mall. He emphasized that the mall would be closed for seven days. Social Welfare Minister H C Mahadevappa condemned the incident, highlighting the importance of self-respect and dignity for every individual. He assured that the government would take appropriate action. The incident occurred on Tuesday when Fakeerappa, visited the mall with his wife and son to watch a movie at a multiplex. He donned a white shirt and 'panche' (dhoti). According to reports, a security staff member at the mall informed him and his son that entry in a 'panche' was not allowed and asked him to wear trousers instead. Earlier, Assembly Speaker U T Khader had raised the issue in the Legislative Assembly, urging the government to take decisive action.

## FASTag update: Pay double the fee if FASTag not stuck on front windshield



To avoid drivers carrying FASTag in their wallets or hands during travelling and deliberately avoiding paying toll as seen in some highway roads, the National Highway Authority of India (NHAI) has mandated a double fee for users who do not affix FASTag on the front windshield from the inside. Such defaulters can be also duly black-listed, it added. "Deliberate non-affixation of FASTag on the windscreen leads to unnecessary delays at the toll plazas causing inconvenience to the fellow National Highway users," NHAI said in a statement. Further, NHAI said that the information will also be prominently displayed at all toll plazas, informing highway users about the penalties for non-compliance of entering a toll lane without a fixed FASTag on front windshield. In addition, CCTV footage with Vehicle Registration Number (VRN) at the fee plaza shall be recorded of the non-affixed FASTag cases. This will help in maintaining proper record regarding the fee charged and presence of the vehicle in the toll lane, it added. NHAI collects user fee on National Highways as per the National Highway Fee (Determination of Rates and Collection) Rules, 2008. At present, user fee is collected for approximately 45,000 km of National Highways and Expressways at around 1,000 Toll Plazas on National Highways across the country.

## After civil engineer, CBI now arrests 4 AIIMS MBBS students

The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) on Thursday arrested four MBBS students of AIIMS Patna in connection with the NEET-UG paper leak case. Three of the four men have been identified as third-year MBBS students - Chandan Singh, Rahul Anant, and Kumar Shanu. Karan Jain, the fourth accused, is a first-year student at the premier institute. The group was detained from their hostel on Wednesday and their rooms were sealed. AIIMS Patna director GK Pal confirmed the development. "The CBI has taken away four students. Chandan Singh, Rahul Anant, and Kumar Shanu are third-year students and Karan Jain is a second-year student," AIIMS Patna Director G K Pal said. He said a senior officer had sent them photographs and mobile numbers of students who were required in the probe. The students were apprehended in the presence of senior management of AIIMS Patna. Dr Pal said that no doctor had been arrested. "No doctor has been arrested,

but as per the information available, the CBI team has taken away four students. One of these students was not at the hostel. He reported to them later. So, going by the information we have received, a total of four students are with the CBI. One of their senior officers had earlier shared the names of all students involved in the NEET scam, along with their photos and mobile numbers," he said. Dr Pal emphasised that help and cooperation have been provided regarding the investigation underway. "We have cooperated regarding all the help they needed. We will continue to cooperate. The students haven't returned yet. We don't know about the involvement of students, how they got involved, or whether they are guilty. The students are Chandan Singh, Rahul Anant, Karan Jain, and Kumar Sanu. Chandan Singh is a resident of Siwan (Bihar), Kumar Sanu is a resident of Patna (Bihar), Rahul Anand is actually from Dhanbad (Jharkhand) but now lives in

Patna, and Karan Jain is from Araria (Bihar). Yesterday, CBI told us to seal their rooms. CBI has sealed three rooms, and we sealed one room," the AIIMS Patna Executive Director and CEO added. The move came two days after CBI arrested Pankaj Kumar, a 2017-batch civil engineer from the National Institute of Technology Jamshedpur, who allegedly stole the NEET-UG paper from the NTA trunk in Hazaribagh. The CBI is probing the NEET paper leak in Bihar. They have arrested dozens of people, including aspirants, over alleged malpractices in the conduct of the exam. The Supreme Court, hearing a clutch of petitions over the NEET row, asked the petitioners to prove that the paper leak in Bihar was systematic and the sanctity of the entire exam was compromised. The Centre and the National Testing Agency have submitted before the court that re-examination will jeopardize the future of lakhs of hard-working students.

## Indian crew member of capsized oil tanker dies

New Delhi: An Indian crew member of a Comoros-flagged oil tanker that capsized off the Oman coast has died, officials said on Thursday. Last night, the Indian Navy said eight Indians and a Sri Lankan national were rescued by Indian warship INS Teg while carrying out a rescue operation to trace the crew members of the cargo ship. The vessel had capsized about 25 nautical miles southeast of Ras Madrasah in Oman on July 15 and search and rescue efforts are underway, the officials said. Minister of state for external affairs Kirti Vardhan Singh said the body of the Indian has been retrieved. The tanker MT Falcon Prestige has a 16-member crew in-

cluding 13 Indians and three Sri Lankans, according to Oman's Maritime Security Centre (MSC). "Spoke to our Ambassador in Oman, Amit Narang, to get an update on the capsized vessel MV Prestige Falcon. Relieved to know that eight Indians who were rescued by INS Teg have reached ashore and are being looked after," Singh said on X. India receives oil cargo in Russian SCF tanker after brief halt: Reports "One Indian person's body has been retrieved. We are closely monitoring the situation and the government is ensuring all possible assistance. Thank all authorities in India and Oman involved in the process," he said. The Indian



Navy said the search and rescue operation by Indian and Omani assets is being undertaken in challenging weather conditions as the area is experiencing rough seas and strong winds.

## 'We missed the woods for the trees during the Kargil War,' says CDS General Anil Chauhan

New Delhi: "India missed the woods for the trees during the war," Chief of Defence Staff General Anil Chauhan said Thursday, dwelling on the lessons of the Kargil War that lasted more than two months. Insurgency in the Kashmir Valley was a challenge that made the security forces forget to look at what was happening at higher altitudes in the Great Himalayan range at that time, General Chauhan said at an event organised by News9 in New Delhi to celebrate the Kargil heroes. Back in 1999, the Pakistani soldiers were initially mistaken for 'mujahideens'. The ingress of Pakistani fighters into Indian territory took place only a few months after India and Pakistan signed the Lahore Declaration. A number of battles came to be fought during the war to recapture the points occupied by the Pakistani fighters. The war began on 3 May and ended 26 July with a decisive Indian victory. The military leadership "must have the ability to have a 360-degree outlook towards the threats and challenges that face the nation," the CDS said. He added that a lot was written about the war as well as about the sub-optimal jointmanship during the war. "We have taken a bit long to promote jointness and jointmanship." General Chauhan stressed on the importance of looking at the larger picture in hand. "We sometimes remain too focused on the immediate and easy tasks that we ignore the bigger pic-



ture," he said. The forces had now "moved beyond jointness" and were "actually working towards promoting a joint culture which is slightly distinct from the culture of individual service," he said. Integrating the three services in multiple domains was another success that the forces have been able to achieve "in some manner." The CDS added that the forces were also trying to come up with joint structures for operations that would separate 'force generation from force application.' He added that no war in the future was going to be fought as the last war. "Indian armed forces must be prepared for the same. War and warfare are evolving at a rapid pace. Its character and nature are changing very rapidly because of rapid transformation in technology and ongoing geopolitical flux." About the Kargil outcomes, he said the creation of the post of Chief of Defence Staff (CDS) was one of the requisitions of the committee that reviewed the war. "The appointment of the CDS in some manner that way is a

progeny of the war. As CDS, I feel both honoured and humbled at the same time as I stand before you all." Any war is a very important political-military event in the history of a nation, he said. "It has a potential to change the destiny of the nation and its people, territories and its ideology. It is for this reason that I feel the story of all wars needs to be recalled time and again and retold multiple times. The memory of the sacrifices made by the soldiers must become a part of the national folklore, as indeed it has become in regard with the Kargil War." He said that the conflict underscored the need for robust and responsive defence strategy. According to the CDS, it also emphasised the importance of public and international diplomacy, a strategy which was then used effectively not only to neutralise the narrative being played by the adversaries but also to get global popular support. "Kargil War was a limited war. It was the first limited war for the subcontinent. Both the nations had demonstrated nuclear capability in 1998. Both these terms were new for India, the Indian armed forces, and the Indian subcontinent. In my view, there will always be more than a casual connect between limited war, full scale conflict and nuclear weapons," the CDS said. The price of freedom is eternal vigilance, General Chauhan said. "It is said in the context of protecting democracy, but it is even relevant for the military."

# No rape on false promise if woman already married: Supreme court



**NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM):** The Supreme Court has held that a rape case on the false pretext to marry cannot be prosecuted by a married woman involved in a consensual relationship without getting a divorce. A bench headed by justice CT Ravikumar quashed a rape case against the accused, whose identity was not revealed, and set aside an August 1, 2022 Madhya Pradesh high court order that refused to scrap the case registered against him at a Mahila police station in Satna on December 11, 2020. The decision of the court came in a peculiar set of facts where the accused had a physical relationship with his landlady, who was 10 years older than him, and even solemnised their marriage at a temple in January 2019 under the impression

that she had divorced her earlier husband. Though they were in a relationship since 2017, the two began to live together after their informal marriage in the same house where the woman was staying with her parents and a teenage daughter from the first marriage. Things took a turn after the accused refused a court marriage, leading to the woman filing a criminal case against him under Section 376(2)(n) of the Indian Penal Code (IPC). This section prescribes punishment for a person who "commits rape repeatedly on the same woman", and the minimum sentence is 10 years in prison extending up to a life term. The petition, on behalf of the accused, was filed by lawyer Ashwani Kumar Dubey. The bench, also comprising justice Rajesh Bindal, noted that contrary to the woman's claim in the FIR that she got a divorce from her husband on December 10, 2018, the original record proved that the decree of divorce by mutual consent was dated January 13, 2021. This showed that she was in a relationship with the accused even when her earlier marriage was subsisting. Justice Bindal, writing the

judgment for the bench, said, "It is not a case where the complainant (woman) was of an immature age who could not foresee her welfare and take right decision. She was a grown up lady about 10 years elder to the appellant. She was mature and intelligent enough to understand the consequences of the moral and immoral acts for which she consented during subsistence of her earlier marriage." The court added: "In fact, it was a case of betraying her husband." During arguments, it was established that the accused who was a tenant at the complainant's property had to shift in 2018 to Maharashtra for his job. He used to come and stay with her family, and the court found evidence to show that they were living as husband and wife. The accused took an insurance policy where he named the complainant as a nominee, and took care of the daughter of the complainant. He also advanced a loan of ₹1 lakh to the complainant that was not returned to him. "From the contents of the complaint, on the basis of which FIR was got registered and the statement got recorded by the complainant, it is evident

that there was no promise to marry initially when the relations between the parties started in the year 2017. In any case, even on the dates when the complainant alleges that the parties had physical relations, she was already married," the court said. "For the reasons mentioned above, the order passed by the High Court (on August 1, 2022) is set aside. FIR No 52 dated December 10, 2020, registered under Section 376(2)(n) and 506 IPC at Police Station, Mahila Thana, District Satna (MP) and all subsequent proceedings thereto are quashed," the judgment held. Last year, the top court decided a case on a set of similar facts in Naim Ahmed v State of NCT, where rape charges were set aside on identical grounds. In that case, the complainant was a married woman with three children. She alleged rape on false promise of marriage five years after she began to cohabit with the accused, and had a child from this relationship without obtaining a divorce in her earlier marriage. The court held that it could not be said that the woman had given her consent for a sexual relationship under any misconception.

# A Look At Congress Leaders Who Have Opted Out Of Lok Sabha Contest, Some Are Gandhi Family Loyalists

New Delhi: Some of the biggest names in the Congress party - known to be loyalists of the Gandhi family - are shying away from the Lok Sabha elections, Times Now has learnt. They include Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge and former Madhya Pradesh Chief Ministers Kamal Nath and Digvijaya Singh, sources said. Mallikarjun Kharge, the highest office bearer of the party, has cited his responsibility as the party President for opting out of the poll contest. Kamal Nath, a two-time Chief Minister, has announced that his

son and sitting MP, Nakul Nath, will contest the elections. Kamal Nath was earlier in the news over reports of plans to switch over to the BJP. He has, however, denied any such plans. Digvijaya Singh - a senior leader and Ex-General Secretary of the Congress - has cited his membership of the Rajya Sabha for not contesting the polls. Former Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot has said that he wants to focus on Rajasthan assembly. Another key leader in the state, Sachin Pilot, has also reportedly cited his commitments to the people in his



constituency as the reason for not contesting the national polls. TS Singh Deo, the Deputy Chief Minister in Chhattisgarh, has also opted out citing the poor health of his wife. Former Min-

ister Salman Khurshid, it is learnt, is upset at the Congress giving away Farrukhabad to Samajwadi Party as part of seat-sharing in Uttar Pradesh. Congress leaders in the south have also requested the party not to consider them for the national polls. Krishna Byre Gowda, the Congress MLA in Karnataka, has reportedly told the party that he wants to focus on state assembly. Gowda's party colleague and fellow MLA KH Muniyappa has also expressed interest to remain focussed on the state, sources said.

# London High Court orders Nirav Modi to pay Bank of India \$8 million

**NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM):** The High Court in London on Friday gave a summary judgment against jailed diamondaire Nirav Modi asking him to pay \$ 8 million to Bank of India. A summary judgement is one where one of the parties is not present in court or the court sees no merit in their case. The Bank of India had filed an application in the High Court in London to recover \$ 8 million from Modi's Dubai-based company Firestar Diamond FZE. Friday's judgment allows the bank to start the recovery process from the Dubai entity and to auction Modi's properties and assets anywhere in the world. Nirav Modi is, at present, lodged in Thameside prison in the UK. Tom Beasley, the barrister representing BOI,



and instructed by solicitor Milan Kapadia of Royds Withy King, impressed upon the judge that Nirav Modi had no prospect of success and that there was no need for the case to go to trial.

The outstanding amount stemmed from the credit facility which the bank had with Nirav Modi. The judgment of US\$ 8 million includes \$4 million in principal and another \$4 million in interest. BOI had extended credit worth \$9 million to Nirav Modi's Firestar but when the bank demanded repayment in 2018, he was unable to honour the commitment. As Firestar Diamond FZE is based in Dubai, a summary judgment from the UK court is more readily enforceable there. Modi was the chief executive officer of Firestar FZE and was also the guarantor. The court was also told, "Nirav Modi has filed a defence to the claim and his solicitors were served with a copy of the present application but have not responded to the

same." Judge Jonathan Klein then concluded that even though Modi is in prison he was given the opportunity to fight the claim brought by Bank of India. "We are content with the judgment and look forward the next steps," said BOI solicitor Milan Kapadia. Modi has also not yet settled his legal bills for his extradition case which he lost. He has been appearing in Barking-side Magistrates' court in London for non-payment of over £150,000 in legal cost. He told the magistrate that he does not have access to any funds as the Indian government has frozen all his assets. He told the magistrate that he would make monthly payments towards the unpaid legal costs by borrowing money from friends and relatives.

# Exodus from Madhya Pradesh Congress as ex-Union Minister, leaders join BJP

**NEW DELHI (ROYAL JOURNALISM):** Former Union Minister and Congress leader Suresh Pachouri and former MP Gajendra Singh Rajukhedi joined the BJP on Saturday. Former Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan was also present at the event. Pachouri, speaking to the media after joining the BJP, said, "When I joined politics, I aimed to serve the nation. The goal of independent India was to form a casteless and classless society. In the last few weeks, the decisions being taken by Congress have been heartbreaking." "The language that they used to reject Lord Ram's Pran Pratishtha ceremony was disappoint-

ing," he added. "We accepted the Supreme Court's decision, so what was the need to reject the Pran Pratishtha invitation? The political and religious decisions that were being taken by the Congress were agitating," Pachouri told media. "I have joined the BJP without any conditions," he said. Others set to join the BJP include former MLAs Sanjay Shukla, Vishal Patel, former MLA from Piparia Arjun Palia, and former state NSUI president Atul Sharma. Alok Chansoria from Jabalpur, former Bhopal Congress president Kailash Sharma, Yogesh Sharma, and Yogeshwar Sharma, were also believed

to be joining the BJP soon. Welcoming Pachouri to the party, Chouhan, while speaking to reporters said, "Rahul Gandhi will breathe only after finishing the Congress completely, as suggested by Mahatma Gandhi. All good leaders of the Congress are tired of the party's leadership which is directionless." "Congress is on the verge of extinction," the former Chief Minister said. Also speaking to reporters, Madhya Pradesh BJP president VD Sharma said, "Former Union Minister and Congress leader Suresh Pachouri is a tall leader in Madhya Pradesh Congress. Since there is no space for such a



leader there, he has decided to join the BJP and work under PM Modi's leadership." Pachouri, who was close to the Gandhi family, was Union minister of state for defence (defence production and supplies),

