

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 be 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 Paul 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 Shanu. Chandan Singh is a resident of Siwan (Bihar), Kumar Shanu is a resident of Patna (Bihar), Rahul Anant 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."

Supreme Court stays execution of death sentence awarded to Ameerul Islam

NEW DELHI: The Supreme Court has stayed the execution of the death sentence awarded to Ameerul Islam, the accused in the brutal murder of a law student in Perumbavoor. The bench, headed by Justice BR Gavai, issued the order staying the execution of the death sentence till a verdict is pronounced on the appeal filed by the convict. The apex

court sought a report regarding the mitigating circumstances and psychological evaluation of the convict. The court also said that Thrissur Medical College should appoint a special team for the psychological evaluation of the convict. In his appeal, Ameerul Islam had pointed out that he had enough evidence to prove his innocence in the case.

He also questioned the constitutionality of the death penalty in the petition. Advocates Satheesh Mohanan, Subhash Chandran and Sreeram Parakkat filed the petition on behalf of Ameerul. Earlier this year, the Kerala High Court had upheld the death penalty of the accused in the death of the law student. The trial court awarded the death sentence to the

Assam native by accepting the prosecution's argument that it was the rarest of the rare cases. The law student was murdered on April 28, 2016. Her postmortem report had revealed that she was also subjected to rape and had sustained 38 wounds on her body. Ameerul Islam, an Assam native, was later arrested on June 16 following the probe.

J&K's Chenab Bridge, world's highest arch bridge, to host inaugural train on August 15



New Delhi: The long wait to witness train running on the world's highest rail bridge seems to be over as Indian Railways is gearing up for launching the regular service between Reasi and Sangaldan with efforts being undertaken to flag off the much-awaited service on August 15. The launching of the service, part of the Kashmir rail link project, entails a passenger can travel upto Baramulla in Kashmir from Reasi in Jammu, a significant achievement in the Udhampur-Srinagar-Baramulla Rail Link (USBRL) project. A challenging project involving topographically, geologically and tectonically, the project with long tunnels and highest bridge is a testimony of Make-in-India. With the expected commissioning of the 46 km long electrified route, the Railways would cover a total 255 km out of 272 km USBRL project leaving just 17 km of route between Katra and Reasi to be completed. After an extensive inspection of the newly constructed Chenab Bridge, world's highest rail bridge, railways successfully conducted a trial run of a 8-coach MEMU train between Sangaldan in Ramban district and Reasi at a speed of 40 kmph last month. Considered as a monumental stride towards the seamless integration of the Kashmir valley with Jammu, the running of trains on the Chenab Bridge aims to provide an alternative and a reliable transportation system to Jammu and Kashmir. The train service is expected to foster social integration by facilitating easier movement of people and goods, thereby promoting cultural exchanges and regional development and boost to economic activities such as tourism and trade. The ambitious USBRL project aims to link Kashmir with the rest of India, through a 272 km long rail route from Udhampur to Baramulla joining the Valley with the Indian Railways network. The USBRL Project involves 38 Tunnels (combined length of 119Km), the longest Tunnel (T-49) having a length of 12.75 Km and is the country's longest transportation tunnel. There are 927 nos. of Bridges (combined length of 13 Km). These bridges include the iconic Chenab Bridge (Overall length 1315 m, arch span of 467 m and height of 359 m above river bed) which is around 35 metres taller than the Eiffel Tower and is pegged to be the World's highest arch railway bridge. An engineering marvel, Chenab Bridge, is a steel and concrete arch bridge built to sustain 260 kmph wind speed and designed to bear earthquake forces of the highest intensity. The USBRL project, including the 48.1 km long Banihal-Sangaldan section, was inaugurated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi on February 20, 2024.

Madhya Pradesh Becomes First BJP-Ruled State To Cut CBI's Wings



The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been a bone of contention not only between the political parties but also between the Central government and the states. Many opposition-ruled states have withdrawn consent for the CBI probe in their jurisdiction. Now, the BJP-ruled Madhya Pradesh has joined the

list. The Mohan Yadav government today said that the CBI will now require written consent from the state to initiate any inquiry in its jurisdiction. The state government published a notification in this regard on Tuesday which came into effect retrospectively from July 1. Specifically, the CBI now requires written permission from the Madhya Pradesh administration to investigate private individuals, government officials, or any entities within the state. As per Section 6 of the Delhi Special Police Establishment Act, the CBI must obtain consent from the state government before conducting investigations within its jurisdiction. Before Madhya

Pradesh, states like West Bengal, Tamil Nadu, Punjab, Kerala, and Telangana had issued similar notifications barring the CBI from launching a probe without permission. Maharashtra under Uddhav Thackeray had also joined the list but the decision was reversed by the Eknath Shinde-led NDA government. A Parliamentary panel recommended enacting a law allowing the CBI to investigate cases without state 'interference.' Simultaneously, the panel emphasized the need for safeguards to ensure the CBI's objectivity and impartiality, preventing states from alleging discrimination.

After 53 Years, Mortar Shells From 1971 Indo-Pak War Found In Fish Pond

A large quantity of mortar shells believed to be from the 1971 Indo-Pakistan war, which led to the liberation of Bangladesh, was discovered while excavating a fish pond in West Tripura district's Rangutia on Thursday. The discovery has caused a stir in the entire area. Initially, it was unclear whether the shells were from cannons or mortars; later, it was confirmed they were mortar shells. On getting information, a police team and TSR personnel from the Bamuthia outpost arrived to continue the excavation. A total of 27 mortar shells were recovered. Anthony Jamatia, the officer-in-charge of the Bamuthia outpost, said 27 mortar shells were found buried at Dulal Nam's house in Rangutia while digging a fish pond. The shells had been fused to-

gether and were estimated to have been buried for approximately 53 years. However, no information has been found regarding the country of origin or the manufacturer of these shells. Local senior citizens claim that during the 1971 war, the Mukti Bahini frequently travelled and trained in the Bamuthia area. It is believed that the Mukti Bahini might have buried the mortar shells in this location, but later did not need to retrieve them. The Indian Army's 4, 33 and 2 Corps had marched toward Bangladesh from three directions. The objective was to capture the "fortress cities" built by Pakistani troops and move through the gaps to take on Dhaka. The fall of Sylhet, Chittagong, Tangail, Khulna, Jessore, etc. ensured no escape route was



left. Dhaka is between the Padma River on its west and Meghna on its east. The Indian Army's 2 and 33 Corps quickly marched deep into Bangladesh in districts west of the Jamna-Padma river. The Tezpur-based 4 corps started operations to cross the Meghna and finally enter Dhaka.

Unauthorized structures of history-sheeter razed in Jharsuguda

Bhubaneswar: A day after Revenue Minister Suresh Pujari announced that the state government will soon commence an eviction drive against influential persons who have illegally occupied government plots, the authorities on Thursday demolished the illegal structures built by a notorious criminal in Odisha's Jharsuguda district. The district administration demolished a meat shop, garage, ration shop and other illegal structures built by Md. Sonu (25), son of late Abdul Khalid, of Indra Awas Colony at Bandhabahal under Banharपाली police limits in Jharsuguda. The administration deployed a bulldozer to demolish the illegal structures. Sonu had been booked in at least four cases of crime under various Sections of IPC and Arms Act. Sonu had been jailed for allegedly wrapping the severed head of goat in the National Flag in his meat shop in the past. He was recently arrested for opening fire on



one Manoj Barik in the locality. Other members of Sonu's family including Md. Kamal (33), Md. Jalil (45), Md. Jamal (42) and Md. Sahazad (40) had been booked in at least 30 cases of crime, sources said. The administration will soon evict encroachments on government plots at Khdam and Sarandamala mouzas of Jharsuguda. "The illegal structures built by Md. Sonu were bulldozed today. He was carrying out many illegal activities from these unautho-

rized structures. We will soon remove all encroachments in the locality," said Executive Magistrate and Lakhampur Additional Tahsildar Kulamani Dalei. The administration deployed at least three platoons of police personnel for conducting the eviction drive. The Revenue Minister yesterday said unauthorized structures, including palatial buildings, cottages and pavilions, built by influential persons on government and forest land, will be razed soon. Earlier, Chief Minister Mohan Charan Majhi had directed the district Collectors to take immediate steps to remove encroachments from government plots. The Collectors were told to take possession of unauthorized constructions in both urban and rural areas of the state. Notably, the Uttar Pradesh government had bulldozed the unauthorized structures of land grabbers and notorious criminals in the recent past.

