

## IN BRIEF

**'Op Sindoor demonstrated progression towards domain jointness'**

BENGALURU: Army Chief General Upendra Dwivedi on Thursday said Operation Sindoor demonstrated India's progression towards "domain jointness" and called the military offensive carried out inside Pakistani territory a "defining case study" of operational significance of integration. In May last year, India had launched a military response targeting terror launchpads in Pakistan post the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack that killed 26 Indian tourists.

"Operation Sindoor was India's most powerful tool of progression towards domain jointness. But we need to achieve domain integration and fusion," General Dwivedi said. He was addressing the "Ran Samvad" forum on "Land Forces visualisation of Multi Domain Operation (MDO)," here. The army chief also highlighted the creation of an information warfare organisation and a psychological defence division following Operation Sindoor. He said, "15 per cent of our effort was on managing the disinformation campaign."

He cautioned, however, that key challenges remain, particularly in synchronising operations across strategic, operational and tactical levels and addressing the growing prevalence of hybrid or grey-zone warfare. "These are typically below the conventional military threshold, with the goal to exploit adversary vulnerability," he said, adding that non-kinetic operations are increasingly taking precedence.

**NITK sacks former Registrar after probe confirms misconduct**

MANGALURU: The National Institute of Technology Karnataka (NITK), Surathkal, has dismissed its former Registrar Ravindranath K. after a departmental inquiry established serious administrative misconduct.

The action follows his suspension on September 12, 2025, initiated at the direction of the Ministry of Education. The inquiry examined allegations of procedural irregularities and professional impropriety under the Central Civil Services (Conduct) Rules, 1964. Sources said the charges were found to be grave and were substantiated during the inquiry process, prompting the Board of Governors to unanimously approve the penalty of dismissal. Before the final action, Ravindranath's tenure as Registrar had already been terminated, as he was found to be holding the position beyond the five-year limit prescribed under the NITSER Act and institutional statutes.

In a statement, NITK emphasised that it maintains a strict zero-tolerance approach to misconduct. The institute said the decision reflects its commitment to transparency, accountability, and adherence to ethical standards in administration.

**Formulate model SOPs for trekking safety: Minister Khandre**

BENGALURU: Karnataka Minister for Forest, Ecology and Environment Eshwar Khandre has instructed authorities to formulate a standard operating procedure (SOP) for trekking safety, intended to serve as a national model. The Minister issued the instruction in writing to the chief wildlife warden in the wake of the disappearance of a woman from Kerala in the dense Tadiandamol forest, and the search for a minor girl in Chandradrona hills, his office said in a release on Thursday.

Like the 'e-Gastu' app already developed by the Forest Department and the 'MStripes' app used in tiger reserves, if a similar kind of app is temporarily installed on the mobile phones of trekkers during the trek, it will be easier to track those who go astray, hence the Forest Minister has directed to take steps to develop the app and provide group insurance to trekkers, it said.

## GRIEF TO GLORY

**Despite losing mother during exams, student tops state**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALURU

In an extraordinary story of courage and determination, Disha, a student of Alva's College in Moodbidri, has emerged as the state topper in the Commerce stream of the Second PUC examinations—despite losing her mother in the mid-

dle of her exams. A Commerce stream student from Moodbidri, Disha secured the first rank in the state by scoring a perfect 600 out of 600 marks. Alva's PU College authorities and lecturers congratulated Disha on her outstanding achievement.

Disha, daughter of Dinesh and Savita from Puttige Padavu near Vidyagiri,

was preparing for her board examinations when tragedy struck. Her mother suffered a sudden fall on the eve of her Mathematics exam and passed away just a day before her Economics paper.

Even as she grappled with profound grief, Disha chose to continue writing her exams, refusing to let the setback derail years of

hard work. Her disciplined preparation played a crucial role. She had been waking up as early as 3.30 am daily to study and had completed her syllabus well in advance through rigorous internal assessments conducted by her college.

In her darkest hour, support came from her lecturer Veena, who not only com-

forted her but also provided her a place to stay, ensuring she could attend the examinations without interruption.

"I was slightly worried about scoring full marks in English, but my teachers' guidance helped me overcome that," Disha said. She credits the student-friendly teaching approach, timely



syllabus completion, and continuous evaluation system at her college for her success.

With aspirations of becoming a Chartered Accountant, Disha's achievement is not just academic—it is a powerful testament to resilience, reminding many that even in loss, determination can lead to triumph.

## PRICE CRASH

**War hits Belagavi farmers, cabbage crops destroyed**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BELAGAVI

THE ongoing conflict in the Middle East has begun to impact farmers in Belagavi district, with vegetable growers facing severe losses due to a sudden collapse in demand. Farmers in villages such as Kadoli, Jafarwadi, Gondawadi, Belagundi, Handigund, Yellur and Uchgaon are now destroying their cabbage crops as traders refuse to purchase the produce.

According to farmers, the price of cabbage has plummeted drastically in recent weeks. While a 70-kg sack fetches barely ₹100 in the wholesale market, retail prices have dropped to just ₹1-₹2 per kg. This is a sharp fall from ₹40-₹50 per kg just three months ago. The decline reportedly began around two weeks after the escalation of war in the Middle East. The fall in demand has been attributed to



disruptions in the hospitality sector. Many hotels and small eateries have reduced or halted cooking activities due to LPG cylinder shortages, leading to a drop in vegetable consumption. Additionally, Belagavi-grown vegetables, which are usually despatched to states like Maharashtra, Goa, and Andhra Pradesh, are now witnessing poor demand from outside markets as well.

Frustrated by mounting losses, farmers have started

destroying standing crops using rotators or allowing cattle to graze on them. Farmer Appasaheb Desai expressed anguish over the situation, saying the emotional and financial distress has left cultivators devastated.

He pointed out that farmers invest months of hard work, only to see their produce go unsold. Another farmer, Mohan Kademani, said the cost of cultivation has become unbearable. "We spend nearly ₹45,000 to ₹50,000 per

acre, including saplings, fertilisers, labour and irrigation. For two acres, I expected returns of at least ₹2 lakh, but now traders are refusing to buy. We are forced to destroy the crop," he said, urging the government to announce compensation and minimum support prices for vegetables.

Officials from the Horticulture Department acknowledged the crisis. Joint Director Mahantesh Murgod said cabbage is grown extensively in the district, covering thousands of hectares across seasons. He noted that the war has disrupted demand, causing price crashes and distress among farmers.

He assured that officials will assess the situation on the ground and report to the government for necessary action. The crisis has once again highlighted the vulnerability of farmers to global events, with many now demanding urgent government intervention to prevent further losses.

**Mentally unstable woman lives with husband's body for 10 days**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
CHIKKAMAGALURU

IN a deeply disturbing incident from Chikkamagaluru district, a mentally unstable elderly woman reportedly lived with the decomposing body of her husband for nearly 10 days, unaware of his death. The incident came to light in Banakal village of Mudigere taluk, shocking the local community.

The deceased has been identified as 77-year-old Cyril Monis, who was living with his wife at their residence in Banakal. According to sources, he had been unwell for some time and passed away at home. However, his wife, who is said to be mentally unstable, did not realise that he had died and continued to stay with the body as it decomposed.

The couple's son works in Bengaluru, while their daughter is settled abroad. Both children were in regular contact with their mother over phone and would enquire about their father's health. Each time, the mother reportedly told them that



he was doing fine, leaving them with no suspicion initially.

As days passed, the son grew concerned after noticing inconsistencies in his mother's responses and the absence of his father's voice. He then asked a friend to visit the house and check on the situation.

When the friend arrived, he was confronted with a horrifying scene. Cyril Monis had died nearly 10 days earlier, and his body was in an advanced stage of decomposition. Despite this, his wife continued to remain inside the house with the body. Local residents, alerted by a foul smell, informed the police.

Social worker Arif, who assisted in the process, said that

when they reached the house along with police officials, the woman initially refused to open the gate. Upon entering, they found the body in a severely decomposed state.

"The body had decayed and was infested with maggots. With the help of police and locals, we shifted it and conducted the last rites at a Christian cemetery," Arif said.

The incident left residents shaken, as the children were unable to see their father one last time. Locals stepped forward to perform the funeral, displaying compassion and solidarity with the grieving family. A case has been registered at the Banakal Police Station, and further investigation is underway.

**International gang behind rowdy sheeter's brutal murder, say police**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
MANGALURU

MANGALURU police have cracked down on a cross-border conspiracy by arresting seven key players in the sensational murder of local rowdy sheeter Arif.

According to City Police Commissioner Sudheer Kumar Reddy, the arrested include Rifath, Juttu Ashfaq, Khalil, Shakir, Irfan, and Rizwan, who took part directly in the killing, along with Irshad who sheltered the accused and aided their activities.

The investigation has exposed that the entire operation was coordinated on an international scale. Two suspects, Mustafa and Ashwir, currently staying overseas, provided monetary support to help the culprits evade capture.

Another individual named Arshad not only supplied arms for the attack but also kept feeding the group details on police activities. Suhail arranged the rented car deployed during the crime



and escaped to Saudi Arabia right after the assault.

Officials suspect a much wider syndicate was involved in the conspiracy. Teams have spread a wide net to locate the other absconding accused, and the police commissioner assured that further arrests are expected shortly.

On the morning of March 27, Arif was heading to the Boloor fish market on his motorcycle when six of the accused tailed him in a car. They intentionally collided with his bike at the Takkottu flyover area.

The moment Arif was

thrown off, the attackers unleashed a ferocious assault using lethal weapons and escaped immediately. Old rivalry has emerged as the root cause of this meticulously planned execution.

To dodge police surveillance, the group relied on sophisticated technical methods. Ashwir from Dubai facilitated this by securing OTPs and enabling international WhatsApp numbers for the team. The accused maintained contact by constantly changing numbers, discarding one before investigators could trace it and shifting to another.

**'Sudden rush on women's reservation driven by poll politics'****CONGRESS MINISTER ACCUSES CENTRE OF ELECTORAL MOTIVES**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
KALABURAGI

MEDICAL Education Minister Dr. Sharanprakash Patil strongly condemned the Central government for its perceived hasty decision to implement women's reservation and undertake delimitation of Assembly and Lok Sabha constituencies, claiming it reflects political self-interest rather than public welfare.

Speaking at a press conference, the minister questioned why the Centre had remained silent on women's reservation for 15 long years and suddenly taken a cabinet decision now. He pointed out that if the policy had been introduced decades earlier, women would have greatly benefited. He asked who was responsible for the injustice done to women all these years.

Dr. Patil alleged that the proposal for women's reservation has surfaced only because of impending elections in five states. The issue should have

been discussed during the recently concluded Parliament session, where opposition views could have been considered. Instead, he said the Centre appears more interested in political gains than genuine women's empowerment.

He claimed that during the Bihar elections, the Centre had reduced GST rates and deposited money directly into people's accounts. He questioned where the taxes collected from citizens over decades had gone. In contrast, he noted that the Congress government in Karnataka faces notices even for implementing its five guarantee schemes. He further claimed that the Election Commission seems to dance to the tune of Prime Minister Modi and Amit Shah.

The minister also expressed suspicion over the delimitation exercise, saying increasing the number of constituencies based on the 1991 census appears to be a deliberate attempt to reduce the political strength of southern Indian states. He



suggested that if needed, delimitation should be done on the basis of the 1971 census and questioned the reason behind the current hurry.

On the controversy surrounding Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge's remarks, Dr. Patil clarified that Kharge had criticised the RSS ideology as venomous, not targeted any individual personally. He pointed out that BJP leaders have repeatedly used harsh terms like "Urban Naxals," "anti-nationals," "tukde tukde gang," and "looters of the nation" against Congress leaders, including Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi. He asked

why criticism from the other side is considered acceptable while similar remarks from Congress are not.

He condemned the BJP for making light comments against Kharge and advised that any criticism of the senior Congress leader should be made with due responsibility and maturity.

Dr. Patil urged political parties to focus on development issues instead of mudslinging. He accused the BJP of never discussing development and instead specialising in raising sensitive matters for political gain.

The minister also highlighted positive steps in medical education. The government plans to start new government medical colleges in Bagalkot and Ramanagara, which will receive approval after inspection by the National Medical Council. He added that last year saw an increase of 400 medical seats, and this year another 450 seats are expected to be added.

**'Movies are shaped on two tables, the writing table and editing table'****The Short Film Festival underscored the importance of creativity and its origin in the category of short films**

HANS NEWS SERVICE  
BENGALURU

JAIN university, hosted the third edition of 'Jain University Short Film Festival 2026' organised by the Department of Journalism and Mass Communication. The film festival showcased the compelling and diverse narratives that influence the daily lives of society through the cinematic experience of short films. The event was graced by Kannada Filmfare Critics award for Best actor, Naveen Shankar, for his role of "Aadhi" in the film, Dharani Mandala Madhyadole, along with Dr. Dinesh Nilkant, Dr. Kiran S, Dr. Sangeeta Devanathan and Dr.

Bhargavi D Hemminge.

As a part of the jury for Jain University Short Film Festival, Sri Crazy Minds, Editor, Cinematographer of the Love Mocktail series, underlining the significance of good writing and editing, elaborated "A remarkable movie is shaped on two tables, the writing table for an exceptional story and the editing table for bringing the movie to life." Expanding his quote to the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the silver screen industry, "AI can never replicate the intricacies of human emotion and is a decade too early to be an intrinsic part of the cinematic industry."

Jury panel member, B.S.

Kemparaju, Kannada film Editor, Just Maath Maathali, stressing on the importance of a good story for a good film stated: "The core essence for a good film is a good script; Writing a good script serves as an integral guide for any cinema to be successful."

Naveen Shankar, film actor & Kannada Filmfare award winner, commended the initiative of Jain University and the festival, stating "Opportunities like these film festivals remind us that cinema is not just about big screens, but about ideas, passion, and the courage to start. What starts as a small effort in a college campus can grow into something truly impactful. It's encouraging to see stu-



dents being given the space to explore their creativity and build a voice of their own." Further he added, "short films, in particular, offer an incredible platform for aspiring filmmakers to experi-

ment, understand the craft, and experience the realities of cinema at a foundational level. I am truly impressed by the initiative taken by Jain University to create such platform of opportunities

to showcase creative talents and connect enthusiastic students with film industry."

Underscoring the importance of creativity and its origin in the category of short films, Dr. Dinesh Nilkant, Pro-Vice Chancellor, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) "Creativity makes a difference with the best talents always budding from the colleges and universities and not from big studios. We at Jain University are building such platforms to nurture future film makers."

Accentuating the development of short films from a base to important platforms, Dr. Kiran S Deputy-Dean of Academics, Jain (Deemed-to-be University) stated

"Short films are no longer stepping stones, they are powerful storytelling formats in their own right."

Dr. Sangeeta Devanathan, Deputy-Dean of Academics, Professor, JAIN (Deemed-to-be University) highlighted the importance of critical thinking in short films stating "Critical thinking requires us to think creatively." She further compared the current scenario of short films to mainstream films stating that "Gone are the days of movies running two to three hours giving the audience a compelling reason to stay, however now, the short film format is truly the future of storytelling in this art form."