

Cont. From Page 1

India, Japan review entire spectrum of def coop

building, defence equipment and technology cooperation including maritime technology and enhanced institutional interactions," a defence ministry's statement said. Both sides welcomed the steady expansion of defence co-operation and underscored the importance of maintaining regular high-level exchanges and dialogue mechanisms. The two delegations also discussed ways to deepen coop-eration in emerging domains, including defence industrial collaboration, technological innovation, cyber security, space and other areas of shared strategic interest.

While the defence secretary appreciated Japan's continued engagement with India in the defence sector, Kano Koji reaffirmed Japan's commitment to further expanding de-fence ties with India across priority areas.

Earlier in the day, the defence secretary called on Japanese minister of defence Shinjiro Koizumi, and conveyed greetings of defence minister Rajnath Singh.

He also presented an invite from Rajnath to the Japan-ese defence minister of Japan for his visit to India at an ear-liest opportunity. The defence secretary commenced his visit by laying a wreath at the Self-Defense Forces Memorial Stone in Tokyo, paying tribute to the members of the Japan Self-Defense Forces who have made the supreme sacrifice in the service of their nation.

US will blockade Iran in Hormuz, charge ships

and drone equipment, and small boats. It said Iran does not control the Strait of Hormuz.

The European Union's top diplomat, Kaja Kallas, called for the strait to be open, as it was before the war. "Free-dom of navigation has to be respected," she said.

Mohammed Mokhber, an adviser to Iran's supreme leader, wrote that Tehran would fight for the strait.

"We defend it so that in the future, for the passage of our ships, we are not forced to pay tribute to the enemy!" he wrote on X. "Retreating from this vital matter has no place in the mind of any friend of Iran."

Iran's paramilitary Revolutionary Guard, a key power centre in the country's theocracy that controls its ballis-tic missile arsenal, said the Strait of Hormuz is "our terri-tory, and we will not allow a rogue and child-killing army from the other side of the world to continue its illegal inter-ference in it."

Pvt Airline official held with heroin

intercepted by a team of the Anti-Narcotics Task Force on routine patrolling duty, which seized 2.27 grams of heroin from his possession, officials said.

Subsequently, he was arrested and an FIR under rele-vant sections of law was registered at the ANTF police station against him, the officials added.

Officials said the recovery had once again underlined the administration's resolve to dismantle every link in the narcotics supply chain.

"The investigation is now focused on establishing the source of the contraband and identifying the possible links between airport employees, interstate suppliers and local drug peddlers," the officials added.

DGP reviews security in Srinagar

inspection of deployments and operational prepared-ness at key locations in the old city.

He was accompanied by IGP, Kashmir V K Birdi, the DIG of Central Kashmir and SSP, Srinagar. Senior po-lice officers jointly assessed the prevailing security sce-nario and reviewed arrangements put in place to maintain law and order.

During the visit, Prabhat inspected the deployment of security personnel near the Naqshband Sahib shrine in downtown Srinagar, where he interacted with officers and security personnel on duty.

He reviewed the operational readiness of police and other security agencies, directing officials to remain vig-ilant and ensure effective security management.

Drug peddler's house demolished

was taken following legal procedures, and forms part of sustained efforts to dismantle the infrastructure and net-works supporting drug trafficking in the region.

Ladakh to set up AHDCs for all 7 distts

districts. Elected representation until now had remained with the two existing councils, one each in Leh and Kargil.

"Ladakh administration has decided to constitute AHDC in each of the seven districts. It is a major step towards demo-cratic decentralisation and grassroots governance," Kun-dra told reporters here.

He said Section 3(1) of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Devel-opment Council (LAHDC) Act already provides for a coun-cil for every district to be constituted from a date the gov-ernment notifies in the gazette.

Only amendments to the Act, where required, and a delim-itation of constituencies remain.

India outplay England to win historic Lord's Test

beating an out of sorts England fair and square in the "Home of Cricket".

Resuming their second innings at 130 for six, England bat-ted for more than 90 minutes before succumbing to Indian bowlers. India had set a mammoth 457-run target for the hosts.

England's lead scorer Amy Jones (54 off 80) was the first wicket to fall on the day with Sneh Rana having her caught at mid-wicket.

Sophie Ecclestone, who was dropped twice off Gaud, too put up some resistance battling alongside Issy Wong (1 off 33) but they only delayed the inevitable.

Deepti Sharma cleaned up the tail by removing Lauren Bell and Wong in quick succession. Rana bowled a beauty to finally get rid of Ecclestone, triggering on field celebrations and in the Indian dressing room.

Both India and England had endured disappointment in the preceding T20 World Cup and with Lord's hosting a Women's Test 142 years after it conducted the first men's Test, there was a lot at stake for both teams.

The foundation of the win for India was laid by Smriti Mandhana and Yastika Bhatia, who scored a memorable hundred on day three, before Kranti Gaud headlined the bowling performance with a five-wicket haul and her name on the Lord's Honours Board.

The Indian batters showed a lot more application than their English counterparts on a pitch that offered seam move-ment and by day three the odd ball was keeping low.

Pacers Gaud and Sayali Satghare outbowled their oppo-nents, using the slope effectively to generate plenty of seam movement. Off-spinner Rana too was able to maintain the pressure created by the seamers.

With the massive win, India also maintained their supe-rior record against England in the longest format. In the 16 Tests both teams have played, India have won four games, England one while the remaining 11 matches were drawn.

India's only defeat to England came way back in 1995.

The Indian team had got a pep talk from the great Sachin Tendulkar before the start of day's play. ICC chairman Jay Shah was also watching the action from the stands with Ten-dulkar, who later shook hands with the players.

It was also a farewell game for England veteran Tammy Beaumont and former captain Heather Knight.

Dignity of constitutional bodies must be respected: CJJ

bench comprising justices KV Viswanathan and Alok Aradhe. At the beginning of the hearing, the litigant adopted an unusually confrontational tone that surprised the judges.

"Mr judicial servant. I order you to order the registration of an FIR against the ACP Lucknow," the litigant, who was wearing a black coat without a lawyer's band, he said while addressing the bench.

"You are ordering me? You are ordering us?" asked Justice Viswanathan, who was apparently surprised by the litigant's conduct before the bench. "That is all from my side. Every-thing is on record," the litigant said. Later, he hurled an un-parliamentary abuse before allegedly throwing his case pa-pers into the air.

A security person immediately rushed towards the liti-gant and overpowered him. He was immediately removed from the courtroom. The bench proceeded with the hear-ing of remaining cases on the cause list.

The Supreme Court Advocates-on-Record Association had strongly criticized the alleged abusive conduct of a liti-

gant inside the apex court's courtroom.

In a statement, SCAORA said its executive committee had taken "serious note" of the incident in which a litigant appear-ing in person allegedly used abusive language, made disre-spectful utterances and behaved inappropriately before the apex court.

"While placing on record its deep appreciation for the magnanimity, patience and restraint demonstrated by the court, the committee underscores that such judicial grace and forbearance must not be misconstrued as a lack of authority or resolve," said the statement.

GMC Jammu gets 50 addl MBBS seats

Letter of Permission (LoP), approving an additional 50 MBBS seats for the college. With this, the total annual intake capacity of GMC Jammu would rise from the existing 200 seats to 250 seats, effective from the academic year 2026-27.

Earlier, on July 10, 2026, the NMC had granted permission in favour of GMC Srinagar for additional 50 MBBS Seats, thereby raising the total intake of the college to 250 seats.

Expressing satisfaction over the allocation of additional seats in these GMCs, the health & medical education de-partment said the expansion reflects the government's steadfast commitment to upgrading medical infrastructure, improving human resource capacity, and providing greater opportunities for local youth to pursue medical careers within the region.

7,754 Amarnathji pilgrims leave for valley camps

ment of the yatra convoys. A multi-tier security setup has been activated in and around the Bhagwati Nagar base camp.

The commencement of the yatra marks the beginning of one of the country's most revered spiritual pilgrimages and reflects the coordinated efforts of the administration and all stakeholder departments to facilitate a secure, seamless and memorable pilgrimage experience for every devotee.

Traffic restrictions will remain in force on various stretches of the highway till August 28, with daily advi-sories and sector-wise cut-off timings to regulate traffic, of-ficials said.

India setting new benchmarks in medical research: Rajnath

effective in the treatment of Community-Acquired Bac-terial Pneumonia. Today, India is rapidly advancing to-wards self-reliance in the health sector. In 2023, we de-veloped the first indigenous MRI machine which is affordable, lightweight, ultrafast, and high-field," Singh said.

The minister noted that people across the country were receiving high-quality medicines at very affordable prices through more than 19,000 Jan Aushadhi Kendras.

Singh also asked medical professionals to take care of their health, noting that they were work in a highly stress-ful environment, which can negatively impact their health.

He said under the leadership of Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath, healthcare services in Uttar Pradesh have also seen significant improvement over the past nine years.

Prior to 2017, there were only 17 medical colleges in the state while today, 81 medical colleges are operational across the state.

Two AIIMS are also functional in the state which means Uttar Pradesh has now surpassed the 'One District-One Medical College' milestone, he said.

"The quality of healthcare services can only improve if there is an adequate number of doctors and specialists available. With this vision in mind, our government has undertaken an unprecedented expansion of medical ed-ucation," Singh said.

BJP issues Rs 100 cr defamation notice to Omar

if the demands were not met.

Omar, while addressing NC workers at Hazratbal, had al-leged that BJP was trying to bring down his government by engineering a split in his party.

He had also claimed that an NC MLA from Jammu told him that he was offered Rs 20-30 cr and a ministerial berth to switch sides to the saffron camp.

The notice was issued through an advocate on the in-structions of BJP president and Rajya Sabha MP Sat Paul Sharma. It contends that the chief minister's statements

have caused serious damage to the reputation and public standing of BJP and its office-bearers.

Citizenship must be determined through fair process: SC

marily on the ground that the tribunal's opinions were challenged after nearly 23 years. It had also noted that the petitioners had failed to appear before the tribunals de-spite being served notices.

In upholding the tribunal orders, the High Court had relied on Section 9 of the Foreigners Act, 1946, which places the burden of proving Indian citizenship on the per-son concerned rather than on the government.

Rly Board seeks inputs on CAG findings on dirty toilets

cleanliness and sanitation services, especially during phased restoration of passenger train services post-COVID.

However, the CAG finding the argument untenable said that adequate mechanisms exist in the budgetary cycle -- Revised Estimates (RE) and Final Grants (FG) -- to secure supplementary funds.

It stated that citing exigencies after FG (final grant) does not justify excess expenditure. Talking about financial dis-cipline, it said that expenditure must remain within sanc-tioned limits as excess utilisation beyond FG reflects weak planning and poor budgetary control.

Regarding the external cleaning of coaches at coaching depots and installation of Automatic Coach Washing Plants (ACWPs), the CAG found that the Railways' failed to furnish specific and observation-linked clarifications.

It raised similar objections regarding Railways' claims pertaining to en-route as well as on board coach cleanliness activities and highlighted systemic deficiencies in the im-plementation of the Clean Train Station (CTS) scheme, particularly with regard to restricted scope of cleaning ac-tivities, shortage of deployed manpower, and inadequate supervision and monitoring mechanisms.

It had also stated that the Railways' reply does not explain why complaints regarding dirty toilets continued to rise or furnish evidence of systematic complaint analysis and corrective action.

According to the CAG, the Railways' reply mentions sen-sitisation of staff and monitoring at divisional/ HQ level, however, no inspection records, compliance reports, or documented corrective measures have been furnished to substantiate these claims.

Army GOC reviews operational preparedness at Rajouri

and reviewed operational preparedness of troops.

On the occasion, he was briefed on precision strike capabil-ities and initiatives to strengthen readiness for future warfare.

Lt Gen Mishra commended all ranks for their indomitable vigilance, operational excellence and sustained commit-ment towards maintaining a secure and stable environment.

"GOC White Knight Corps visited operational locations of Ace of Spades Division and CIF (Counter-insurgency force) Romeo to review the prevailing security situation and operational preparedness," Army said in a post on X.

The post, shared by the White Knight Corps on its official page, said the corps commander interacted with troops and appreciated their high morale and professionalism.

Ganga symbolises India's eternal civilisa-tional heritage: Kavinder

said.

"The Ganga represents eternity and purity, and has oc-cupied a revered place in Indian art, literature, mythology and cultural traditions," he said and added that generations of poets, artists and scholars had drawn inspiration from the sacred river, making it an integral part of India's cul-tural consciousness.

The governor noted that Gangajal continues to hold a place of great significance in Hindu religious rituals and life ceremonies. "In Indian art, the Ganga has been depicted as a divine goddess and a protector, symbolising purity, com-passion and spiritual awakening," he said.

Congratulating Prof Tiwari on the publication of the book, Gupta expressed confidence that the work would enrich readers' understanding of the Ganga's profound influence on Indian art, folk traditions and music, while inspiring greater appreciation for the country's rich cultural heritage.

CS reviews roadmap for commercial cultivation of Medicinal & Aromatic Plants in J&K

SRINAGAR, JULY 13:

Chief Secretary, Atal Dooloo, today convened a meeting to evaluate the roadmap prepared by the Agriculture Production Department (APD) for promotion of commercial cultivation of Medicinal and Aromatic Plants (MAPs) in Jammu and Kashmir, aimed at unlocking the sector's vast economic potential and transforming the Union Territory to become a hub in high-value Himalayan medicinal plants.

The meeting was attended by Additional Chief Secretary, Agri-culture Production Department; Vice Chancellors of SKUAST-Kashmir and SKUAST-Jammu; Commissioner Secretary, Forests; Principal Chief Conserv-ator of Forests; MD, HADP; Di-rector Agriculture, Kashmir/Jammu; Representa-tives from CSIR-IIIM, Jammu; Senior Faculty from Agriculture Universities and other senior offi-cers of the Agriculture Produc-tion Department, Forest Depart-ment.

The Chief Secretary observed that Jammu and Kashmir pos-sesses immense natural advan-tages in terms of biodiversity, cli-mate and availability of several high-value medicinal plant

species which provide a strong foundation for developing a globally competitive medicinal plant economy.

He said the sector has enor-mous potential to diversify agri-culture, enhance farmers' in-comes, generate employment for rural youth and women, pro-mote entrepreneurship and sig-nificantly strengthen the Union Territory's bio-economy.

He stressed that the roadmap should be implemented with clearly defined timelines, mea-surable outcomes. He directed the Agriculture Production De-partment to work in close coor-dination with the Forest Depart-ment, AYUSH, research institutions and the private sec-tor to build a complete value chain from cultivation to global markets.

The Chief Secretary further un-dercored the importance of at-tracting private investment in cultivation, processing and value addition while ensuring scientific conservation of valuable medi-cinal plant resources. He called for adopting cluster-based cultiva-tion models and facilitating stronger market linkages so that farmers receive higher returns from cultivation of medicinal and



aromatic plants.

While speaking the ACS, Agri-culture Production Department, Dr Ashish Chandra Verma out-lined a comprehensive ?150 Cr mission proposed to be imple-mented over six years for devel-oping an integrated ecosystem encompassing conservation, sci-entific cultivation, quality plant-ing material, research, process-ing, value addition, branding, marketing and exports of Medi-cinal and Aromatic Plants.

He further maintained that al-though Jammu and Kashmir possesses one of the richest repositories of Himalayan medi-cinal plants, its current contribu-

tion to the national MAP sector remains below potential due to limited organised cultivation, in-adequate processing infrastruc-ture, dependence on wild collec-tion, fragmented marketing systems and limited industry participation. The roadmap seeks to address these challenges through a comprehensive strat-egy integrating conservation, cul-tivation, processing, research and marketing.

Detailing out further MD, HADP, Dr. Sagar Doifode Datta-tray informed that the proposed mission comprises six major in-tervention areas, namely conser-vation and cultivation, establish-

ment of processing infrastruc-ture, branding and marketing, translational research and devel-opment, monitoring and evalua-tion, and capacity building of stakeholders.

Elaborating it, the MD made out that the roadmap proposes geo-spatial mapping of MAP-rich niche zones across Jammu and Kashmir, restoration of 1,500 hectares of degraded for-est ecosystems, establishment of 51 specialised MAP nurseries, ex-pansion of cultivation outside forest areas, strengthening of 225 Biodiversity Management Com-mittees and financial support for 500 farmers to obtain Good Agri-

cultural and Collection Practices (GACP) and Organic Certifica-tion. Regarding value addition, it was informed that the mission envisages establishment of six primary processing centres in the private sector besides creation of two advanced extraction units too. These facilities would sub-stantially strengthen processing capacity, improve product qual-ity, reduce post-harvest losses and facilitate production of high-value herbal extracts and active pharmaceutical ingredients.

The meeting was further in-formed by the Nodal Officer, MAP in APD, Dr Abhimanyu that nearly 40 per cent of the total project cost has been earmarked for branding and marketing ini-tiatives, including establishment of two FPO/MFP Parks, two mega MAP clusters in Public-Private Partnership mode, two model MAP villages, creation of an Export Promotion Cell, devel-opment of a dedicated digital marketing platform and consti-tution of a Herbal Innovation Fund to support 80 start-ups in the medicinal plants sector.

The presentation also high-lighted proposals for develop-ment of scientifically validated cultivation technologies, stan-

dardisation of 40 Packages of Practices, screening of 40 medic-inal plant species for active phar-maceutical ingredients, commer-cialisation of 40 APIs, filing of nine patents and conservation of nearly 165 medicinal plant species through collaborative re-search involving SKUAST-Jammu, SKUAST-Kashmir and CSIR-IIIM Jammu.

The Department informed the meeting that successful imple-mentation of the roadmap is ex-pected to expand the area under MAP cultivation to over 1,700 hectares, support establishment of 80 start-ups and 25 export-ori-ented enterprises, besides bene-fiting over 5,000 farmers and en-trepreneurs directly while generating substantial indirect employment across the value chain.

The Chief Secretary reiterated that the proposed roadmap repre-sents a transformative opportu-nity to harness Jammu and Kashmir's unique biodiversity for sustainable economic growth while ensuring scientific con-servation of its invaluable medicinal plant wealth creating new av-enues of prosperity for farmers, entrepreneurs and rural commu-nities.