

Jaishankar meets Portugal PM

LISBON, Nov 1 (PTI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar has discussed contemporary challenges with Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Costa and appreciated his guidance for the further development of India-Portugal ties.

Jaishankar, who arrived here on the first leg of his four-day visit to Portugal and Italy with an aim to further bolster India's bilateral ties with the two key European nations, also appreciated Portugal's support for India-EU ties.

"Pleasure to meet Prime Minister @antoniocostapm today (Tuesday). Conveyed the warm greetings of PM @narendramodi. Discussed contem-



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Portugal Prime Minister Antonio Costa during a delegation-level meeting in Lisbon, Portugal, on Tuesday.

(PTI)

porary challenges and appreciated his guidance for the further development of our ties,"

Jaishankar said on X.

Earlier, the Foreign Minister held "productive talks" with his

Portuguese counterpart Joao Cravinho here during which they discussed the progress in bilateral economic cooperation and exchanged views on West Asia, Ukraine, Central Asia and the Indo-Pacific.

He also met Augusto Santos Silva, the President of the Assembly of the Portuguese Republic, and discussed the importance of two democracies co-operating closely in a volatile world.

Jaishankar attended some diaspora engagements, paid floral tributes to Mahatma Gandhi and his wife, Kasturba, in front of the Temple Radha Krishna in Lisbon. "Offered my tributes to Bapu and Kasturba Gandhi in Lisbon," the EAM posted with images.

Gwalior, Kozhikode join UNESCO Creative Cities Network

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (PTI)

Gwalior and Kozhikode from India are among the 55 new cities which have joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network. UNESCO made the announcement on its official website on Tuesday.

These new cities were acknowledged for "their strong commitment to harnessing culture and creativity as part of their development strategies, and displaying innovative practices in human-centred urban planning", the world body said in a statement.

On World Cities Day, 55 cities joined the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN), following their designation by UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay, it added.

While Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh has made it to the coveted list in the 'Music' category, Kozhikode in Kerala has earned the place in the 'Literature' category.

UNESCO has shared the full list of the new 55 cities which include Bukhara – Crafts and Folk Art, Casablanca – Media Arts, Chongqing – Design, Kathmandu – Film, Rio de

India's cultural vibrancy shines brighter: PM

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (PTI)

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday hailed the inclusion of Gwalior and Kozhikode in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network (UCCN) and said India's cultural vibrancy "shines brighter on the global stage".

In a post on X, he also asserted that as India celebrates this international recognition, the nation "reaffirms its commitment" to preserving and promoting its diverse cultural traditions.

Gwalior and Kozhikode are among the 55 new cities which have joined the UNESCO

Janeiro – Literature, and Ulaanbaatar – Crafts and Folk Art. World Cities Day designated by the United Nations falls on October 31. With the latest additions, the UCCN now counts 350 cities in more than a hundred countries, representing seven creative fields: Crafts and Folk Art, Design, Film, Gastronomy, Literature, Media

Creative Cities Network, UNESCO made the announcement on its official website on Tuesday. While Gwalior in Madhya Pradesh has made it to the coveted list in the 'Music' category, Kozhikode in Kerala has earned the place in the 'Literature' category. "India's cultural vibrancy shines brighter on the global stage with Kozhikode's rich literary legacy and Gwalior's melodious heritage now joining the esteemed UNESCO Creative Cities Network. Congratulations to the people of Kozhikode and Gwalior on this remarkable achievement!"

Arts and Music, UNESCO said in its statement. "The cities in our Creative Cities Network are leading the way when it comes to enhancing access to culture and galvanizing the power of creativity for urban resilience and development," Audrey Azoulay, UNESCO Director-General, was quoted as saying in the statement.

Ladakh protecting India since long: President Murmu



President Droupadi Murmu being welcomed by Ladakh Lt Governor Brig BD Mishra (Retd) and others upon her arrival at a civic reception hosted in her honour at Sindhu Ghat in Leh. (PTI)

LEH, Nov 1 (PTI)

PRESIDENT Droupadi Murmu on Wednesday said the people of India have a special feeling of affection and respect for their fellow citizens in Ladakh and are aware of their contributions in protecting the nation.

Attending a civic reception hosted in her honour at Sindhu Ghat here, Murmu said that Sindhu river exists in the depth of historical, cultural and spiritual consciousness of all Indians. She said that people of India have a special feeling of affection and respect for the people of Ladakh and that they know about the contributions made by the people of Ladakh in protecting the nation, a statement issued by the Rashtrapati

Bhawan quoted her as having said. President Murmu said that the people of this region are known for bravery and their faith in Buddha.

She said that the immortal and living message of Lord Buddha spread in far and wide countries through Ladakh.

The President said that there are endless possibilities for the development of spiritual tourism, adventure tourism and eco-tourism in Ladakh.

She said that this region has immense potential for development of wellness tourism or health tourism.

President Murmu said that it is a matter of happiness that the rich traditions of many tribal communities are alive in Ladakh.

She said that people know about the affection and respect for nature which are reflected in the arts, dances, songs and lifestyle of tribal communities.

Murmu highlighted that "we should preserve the lifestyle of tribal communities" in accordance with the "lifestyle for the environment".

She said that people of those communities should also be encouraged to adopt the goodness of modern development.

Murmu said that this confluence of tradition and modernity will prove to be the right path of sustainable development for all citizens, including people of Ladakh. The President also interacted with members of self help groups (SHGs) and local tribals.

China keeps up military pressure on Taiwan

TAIPEI (Taiwan), Nov 1 (AP)

TAIWAN said on Wednesday that China sent 43 military aircraft and seven ships near the self-ruled island, the latest sign that Beijing plans no let-up in its campaign of harassment, threats and intimidation.

Taiwan's Defence Ministry said the figure was current for the 24 hours up to 6:00 am on Wednesday and that 37 of the aircraft had crossed the median line in the Taiwan Strait, which China no longer recognises as an informal divider between the sides.

It said Taiwan had monitored the situation, scrambled jet fighters, dispatched ships and activated land-based missile systems, all standard responses to Chinese military activities, which include crossing into Taiwan's air defence identification zone but not into its actual airspace. Such Chinese maneuvers have become frequent and aggressive since the then-US House Speaker Nancy Pelosi visited Taiwan in August 2022. China suspended military communication with the US to show its displeasure over her trip to Taiwan, which Beijing considers part of its territory to be brought under its control, by force, if necessary.

India, UAE sign MoU

to strengthen ties in education sector

NEW DELHI, Nov 1 (PTI)

UNION Education Minister Dharmendra Pradhan and his UAE counterpart Ahmad Al Falasi on Wednesday signed an MoU to strengthen existing educational cooperation between the two countries.

The MoU aims at facilitating student and faculty mobility, joint research programmes, designing courses, organising and participation in conferences, lectures, symposia,

courses, scientific and educational exhibitions in areas of mutual interest.

“UAE being a global economic hotspot and India being a global talent hotspot, both sides should work together to build a knowledge bridge to cement our civilisational connect,” Pradhan, who is on a three-day visit to Abu Dhabi, said. The ministers reviewed the bilateral engagements in education and skill development, particularly the progress

on points discussed during their meeting on the sidelines of the fourth education working group deliberations as part of India’s G20 presidency.

Pradhan also visited 42 Abu Dhabi, a coding school with deep focus on encouraging innovation, creativity and peer-to-peer learning through project-based and gamified curriculum. The ministers also had an interaction with students and faculty at Abu Dhabi Indian School (ADIS).

Need to provide aid to Ukrainians as war inflicts untold miseries: UNSC

UNITED NATIONS, Nov 1 (AP)

RUSSIAN strikes are inflicting unimaginable suffering on the people of Ukraine and more than 40 per cent of them need humanitarian assistance, a senior UN official told the UN Security Council.

Ramesh Rajasingham, director of co-ordination in the UN humanitarian office, said thousands of civilians have been killed in strikes on homes, schools, fields and markets since Russia's invasion in February 2022. The UN human rights office has formally verified 9,900 civilians killed, but he said "the actual number is certainly higher."

Ukrainian civilians are suffering "horrendous humanitarian consequences" and "unimaginable levels of suffering" from the Russian strikes, Rajasingham said. About 18 million Ukrainians - more than 40 per cent of the population - need some form of humanitarian assistance, and as winter approaches "needs will be magnified," he said. Rajasingham said significant damage and destruction of critical infrastructure continues to severely impact civilian access to electricity, heating, water and telecommunications, "a particular concern as winter fast approaches," which will put the elderly, disabled and displaced most at risk.