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EAM in Poland pushes strategic ties, calls for end to Ukraine war

nose the problem correctly," he added. Jaishankar and Sikorski also reviewed progress under the India-Poland Joint Action Plan for 2024-28. Their discussions covered trade, investment, technology, defence, energy, education and critical minerals. The two countries are also working on agreements in cybersecurity, space, clean coal and the protection of classified information. "I am confident that they will add both texture and substance to our ties," Jaishankar said. The External Affairs Minister said the proposed India-European Union free trade agreement would create significant economic opportunities for both countries. "As a key member of the European Union, Poland naturally stands to gain in that process," he said. Jaishankar also met Polish President Karol Nawrocki. Their discussions covered the strategic partnership, the conflicts in Ukraine and West Asia, the India-Middle East-Europe Economic Corridor and the G20. The two sides also discussed supply-chain resilience and challenges related to the availability of food, fuel and fertilisers amid multiple global conflicts. Jaishankar said India and Poland, as democracies, market economies and open societies, could work together to shape global debates and deepen cooperation at the United Nations and other multilateral forums.

Fervour, gaiety mark Janmashtami celebrations across J&K

tami, the J&K Dharmarhi Trust had yesterday organised a grand and impressive Shobha Yatra, commencing from the historical Shri Raghunath ji temple in the heart of Jammu city. The procession passed through several prominent markets and thoroughfares of Jammu, including Vir Marg, Shahidi Chowk, Rajinder Bazar, Kanak Mandi, City Chowk, Old Hospital Road,Purani Mandi, Link Road, Jain Bazar, Chowk Chabutra, Pacca Danga, Moti Bazar, Geeta Bhawan, Ranbireshwar Temple, Shalamar Road, City Chowk and Raghunath Bazar, before finally culminating at Shri Raghunath ji temple.

The festival is celebrated annually as the birthday of Almighty Krishna. On this day, over 5,250 years ago, the eighth incarnation of Almighty Vishnu, Shri Krishna was born as eighth child of Devki. After being born in Kansa's prison, his father Vasudev left him at Nand Baba's place in Gokul. Krishna spent his entire childhood in Nand village. He was born on this earth to free the world from the atrocities of Kansa.

Krishna's birth had created a wave of enthusiasm in the entire Gokul city. Krishna Janma Utsav is celebrated with great enthusiasm every year.

LG greets people on Teachers' Day

tions to come." "Teachers' Day provides an auspicious occasion to express our profound gratitude for the continuous commitment of educators to human advancement.Teachers are true nation-builders and changemakers. By sparking curiosity and breaking down barriers, they shape young minds and help students grow into creative and compassionate leaders," the LG said. "I urge teachers to celebrate every student's unique quality and make their classrooms engaging and interactive spaces. On this day, let us strengthen our resolve to provide quality education for all and work together to build a Developed India by 2047," he added.

Searches conducted in border villages

ble areas, officials said. Interactions were also held with locals and they were requested to report the movement of suspects in their villages to police or security personnel. On the occasion, locals were also given contact numbers of police, including police control room, Samba, and SOG Samba, and they were encouraged to report any suspicious individuals, movements, vehicles, or unusual activities in their areas, officials said.

Army rescues girl found floating in Mendhar nallah

tially provided medical assistance before being shifted to the Mendhar sub-district hospital for further treatment. Police had taken cognizance of the incident. Her identity was not immediately known, officials said.

Indigo flight hits pole at Sgr airport

injuries have been reported," it said, adding that the passengers and crew safely deboarded using manual aircraft stairs.

Officials said the incident would be examined by the competent authorities in accordance with established procedures. The exact circumstances and cause will be determined after the inquiry is completed.

Airport operations, however, continued normally, with arrivals and departures operating as per schedule.

Saxena approves rules granting proprietary rights on nautor land

The rules provide a comprehensive framework for granting proprietary rights/ownership of up to 10 acres of eligible nautor land holdings to the occupants, across all seven districts of Ladakh. For nautor land beyond the 10-acre limit, the proprietary rights may be allotted on a leasehold basis, in accordance with the rules which offer a one-time regularisation mechanism for nautor land, occupied before the repeal of the J&K Tenancy Act, 1980, on October 27, 2020. Any possession of nautor land after this cut-off date will be ineligible for regularisation. Nautor land refers to barren or wasteland, owned by the government, that was earlier allotted to individuals for cultivation or other productive use. More than 60,000 acres of land in the UT of Ladakh is presently recorded in revenue records as nautor holdings. Till now, the absence of a clear and uniform legal framework has restricted the effective utilisation of Nautor land till now. In particular, landholders with limited or non-proprietary rights were unable to use the land as a financial asset, including for purposes such as obtaining loans against it. At the same time, the absence of uniform rules also posed a threat of claims and disputes over government/Council land. According to the rules, the authority to allot nautor land is now vested in LAHDCs in all seven districts. "Under Sec-

tion 42 of the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils Act, 1997, land within the district stands transferred to the Council, while clause (i) of Section 23 vests executive powers in the Council in relation to the allotment, use and occupation of land vested in it," the rules read. Saxena said that the rules provide a much-needed legal certainty to genuine Nautor landholders, bring in transparency and accountability into the regularisation process, establish uniform procedures across the Union Territory and, at the same time, safeguard the land vested in the Ladakh Autonomous Hill Development Councils (LAHDCs) from encroachment and unauthorised claims. "The nautor issue has a deep historical connection with the lives and livelihoods of the people of Ladakh. For generations, our people have worked hard to bring barren and waste land under cultivation in one of the most challenging agricultural environments in the country. These Rules provide a transparent and uniform mechanism to address this long-pending issue and give legal certainty to genuine holders. It will also enable such land to be utilised as a financial asset, including for availing bank loans," he said. The rules will be put for public consultation for two weeks before the final notification is issued. Millions in Mumbai, Kolkata may lose homes to rising seas: UN ing seas are intensifying coastal flooding, freshwater salinisation, erosion and ecosystem degradation. They are also increasing risks to public health through damage to sanitation infrastructure, water-borne diseases, injuries and deaths, as well as rising mental health stress. The report said the combination of sea-level rise and land subsidence is further worsening flooding risks, while saltwater intrusion can contaminate freshwater wells and soils, affecting drinking water security, agriculture and irrigation. It stressed the need for early and long-term adaptation planning, supported by adequate and predictable financing, stronger data and scientific capacity, and robust technical, institutional and legal frameworks to protect populations and states most at risk. Death toll in Nepal floods rises to 1,295 parasi East, 212 in Nawalparasi West and 186 in Nuwakot. Similarly, 140 bodies were recovered in Rasuwa, 72 in Gorkha, 65 in Dhading and 38 from Tanahu, according to Nepal Police. With two victims of the flood dying in two different hospitals in Kathmandu on Friday, the death toll has risen to 1,295. The joint command of security forces is actively conducting search and rescue operations for the estimated 5,000 missing. So far, 13,093 people have been rescued from the affected areas. The two men rescued alive from the tunnel were identified as Kabir Maharjan, 45, a mechanical supervisor on the project, and Sanjay Sah, 30, a foreman, according to the Public Relations Directorate of Nepal Army. Maharjan was flown to Nepal Army Hospital in Chhauni, Kathmandu, and his condition is said to be critical, while Sah is under treatment at the Trishuli hospital in Nuwakot, according to Raja Ram Basnet, Nepali Army spokesperson. Sah, who is from Saptari district in Madhesh province, told security personnel that he was chanting 'Hare Krishna' mantra for the last nine days while trapped inside the tunnel. "I was chanting Hare Krishna mahamantra for the past nine days," he said, briefly talking about the incident soon after he was taken out safely. Maharjan's wife said her husband, who is from Kathmandu, had been given a "second life" and thanked rescuers who risked their lives to save him. "He has returned with a second life. We are extremely happy," his wife, Hira Shobha, was quoted as saying by the Kathmandu Post. "We had been waiting. I am now going to the hospital to see my husband." Meanwhile, the sixth and seventh relief flights from India carrying 21.5 tonnes of relief materials arrived in Kathmandu on Thursday night. "India's support to Nepal's relief efforts for Rasuwa flash flood continues: 6th and 7th relief flights (C-130Js) arrived in Kathmandu tonight carrying 21.5 tonnes of relief assistance, including forensic kits and medical supplies," India's Ambassador to Nepal Naveen Srivastava said in a post on X. "These materials were handed over to Nepal, and will help strengthen ongoing Nepali relief and rescue efforts and support communities affected by Rasuwa floods," he added. Around 600 children remain unaccounted for in Nepal's Rasuwa and Nuwakot districts. An estimated 280 children are missing in Rasuwa, and between 300 and 350 others remain unaccounted for in the neighbouringNuwakot in central Nepal, the Kathmandu Post newspaper reported, citing figures compiled by local Education Development and Coordination Units (EDCUs), local governments, and educational institutions. Surya Bahadur Khatri, head of the Nuwakot Education Development and Coordination Unit, said, "We are actively liaising with headmasters to collect verified data on missing students, though school heads are struggling to provide exact figures due to broken communications." "Although a few missing students have been located, new reports of unaccounted-for children continue to arrive from various schools. We estimate that at least 300 pupils are missing in our district." In Bidur Municipality of Nuwakot alone, roughly 250 children are missing since the floods hit, according to Navaraj Sapkota, school inspector of the municipality's education unit. "The situation on the ground is deeply distressing. In some cases, we have located surviving parents who cannot find their children, while in other instances, surviving students are searching for missing parents," said Sapkota. Bidur houses 170 educational institutions-142 community schools and 28 private schools. In Rasuwa, Durga Prasad Silwal, chief of the local education unit, said that official verification is ongoing but preliminary records indicate that 280 students are currently missing across the district. The disaster has also taken a toll on teachers and school staff. Education units confirmed that 22 teachers and school staff members remain missing across both districts. Additionally, several teachers from Dhading and Gorkha who had travelled to Rasuwa for pilgrimage were caught in the deluge and remain missing. Rasuwa reported 16 missing teachers-15 from community schools and one from a private institution-while

Nuwakot confirmed six missing teachers, according to Kathmandu Post. Although several bodies of victims have been recovered in downstream districts, authorities have yet to verify the exact number of identified students or teachers. According to the Ministry of Education data, the floods affected 22 schools across Rasuwa, Nuwakot, and Dhading, with 12 institutions completely destroyed, the report said. Separately, Nepal's government has announced a special relief package for businesses hit by the devastating floods, offering concessions, loan restructuring and cheaper credit, as authorities began work on relocating settlements destroyed by the disaster. The Nepal Cabinet on Thursday described the business-related measures as the first phase of its recovery package, the Kathmandu Post reported. Businesses whose commercial vehicles, transport equipment, plants, machinery, tools or other equipment were destroyed beyond repair or swept away will be allowed to import replacements without paying customs duties, the report said. The concession will also apply to goods on which customs duties had already been paid but which were destroyed before reaching their destination. Replacement goods will have to be imported through any customs office within six months, it said. Provincial and local governments will also be asked to provide temporary concessions on property and business taxes, building permit fees and other local charges for affected businesses and properties, the report added. The government has directed Nepal Rastra Bank, the country's central bank, to facilitate restructuring or rescheduling of loans taken by flood-affected borrowers, it said. The Insurance Authority has separately been asked to speed up claims by allowing insurers to deploy surveyors through simplified procedures. Insurers will be required to provide advance payments of up to 50 per cent of estimated losses based on preliminary assessments. The relief measures come as authorities prepare a longer-term plan for communities whose homes and settlements were swept away. All EU nations back India FTA, says Goyal and Belgium could serve markets across the world. Against a backdrop of protectionism, disrupted supply chains, problems in food and fuel deliveries, two wars, volatility and uncertainty, India and Belgium had a choice, he said - to either be swept up in the prevailing chaos or build "islands of trust and predictability". Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever, who also attended the event, said the India-EU FTA would strengthen trade and open doors for companies, young talent and investment, while making the two economies more resilient to disruptions. He said the agreement would create opportunities in sectors including diamonds, food processing, pharmaceuticals, maritime services, green hydrogen and infrastructure. De Wever noted that tariffs on more than 95 per cent of Indian and European goods exports would be scrapped or reduced under the agreement. The agreement is expected to provide significant benefits to India's labour-intensive sectors, including fisheries, textiles and footwear. Exports of chemicals and pharmaceutical products are also expected to increase once the FTA comes into effect. De Wever is scheduled to meet stakeholders from the diamond, ports and logistics sectors, with the engagements aimed at further strengthening India-Belgium economic ties. He said the India-EU FTA had come at a critical juncture as global trade faced increasing protectionism and uncertainty. Describing the agreement as an "expression of strategic openness", he said it reflected mutual trust and respect and would make the two economies more resilient to disruptions and coercion. "We are sailing through rough waters, but India and Europe have chosen another route," De Wever said, adding that the two sides had opted for partnership at a time when markets were increasingly being shut off and tariffs imposed. India harnessing power of industry for space progs: Shah load into a precise orbit using a GSLV rocket. In a message on X, Shah said, "Congratulations to @ISRO scientists as GSLV-F17 successfully carried EOS-05 into orbit. India now has its first-ever imaging satellite operating from geosynchronous orbit." "Under the leadership of PM Modi, India is emerging as a self-reliant and ambitious nation, harnessing the power of its industry for its space programs," he said. "The eye in the sky," as one of the senior scientists involved in the mission described the satellite, is set to provide real-time imagery and help the nation in areas like agriculture and disaster management. The satellite was successfully placed in the intended subgeosynchronous transfer orbit, about 18 minutes after it lifted off from the spaceport in Sriharikota, Andhra Pradesh, ISRO announced. The GSLV-F17/EOS-05 mission is said to be a replacement for the unsuccessful GSLV-F-10/EOS-03 mission of 2021. CJI Kant holds bilateral talks with judicial leaders and judicial leadership and sustainable development. The mediation session would examine it "as a strategic mechanism for resolving international commercial disputes in a globalised economy," it said. Likewise, the issue of cross-border enforcement of arbitral awards would be dealt with in the second session, and the jurists would deliberate upon the challenges in enforcement and the prospects for greater procedural harmonisation. As part of the opening-day engagements, the CJI will hold a series of bilateral meetings with the heads of judicial delegations from Russia, China, Egypt, Indonesia, the United Arab Emirates, Belarus, Kazakhstan, South Africa, Iran and Uzbekistan, the statement said. Among the judicial leaders scheduled to meet the CJI are Igor Krasnov, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Russian Federation, Zhang Jun, Chief Justice of China and President of the Supreme People's Court, Boulos Gahmy Iskander Boulos, Chief Justice of Egypt's Supreme Constitutional Court, and Sunarto, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Indonesia, the statement said.

The other leaders include Mohammed Hamad Al Badi Al Dhaheri, President of the UAE Federal Supreme Court, Andrei Shved, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Belarus, Aslambek Mergaliyev, Chairman of the Supreme Court of Kazakhstan, Mahube Betty Molemela, President of the Supreme Court of Appeal of South Africa, Ayatollah Gholam Hossein Mohseni-Eje'i, Chief Justice of Iran, and Malikakhon Kalandarova, Deputy Chairperson of Uzbekistan's Supreme Court. On the second day, heads of delegations from BRICS member states and partner countries will address the forum and share their perspectives on issues of common interest to judicial institutions. Judicial leaders representing Brazil, China, Egypt, Ethiopia, Indonesia, Iran, Russia, South Africa and the UAE are expected to participate, along with representatives from partner countries Belarus, Bolivia, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Thailand, Uganda and Uzbekistan. Ready to fulfill India's energy needs: Russia confident is India? India has shown that it's able to stand its ground and defend its national interests. And when we speak about the sanctions pertaining to oil trade, the tariffs are also related to the cooperation between Russia and India in oil supplies. These interests are paramount for India," Alipovemphasised. Addressing Western restrictions, including secondary sanctions designed to curb third-party nations from dealing with major Russian oil producers, the envoy condemned the punitive frameworks meant to disrupt Russia's price-competitive market position. "We would be ready to supply as much oil as India needs. Unfortunately, those who impose sanctions and tariffs have taken the path of pressure tactics instead of honest cooperation, which prevents those countries from offering a better deal to India in oil than us," he stated. Warning against international attempts to isolate Russian energy exports, Alipov asserted that world supply chains cannot function effectively without Russian crude, emphasising that market fundamentals would ultimately preserve the trade. "The world will not cope if Russian oil is excluded. The energy markets cannot afford that. Russian oil will stay in the market for India and other countries. We are interested in supplying oil to India. India is interested in buying that oil....," he added. The Ambassador's remarks come against the backdrop of expanding secondary sanctions imposed by Western nations. Unlike primary sanctions (which directly prohibit Western entities from trading with Russia), secondary sanctions target third-country entities-such as Indian refiners, shipping lines, and banks-by threatening them with financial blacklisting, loss of access to global banking channels, or punitive tariffs if they continue facilitating transactions with key Russian energy providers. India has consistently maintained that its crude oil procurement strategy is driven purely by national interest, market affordability, and consumer price stability. While Western measures aim to restrict Russian oil revenue, New Delhi continues to balance its energy security imperatives against international regulatory compliance. Notably, India's External Affairs Minister Jaishankar on Thursday during a visit to Kyiv highlighted that the Russia-Ukraine war cannot be brought to an end by pressuring countries over their purchases of Russian oil, metals, minerals or fertiliser, saying diplomacy and negotiations are the only path to peace. Meanwhile, responding to a question on whether India would reduce Russian oil imports if the United States imposed sanctions on countries buying it, Jaishankar said, "It is important that all of you get the challenges of providing for energy for 1.4 billion people at a time when the world energy situation is very, very difficult," he said. Developed countries must take lead in reducing emissions: MEA ing emissions and supporting developing countries by way of finance and technology transfer to meet this challenge," the spokesperson added. Moving to immediate disaster assistance, Jaiswal noted that New Delhi's swift humanitarian response reflects the close strategic and cultural bonds between the two neighbors. "In the wake of this tragedy, we have extended our solidarity and support to the government and people of Nepal. As a close friend and partner, India responded promptly, and we will continue to support the reconstruction and recovery efforts in the country," he said. Addressing top-level diplomatic outreach and appreciation from Nepalese Prime Minister Balen Shah, Jaiswal underscored that Prime Minister Narendra Modi engaged directly with Kathmandu immediately after the tragedy unfolded to commit comprehensive support. "We have seen that the Prime Minister of Nepal has thanked us for our support... When the strategy struck, our prime minister spoke to the Prime Minister of Nepal and conveyed that India stands shoulder to shoulder and extends all its support to Nepal in this time of crisis, and it will offer whatever help is required, and we'll be happy that we are able to give a helping hand to our friends and partners, and to the people of Nepal," Jaiswal affirmed. Notably, Nepal Foreign Minister Shisir Khanal has clarified that neither he nor the Ministry of Foreign Affairs nor the government has sought climate-related compensation from India, China or the United States following the devastating flash floods last week, saying Kathmandu's appeal was for the global community to recognise the wider impact of climate change. "Neither I nor anyone in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs or the government of Nepal has claimed or asked for compensation from India or any other country, including China or the United States," Khanal told ANI on Thursday in response to his alleged remarks seeking climate-related compensation. The Foreign Minister clarified that Nepal's position was focused on addressing the broader climate crisis and its impact on Himalayan communities."Our call has been for the global community to look at this disaster from the perspective of climate change and the impact it's having in Nepal," he added. Khanal noted that India, China and Nepal share environmental ecosystems, culture and heritage, and said the three countries should work together to better prepare for the impact of climate change in the Himalayas.