

# Jaishankar's Documents on Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plants signed

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (ANI)

**ON HIS** visit to Russia, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar signed three documents relating to the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plants, an MoU on cooperation in pharmaceuticals and healthcare and a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations according to a release of the Ministry of External Affairs.

The EAM was on a visit to Russia from December 25 to 29 as a part of the ongoing high-level exchanges between the two sides. During his visit, Jaishankar called on Russian President Vladimir Putin in Moscow and held discussions with the Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Industry and Trade, Denis Manturov, as well



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Russian Deputy Prime Minister Denis Manturov visit the Russian Industry and Trade exhibition, in Moscow. (ANI file photo)

as the Minister of Foreign Affairs, Sergey Lavrov.

“Three documents relating to the Kudankulam Nuclear Power Plants, an MoU on coop-

eration in pharmaceuticals and healthcare and a Protocol on Foreign Office Consultations were signed during the visit,” the MEA said in a release.

# Gaza war can spill into a regional conflict: UN Chief

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (IANS)

## UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

Antonio Guterres has reiterated his concerns that the war in Gaza can spill over into a regional conflict, media reports said.



Antonio Guterres

"There is a continued risk of wider regional conflagration, the longer the conflict in Gaza continues, given the risk of escalation and miscalculation by multiple actors," media reports quoting Guterres as saying in a statement.

He said that the burgeoning violence against Palestinians in the occupied West Bank by Israeli forces and Israeli set-

## Israel jails teen for refusing to serve in IDF: report

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (IANS)

**YOUTH** in Israel have refused to enroll for the mandatory military service in the Israel Defense Forces (IDF) on political grounds, in opposition to Israel's bombardment of Gaza and the occupation of Palestinian territories, media reports said.

Israeli teen Tal Mitnick (18) was the first person arrested for refusing service on political grounds since October 7 and was sentenced to 30 days

in military prison on Tuesday.

He first refused to enlist several weeks ago, setting in motion a trial process.

Mitnick wrote his reasons in a statement shared by Mesarvot, one of several Israeli support groups for conscientious objectors, or "refuseniks" as they call themselves.

"Violence cannot solve the situation, neither by Hamas, nor by Israel. There is no military solution to a political problem," Mitnick wrote.

from Iraq and Syria, and the Houthis attacking shipping in the Red Sea," the UN Secretary General said.



# India declares Canada-based gangster Landa as terrorist

NEW DELHI, Dec 30 (IANS)

**INDIA** has designated one of the most wanted fugitive and Canada-based gangster Lakhbir Singh Landa as a terrorist.

Landa (34), a native of Harike, district Tarn Taran, Punjab and presently residing in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada belongs to Babbar Khalsa International (BKI) which is listed as a terrorist organisation at serial number 1 of the First Schedule to the said Act, read the MHA notification.

Landa, backed by the cross border agency, was involved in the terror attack through shoulder mounted Rocket Propelled Grenade (RPG) on the building of Punjab State Intelligence Headquarter at Mohali last year.

"Landa has been involved in supply of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), arms, sophisticated weapons, explosives from across the border to various modules for carrying out terrorist activities in the State of Punjab, India, And whereas, the said Landa has also been involved in various criminal



cases related to raising of terror modules, extortion, killings, planting IEDs, smuggling of weapons and narcotics and using funds or proceeds thereof for terrorist acts in the State of Punjab and other parts of the Country," a notification of Ministry of Home Affairs (MHA) reads.

The MHA notification also said that Landa and his associates have been conspiring to disrupt the peace, law and order in the State of Punjab by carrying out targeted killings, extortions and other anti-national activities in different parts of India.

An open ended warrant has been issued against Landa and he is also a subject of Look Out Circular dated June 9, 2021.

"The Central Government believes that Lakhbir Singh Landa is involved in terrorism and the said Lakhbir Singh Landa is to be added as a terrorist in the Fourth Schedule to the said Act.

Landa (34), a native of Harike, district Tarn Taran, Punjab and presently residing in Edmonton, Alberta, Canada belongs to Babbar Khalsa International which is listed as a terrorist organisation

# India-UAE

## Ties transcend to multilateral level in 2023

DUBAI, Dec 30 (PTI)

THE already strong India-UAE ties transcended to a truly multilateral level in 2023 with the announcement of the strategically important India-Middle East Economic Corridor and the expansion of the BRICS grouping to include the key Gulf nation.

The bilateral ties have witnessed qualitative and quantitative progress with Prime Minister Narendra Modi giving top priority to enhance India's relations with the UAE and its

top leadership. The BRICS summit in August, during which the UAE joined the group, and the announcement of the India-Middle East Economic Corridor (IMEEC) in New Delhi during G20 summit in September were the highlights of the level of cooperation. The new member nations will become part of BRICS (Brazil-Russia-India-China-South Africa) with effect from January 1, 2024. The inclusion represents a strategic step for UAE and consolidates economic and diplomatic engagements.



# 73 ft tall national flag hoisted in Tawang



ITANAGAR, Dec 30 (PTI)

BJP MLA Tsering Tashi hoisted a 73 feet high-mast national flag in Tawang district of Arunachal Pradesh at a height of 15,200 feet above sea level, an official release said on Saturday.

Speaking on the occasion, Tashi, the local MLA, on Friday told the border guarding troops to continue their selfless service to the nation.

He exuded confidence that the installation of the national flag will be a source of inspi-

ration for unity, integrity and national strength, the release said. The lawmaker praised the civil-military bonhomie in Tawang, which has led to continued development in the fields of infrastructure, medical, education and social well-being. The event was witnessed by Flag Foundation of India CEO Major General (Retd) Ashim Kohli, Tawang Brigade commander Brigadier Vipul Singh Rajput, officials of the district administration, troops of the Indian Army, ITBP, SSB, NCC cadets and others.

# 'Sri Lanka needs to stick to IMF programme to overcome crisis'

COLOMBO, Dec 30 (PTI)

**SRI** Lanka's bankrupt economy has "no alternative" but to stick to the current USD 2.9 billion IMF bailout programme, central bank Governor Nandalal Weerasinghe has said.

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) approved the release of the second tranche worth USD

287 million to Sri Lanka earlier this month.

Weerasinghe was responding to queries if the island nation was open to renegotiating the terms of the four-year programme on the back of claims by opposition parties that they would renegotiate conditions for the IMF's USD 2.9 billion bailout package.

"There is no alternative.

The fact that we attempted alternatives was why we are here (bankruptcy) now," Weerasinghe told reporters on Friday.

"We have to go in the same path, say, if the period of debt restructuring allowed is 10 years – if they (opposition) want to change it, the creditors can say, we don't support this anymore. If we were to

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# 151

## Myanmarese soldiers flee to Mizoram

AIZAWL, Dec 30 (PTI)

**AT LEAST** 151 Myanmarese soldiers fled to Mizoram's Lawngtlai district after their camps in the neighbouring country were overrun by an armed ethnic group, an Assam Rifles officer said on Saturday.

The Myanmarese army personnel, also known as the 'Tatmadaw,' fled with their arms and approached the Assam Rifles at Tuisentlang in Lawngtlai district on Friday after their camps near the international border were overrun by the Arakan Army fighters,

he said. The officer said that there had been intense gun-fights between the Myanmar army and the Arakan Army fighters for the past few days in areas close to the Indian border. He said that some of the Myanmarese Army personnel, who entered Mizoram on Friday, were critically injured and first aids were administered to them by the Assam Rifles. The Myanmar army soldiers are now in the safe custody of Assam Rifles at Parva in Lawngtlai district near the Myanmar border, he said.

The Myanmar soldiers will be sent back to their country

in some days as talks are going on between the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) and the Myanmar military Government, he added.

In November, a total of 104 Myanmar soldiers fled to Mizoram after their military camps along the Myanmar-India border were overrun by pro-democracy militia - People's Defence Force (PDF). They were airlifted by the Indian Airforce to Moreh in Manipur, from where they crossed the international border and entered Tamu, the nearest border town in Myanmar.