

India rejects comments by UN's top human rights official on foreign influence laws

■ By Yoshita Singh

UNITED NATIONS/GENEVA, June 21 (PTI)

INDIA has rejected a comment by the UN's top human rights official on foreign influence laws, saying principles of "transparency and accountability cannot be applied selectively." India's Permanent Representative of India to the United Nations and other International Organisations in Geneva Ambassador Arindam Bagchi, said he "humbly disagrees" with the brief reference

to India made by United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights Volker Turk in his Global Update session of the Human Rights Council this week.

Turk had said in his global update that a "worrying trend in terms of civic space is the consideration or adoption of so-called "transparency" or "foreign influence" laws in over 50 countries, including in the Republika Srpska entity of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, India, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation, Slovakia and

Turkiye. These laws risk having serious chilling effects on the work of civil society, freedom of expression and of association." Bagchi said democratic nations across the world, including India, have had regulations for many decades to guard against legitimate concerns about the misuse of foreign funds. "Principles of transparency and accountability cannot be applied selectively. Portraying a dependence on the crutches of opaque or illegal foreign funding is also a disservice to India's vibrant civil society," he said.



Indian Army personnel perform Yoga in icy heights

LEH, June 21 (ANI)

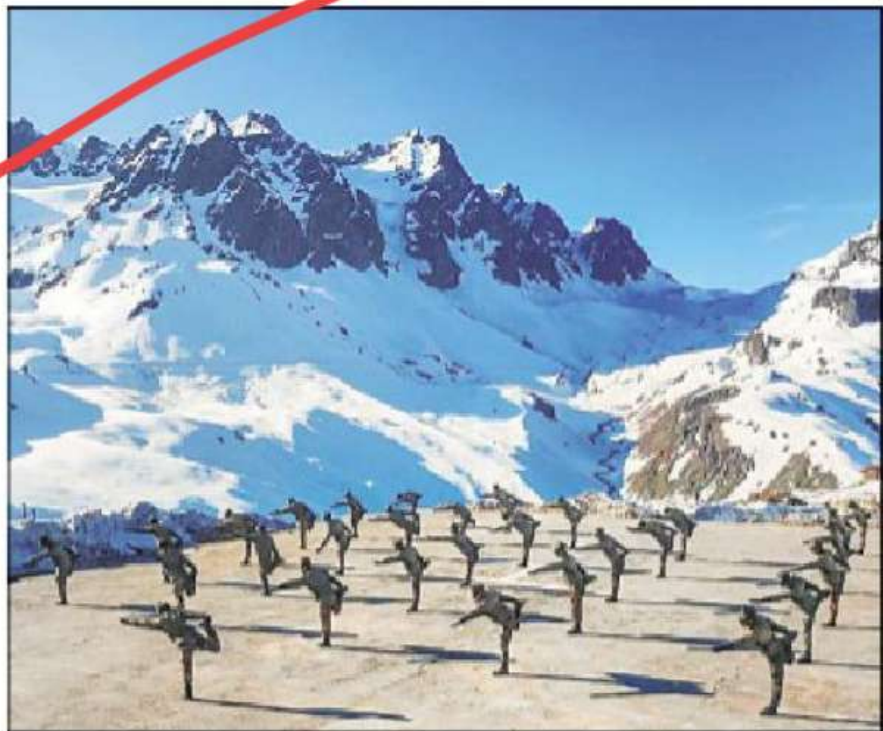
INDIAN Army personnel performed Yoga in icy heights on the northern frontier on the 10th International Yoga Day on Friday.

The Army troops also performed Yoga in Eastern Ladakh.

Personnel of the Indo-Tibetan Border Police performed Yoga at Muguthang Sub Sector in Sikkim at an altitude of more than 15,000 feet, on the occasion of 10th International Yoga Day.

The ITBP has been promoting Yoga at different high-altitude Himalayan ranges on India-China borders including Sikkim, Arunachal Pradesh, Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand over the years by performing Yoga asanas.

From Ladakh in the north to Sikkim in the east, ITBP Jawans performed Yoga asanas on the occasion of 10th International Yoga Day.



Indian Army personnel perform Yoga in the Himalayas, on Friday. (PTI)

The ITBP personnel performed Yoga at Karzok in Leh.

The Border Security Force personnel posted mesmerising visuals of BSF jawans per-

forming Yoga at zero line at the Joint Check post at Attari, Amritsar under the supervision of Brig Pawan Bajaj (Retd), DIG BSF.

Atishi begins fast for more water from Haryana

NEW DELHI, June 21 (PTI)

DELHI Water Minister Atishi began her indefinite hunger strike in south Delhi's Bhogal on Friday to get more water from Haryana, in the presence of Chief Minister Arvind Kejriwal's wife Sunita Kejriwal and other AAP leaders.

Sunita Kejriwal read out a message from the CM, who is currently lodged in Tihar jail, in which he expressed hope that Atishi's 'tapasya' would be successful. The CM said he was immensely pained by seeing on TV the plight of the people facing water shortage amid the ongoing intense heatwave, he said. "It's our culture to provide water to the thirsty. Delhi gets water from neighbouring states. We hoped support of neighbouring States in such intense heat. But, Haryana reduced Delhi's water share.

"Although there are Governments of different parties in the two States but is this



Delhi Minister and AAP leader Atishi Singh with party leader Sanjay Singh during her indefinite hunger strike in the national capital in New Delhi on Friday. (PTI)

time for politics over water," he said, referring to the BJP that is in power in Haryana.

Earlier, Atishi, accompanied by Sunita Kejriwal, AAP MP Sanjay Singh, Delhi Minister Saurabh Bharadwaj and other leaders paid tributes to Mahatma Gandhi at Rajghat before heading to Bhogal.

South Korea fires warning shots after N Korea make 3rd incursion

SEOUL, June 21 (AP)

SOUTH Korea's military said on Friday that it had fired warnings shots the previous day to repel North Korean soldiers who temporarily crossed the rivals' land border for the third time this month.

South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said several North Korean soldiers while engaging in unspecified construction work on the northern side of the border briefly intruded the military demarcation line that bisects the countries at around 11 am Thursday.

Jaishankar calls on Hasina, appreciates her guidance

NEW DELHI, June 21 (ANI)

EXTERNAL Affairs Minister S Jaishankar called on the visiting Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina here in the national capital on Friday.

PM Hasina arrived in India earlier today on a State visit from June 21 to 22 at the invitation of Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Following the meeting, Jaishankar said that the Bangladesh PM's State visit highlights 'close and abiding ties' between the two countries. "Delighted to call on Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh this evening. Her State visit to India underlines our close and abiding ties. Appreciate her guidance on the further development of our special partnership," said EAM Jaishankar in a post on X.



Newly-appointed External Affairs Minister of State (MoS) Kiritvardhan Singh welcomed the visiting Bangladesh PM at the airport earlier on Friday.

This visit will give a 'major boost' to India-Bangladesh ties, Official Spokesperson, Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal said in a social media

post. "PM Sheikh Hasina of Bangladesh arrives in New Delhi on a State Visit to India. Warmly welcomed by MoS @KVSinghMPGonda at the airport. Bangladesh is a key partner and trusted neighbour of India. The visit will give a major boost to this celebrated bilateral partnership," read Jaiswal's post on X.

This is the first incoming bilateral State Visit after the formation of the government in India following the 18th Lok Sabha elections, MEA said in a statement a day ago.

"During the visit, apart from holding bilateral consultations with the Prime Minister, Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is scheduled to call on the President Droupadi Murmu and Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar," the Foreign Ministry statement read.

TO CURB HOARDINGS, CONTROL PRICES

Stock limits on tur, chana till Sept



NEW DELHI, June 21 (PTI)

THE Government on Friday imposed stock limits on tur and chana dals till September this year to check hoardings and control prices.

The Centre has issued an order imposing stock limits, which will be applicable to wholesalers, retailers, big chain retailers, millers and importers, an official statement said.

The move is aimed to "prevent hoarding and unscrupulous speculation, and also to improve affordability to the consumers in respect of tur and chana".

'Committed to procure tur, urad, masur at MSP'

NEW DELHI, June 21 (PTI)

IN A bid to boost domestic production and reduce imports, the Centre has committed to procuring tur, urad, and masur at Minimum Support Prices (MSP), Agriculture Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan said on Friday.

The move aims to encourage crop diversification and achieve self-sufficiency in pulse production by 2027.

Chairing a virtual meeting with State Agriculture Ministers, Chouhan highlighted the launch of the e-Samridhi portal through cooperatives NAFED and NCCF for farmer registration.

"We urge State Governments to encourage more farmers to register on this portal to avail assured procurement," he said.

(Contd on page 5)

The Removal of Licensing Requirements, Stock Limits and Movement Restrictions on Specified Foodstuffs (Amendment) Order, 2024 has been issued with immediate effect from June 21, 2024.

Under this order, stock limits have been prescribed for tur and chana, including kabuli chana, until September 30, 2024, for all States and Union Territories.

Stock limits applicable to each of the pulse individually will be 200 tonnes for wholesalers; 5 tonnes for retailers; 5 tonnes at each retail outlet and 200 tonnes at the depot for big chain retailers; last 3 months of production or 25 per cent of annual installed capacity, whichever is higher, for the millers.

Importers are not to hold imported stock beyond 45 days from the date of customs clearance.

The respective legal entities have been asked to declare the stock position on the portal of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

(Contd on page 5)

World looking as powerful agent of global good: PM

SRINAGAR, June 21 (PTI)

THE world is looking at yoga as a powerful agent of global good, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said on International Yoga Day on Friday while stressing that it has the potential to transform the economy of Jammu and Kashmir by attracting more tourists.

Choosing the SKICC on the picturesque banks of the Dal Lake to lead the nation in celebrating the 10th International Yoga Day, the Prime Minister described yoga as not just knowledge but also a science.

"When people talk about yoga, most of them think it is a spiritual journey as if it is to find Allah, Ishwara, God... Leave aside the spiritual journey which can happen any time later. For now, you can focus on personal development and yoga is part of that."

"If you approach it that way, I am sure you will get a lot of benefits. Personal development leads to the benefit of society, which in turn leads to the benefit of humankind," he said while addressing a gathering at the Sher-i-Kashmir International Convention Centre.

(Contd on page 5)



Prime Minister Narendra Modi, President Droupadi Murmu and gymnast Dipa Karmakar participate in the International Day of Yoga celebrations on Friday. (ANI/PTI)



Police personnel and people perform yoga at Gateway of India on 10th International Day of Yoga in Mumbai on Friday. (PTI)

YOGA

Yoga across the GLOBE

NEW YORK/TEL AVIV, June 21 (PTI)

THOUSANDS of yoga enthusiasts from across the world rolled out their yoga mats as they joined day-long sessions of the ancient Indian practice to commemorate the 10th International Day of Yoga on Friday. Recognising its universal appeal, in December 2014, the UN proclaimed June 21 as the International Day of Yoga.

The draft UN General Assembly resolution establishing the International Day of Yoga was proposed by India and endorsed by a record 175 member states. The Consulate General of India in New York along with the Times Square Alliance hosted special yoga sessions at the iconic Times Square.

Amid heat advisories in place for the New York area, which experienced temperatures as high as 93°F (33.8°C) during the day, people from all walks of life and nationalities arrived early morning on Thursday and rolled out their yoga mats in the heart of the popular New York City destination. Yoga instructor and breath meditation teacher Richa Dhakne, who has over two decades of experience as a volunteer and faculty member with the Art of Living Foundation, led the yoga and meditation session hosted by the Consulate General of India in New York.

Several other yoga teachers and experts led various meditation, exercises and breathing sessions throughout the day at Times Square, as thousands participated in the day-long activities. (Contd on page 5)



People perform yoga during a programme organised to celebrate the 10th International Day of Yoga at Times Square in New York, USA on Thursday. (PTI)

Taiwan detects **36** Chinese aircraft, **7** shipping vessels around its territory

TAIPEI, June 21 (ANI)

TAIWAN'S Ministry of Defence detected 36 Chinese aircraft and seven shipping vessels around its territory in the last 24 hours till 6 am on Friday.

Thirty four of the aircraft entered Taiwan's SW and eastern Air Defence Identification Zone (ADIZ). Following this, the Taiwanese forces monitored the situation and responded accordingly.

"36 #PLA aircraft and 7 PLAN vessels operating around #Taiwan were detected up until 6 a.m. (UTC+8) today. 34 of the aircraft entered Taiwan's SW and eastern ADIZ. #ROCArmedForces have monitored the situation and responded accordingly," Taiwan's MND posted on the X platform on Friday morning.

Earlier on Thursday, Taiwan tracked 11 Chinese military aircraft and eight naval vessels around the island nation

during the last 24 hours till 6 am Thursday, reported Taiwan News.

According to Taiwan's MND, out of 11 People's Liberation Army (PLA) aircraft, seven crossed the Taiwan Strait median line in the northern and southwestern sectors of the country's air defence identification zone (ADIZ) while one PLA helicopter was tracked in the southeast ADIZ.

Since September 2020, China has intensified its use of gray zone tactics by increasing the number of military aircraft and naval ships that operate near Taiwan's territory.

Gray zone tactics are called "an effort or series of efforts beyond steady-state deterrence and assurance that attempts to achieve one's security objectives without resort to direct and sizable use of force," according to Taiwan News.