

China commences Asian Games with foul play against India

Denies accreditation to Indian sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh at Hangzhou Asian Games

India lodges strong protest against discriminatory behaviour; Sports Minister Anurag Thakur cancels trip to Games

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (PTI)

INDIA has lodged strong protests with China over its denial of accreditation for the Hangzhou Asian Games to some of the Indian sportspersons from Arunachal Pradesh, and asserted that New Delhi reserves the right to take "suitable measures" to safeguard its interests. External Affairs Ministry Spokesperson Arindam Bagchi on Friday said as a mark of India's protest against China's discriminatory behaviour, Union I&B and Sports Minister Anurag Singh Thakur has cancelled his scheduled visit to China for the Games.

Describing the Chinese action as targeting of the sportspersons in a "pre-meditated" manner, Bagchi said the move violates both the spirit of the Asian Games and the rules governing their conduct as they "explicitly prohibit discrimination" against competitors from member states.

He said a "strong protest" has been lodged against China's "deliberate and selective obstruction" of some of India's sportspersons.

"The Government of India has learnt that the Chinese authorities have, in a targeted and pre-meditated manner, (Contd on page 4)



India's Chef-de-mission for the Asian Games Bhupendra Singh Bajwa with Indian athletes during the Welcome Ceremony for Team India at the Games Village of the 19th Asian Games, in Hangzhou, China on Friday. (PTI)

'Pre-meditated move against Indian sportspersons'

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (PTI)

UNION Sports Minister Anurag Thakur on Friday decided to cancel his upcoming visit to Hangzhou for the Asian Games as a mark of protest against China's decision to deny visas to three Indian wushu players from Arunachal Pradesh.



Female players Nyeman Wangsu, Onilu Tega and Mepung Lamgu have been denied accreditation, which also works as visa for the Asian Games that officially open on Saturday in Hangzhou.

"Union Minister for I&B and Youth Affairs & Sports @ianuragthakur cancels visit to China for the Asian Games as India strongly protests China's targeted and pre-meditated (Contd on page 4)

China's act violates spirit of sports, says Rijju

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (PTI)

UNION Minister Kiren Rijju on Friday strongly condemned the denial of visa by China to Wushu athletes from Arunachal Pradesh, saying the Northeastern State is not a disputed territory but an inalienable part of India.

In a strongly-worded statement, the MP from Arunachal Pradesh said the people of the State resolutely oppose any illegal claim of China on its land and the populace and asked the International Olympic Committee to reign in China's illegitimate action.

"I strongly condemn this act by China to deny visas to our Wushu athletes from Arunachal Pradesh who were to participate in the (Contd on page 4)



Beijing acting against diplomatic norms: CM Khandu

ITANAGAR, Sept 22 (PTI)

ARUNACHAL Pradesh Chief Minister Pema Khandu on Friday criticised China for denial of accreditation to three sportspersons from the State for participation in the Hangzhou Asian Games.

Khandu said the incident was unfortunate.

"Beijing has acted against the established diplomatic norms and has shown utter disregard for the spirit of sports. People of Arunachal Pradesh, an integral part of Bharat, firmly stand by our players and vehemently oppose China's abominable decision," he posted on X.

"We want the International Olympic Committee to make Beijing realize the gravity of the (Contd on page 4)



ISRO attempts to wake up Chandrayaan-3's Vikram and Pragyan



BENGALURU, Sept 22 (PTI)

ISRO on Friday said it has made efforts to establish communication with its lunar mission Chandrayaan-3's lander Vikram and rover Pragyan to ascertain their 'wake-up condition' after they had been put into sleep mode early this month -- but no signals have been received from them as of now.

Attempts to make contact with the lander and rover will continue, the national space agency said on social media platform X. With dawn breaking on the Moon, ISRO attempted to reestablish communication with the lander and rover, to revive them so that they can continue with scientific experiments. Both the lander and the rover were put into sleep

(Contd on page 4)

Parliament worked overtime during special session

■ Lok Sabha sat for over 31 hours, around eight hours more than scheduled time of 22 hours 45 minutes. Rajya Sabha functioned for 27 hours 44 minutes, against a scheduled time of 21 hours 45 minutes

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (PTI)

BOTH Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha worked more than their scheduled time during the special session of Parliament. It was also the only session in the 17th Lok Sabha when the Lower House did not lose any time due to adjournments, according to data compiled by a think tank.

The special session which concluded on Thursday, a day ahead of its schedule, saw the historic Women's Reservation Bill being passed by both Houses - the only bill to be passed in this session. Discussions on 75 years of Parliament and the success of Chandrayaan 3 were also held.

According to the data compiled by PRS Legislative Research, Lok Sabha sat for over 31 hours, around eight hours more than the scheduled time of 22 hours 45 minutes. This makes the working time of Lok Sabha around 137 per cent of its scheduled time.



Rajya Sabha functioned for 27 hours 44 minutes, against a scheduled time of 21 hours 45 minutes, working for 128 per cent of its planned time.

Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla had announced at the end of the session that the productivity of the lower House was 132 per cent for this session, which was revised later to 160 per cent.

No time was lost to adjournments in this session in Lok Sabha. Rajya Sabha lost around one and half hour to adjournments. The data showed this session had second highest productivity so far. In the Monsoon Session of 2020, Lok Sabha functioned for 145 per cent of its scheduled time.

The PRS report added that Lok Sabha spent 64 per cent of its time in the special session on debates and 33 per cent on legislative business. Rajya Sabha meanwhile spent 51 per cent of its time on debates, and 45 per cent time in passing the lone women's reservation bill.

Five bills were listed for consideration and passing as part

of the agenda for the session, however, none of them were taken up during the session.

Lok Sabha discussed The Constitution (128th Amendment) Bill - to provide one third reservation to women in the houses of people - which was introduced on September 19, lasted around 10 hours. A total of 60 members, including 32 women, participated in the discussion. The bill was passed with near unanimity, with two MPs voting against it.

According to the Lok Sabha secretariat, discussion on the parliamentary journey of 75 years initiated by Prime Minister Narendra Modi lasted for six hours and 43 minutes and 36 members participated in it. The discussion on the success of Chandrayaan-3 mission in Lok Sabha lasted for 12 hours and 25 minutes and 87 members participated in the discussion. In Rajya Sabha, the Women's Reservation Bill was discussed for over 12 hours, according to PRS data. Over 14 hours were spent of debates in the upper House.

Cannot run affairs of Army, says SC

NEW DELHI, Sept 22 (PTI)

COURTS cannot run the affairs of the Army, the Supreme Court observed on Friday while hearing a petition filed by a woman Colonel who was given the charge of a company of soldiers which is ordinarily commanded by a Major, two ranks her junior.

A bench headed by Chief Justice D Y Chandrachud was hearing three matters—two pertaining to the women officers of the Army and one of the Navy— in which several grievances have been raised including about promotions.

"We now can't run the affairs

of the Army," the bench, also comprising Justices J P Pardiwala and Manoj Misra, told senior advocate Menakshi Arora, appearing for the petitioners, when she raised the issue of the woman colonel having been given the charge of a company which is ordinarily led by a major rank officer. "We interfere in those cases on issues of principles," it observed, adding, "Surely, we can't start running the command structure of the Army".

She said it was a case where the woman officer has been given permanent commission and she is a colonel in the Army. Arora said it amounts to "gross humiliation" of the woman officer who is now a colonel. "Ordinarily, a colonel has to be put in a command post which will have a certain number of JCOs (junior commissioned officers), officers and others under them. Now people who are junior to me have been given units in those commands," she said. "You have heard the grievance now," the bench told Attorney General R Venkataramani.



The apex court, which posted the matter for further hearing on September 27, said there are issues which can surely be sorted out by the authorities themselves.

The bench asked the petitioners to circulate a note, not exceeding two pages, setting out the grievances raised by them. It said the respondent authorities will be at liberty to file their responses on the issues raised. The bench clarified the pendency of these proceedings will not preclude the Army and Navy authorities from looking into the grievances raised by the petitioners and resolve them.

Quad reaffirms commitment to uphold principles of UN Charter

NEW YORK, Sept 22 (PTI)

FOREIGN Ministers of the Quad grouping comprising India, Australia, Japan and the US met here on Friday and reaffirmed their commitment to uphold the principles of the UN Charter.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Kamikawa Yoko met on the margins of the high-level 78th session of the UN General Assembly for the Quad Foreign Ministers' meeting.

"Good to join my fellow Quad Foreign Ministers from



External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar meets US Secretary of State Antony Blinken, Australian Foreign Minister Senator Penny Wong and Japanese Foreign Minister Yoko Kamikawa on the sidelines of the UNGA meeting on Friday. (ANI)

Australia, India, and Japan on the sidelines of #UNGA78. The

Quad is vital to our shared vision for a

#FreeAndOpenIndoPacific, and together we reaffirmed our commitment to uphold the purposes and principles of the @UN Charter," Blinken tweeted, along with a photograph of the Quad Foreign Ministers.

Jaishankar hit the ground running with the Quad meeting shortly after landing in New York on Friday morning to participate in the UNGA session.

Taking to X, he said, "A warm discussion with Quad colleagues to start my #UNGA78 participation. Welcomed Japanese FM Yoko Kamikawa to the meeting. Discussed defending the rules-based international order in the Indo-Pacific and delivering on Quad commitments."

Biden announces new military aid package for Ukraine

WASHINGTON, Sept 22 (PTI)



President Joe Biden shakes hands with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in White House. (AP/PTI)

THE United States will give USD 325 million in new security assistance to Ukraine, President Joe Biden has announced as he hosted his Ukrainian counterpart Volodymyr Zelenskyy at the White House and vowed to defend

the war-struck country from Russian aggression. The White House meeting on Thursday was the sixth in-person meeting between the two leaders. "Mr. President, the brave people of Ukraine -- and that's not hyperbole; the people of Ukraine have shown enormous bravery and have inspired the world with their determination to defend these principles," Biden told Zelenskyy. "Together with our partners and allies, the American people are determined to see to it that we do all we can to ensure the world stands with you, and that is our overwhelming objective right now," he said, welcoming the Ukrainian leader for the third time.