

Biased US reports interfering in our internal affairs: China

► Continued from P 1

Chinese denounced the US report, which highlighted the cooperation between China and Pakistan in sectors such as defence and space, with plans to set up a military base.

The US releases such reports year after year, grossly interfering in China's internal affairs, Zhang told a separate media briefing. The US report maliciously misinterpreted China's national defence policy, made unfounded speculations about China's military development, slandering and smearing the normal actions of the Chinese military, he said, declining to directly respond to a question on the report alleging China's expanding defence and cooperation with Pakistan. The report is full of erroneous understandings of China and geopolitical biases, exaggerating the so-called "Chinese military threat" to mislead the international community, Zhang said.

"We express our strong



China said 'the report maliciously misinterpreted our defence policy... the US releases such reports year after year'

dissatisfaction and firm opposition to this," he said and urged the US to stop fabricating false narratives and provoking confrontation and antagonism.

In his response to the Pentagon report on India-China ties, Lin stated that Beijing views and handles its relations with New Delhi from a strategic height and a long-term perspective. "We stand ready to strengthen communication, enhance mutual trust, promote cooperation and properly handle differences with India, and advance a sound and stable bilateral relationship," he said.

On the references to the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the US report, Lin said, "The boundary question is a matter between China and India, and the current border situation between the two countries is generally stable with smooth communication channels". "China opposes relevant country's groundless and irresponsible comments," he said.

In its annual report to Congress on Tuesday on 'Military and Security Developments Involving the People's Republic of China 2025', the US Department of War said China probably seeks to capitalise from the de-escalating tensions along the LAC with India to stabilise bilateral relations and to prevent the deepening of US-India ties. The report referred to a meeting between Chinese President Xi Jinping and PM Narendra Modi on the sidelines of the Brics Summit in Oct 2024. Two days before their meeting, the agreement was to disengage from the remaining

standoff sites along the LAC.

The Xi-Modi meeting marked the onset of monthly high-level engagements between the two countries, where parties discussed border management and next steps for the bilateral relationship, including direct flights, visa facilitation and exchange of academics and journalists, it said.

"China's leadership has extended the term 'core interest' to cover Taiwan and China's sovereignty claims amid territorial disputes in the South China Sea, the Senkaku Islands, and the northeastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh," the report said. It also highlighted the cooperation between China and Pakistan in sectors such as defence and space, adding that Beijing "likely also considered" setting up a base in Pakistan.

It said China is actively considering and planning for additional military facilities. Pakistan is one of the countries where China has likely considered setting up a base, it said. 77

ADB signs \$730m pacts with Pak for two projects to boost infra, reforms

Islamabad: The Asian Development Bank on Thursday signed agreements with Pakistan for two major projects worth \$730 million to support the country's energy infrastructure and institutional reforms.

Muhammad Humair Karim, secretary, economic affairs division, and Asian Development Bank country director Emma Fan signed the documents at an agreement ceremony. The agreements include the Second Power Transmission Strengthening Project valued at \$330 million and the Accelerating State-Owned Enterprise (SOE) Transformation Programme worth \$400 million, according to a statement by the economic affairs division.

Karim expressed appreciation for ADB's role as a trusted development partner and its continued support to the country in advancing critical infrastructure and governance reforms. PTI

Army personnel can now sign up on Instagram but as 'passive observers': Sources

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (PTI)

THE Indian Army has brought a change in its social media guidelines under which its personnel can now sign up on Instagram, but with a rider that they can use it only as "passive observers" without putting up posts or comments on the platform, sources said on Thursday.

The move aims to augment the awareness level of Army personnel in the "digital age of information" and guard them against any potential or inadvertent leak of sensitive information, they said.

The revision in guidelines was introduced a few days ago, and applies to all ranks in the Indian Army, a source in the defence establishment said.

"The revised guidelines essentially mean that Army personnel can now sign up on Instagram, but with the condition that they can use it only as passive observers. They can view posts, but cannot post content or comments on the platform," the source said.

Essentially, no "user-generated content" is allowed, so even 'liking' a post would fall in that category, the source added.

India engaged with US to find beneficial, balanced trade arrangement: Kwatra

■ By Yoshita Singh

NEW YORK/WASHINGTON, Dec 25 (PTI)

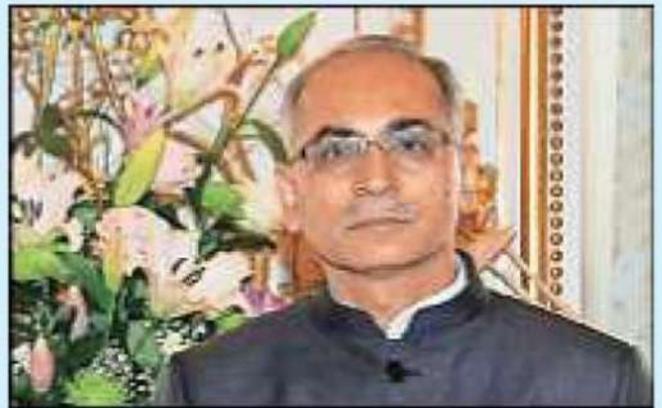
INDIA remains very constantly engaged with the United States to find a mutually beneficial and balanced trade arrangement as early as possible, India's Ambassador to the US Vinay Mohan Kwatra said.

"On trade and tariff we remain very constantly engaged with the United States Trade Representative (USTR) with the hope to find a mutually beneficial and a balanced trade arrangement as early as possible," Kwatra told PTI in an exclusive interview here.

"Our effort all along, right through this whole year, the tone for the relationship was set during Prime Minister's visit in early February. We agreed to a very, very significant and substantial outcome document across range of areas. Space was one of them," he said.

Kwatra termed India's successful launch of an American communication satellite on Wednesday as a "very important and big day" for partnership between Washington and New Delhi, saying it caps a series of achievements in 2025 in bilateral space cooperation between the countries.

"And if you look at the areas which we have plotted in the field of space, you can easily see 10 months down the line, they have mostly, if not all of them, achieved really. We continue to work very, very proactively in other areas also including in the fields of



"We have been working with a range of stakeholders in the US, both in the private sector, the Government sector in the upcoming AI Action Summit in February," Kwatra said.

trade, science and technology, artificial intelligence," Kwatra said.

"We have been working with a range of stakeholders in the US, both in the private sector, the Government sector, in the think tank circle for a very substantial participation of theirs in the upcoming AI Action Summit in February," he said.

India will host the AI Impact Summit on February 19-20 in New Delhi, the first time an AI summit will be hosted in the Global South, after similar Global AI Summits in Bletchley Park (UK), Seoul and Paris.

Kwatra added that "technology has been a very principal domain of our engagement."

'Samsung looking to deepen its manufacturing footprint in India'

NEW DELHI, Dec 25 (PTI)

SAMSUNG Electronics has ruled out listing of its India business for now, saying it will instead focus on accelerating artificial intelligence adoption across its products and expanding its consumer finance arm to drive sales in one of the most important growth markets.

In an interview with PTI, JB Park, President and CEO of Samsung Southwest Asia, said the South Korean giant is looking to deepen its manufacturing footprint in India and has applied under the production-linked incentive (PLI) scheme for components to manufacture mobile phone displays in India. Samsung runs its largest smartphone manufacturing facility in the world in Noida, which has evolved into a key export hub in recent years. When asked about any possibility of IPO, Park said: "No, we do not have any such

plans as of now".

While other South Korean peers like Hyundai Motor India and LG Electronics have tapped public markets to raise capital and strengthen their local footprint, Samsung places a preference on internal growth over market-funded expansion.

The strategy reflects a dual aim - leveraging AI to differentiate products in a crowded consumer electronics market while using financing solutions to boost sales amid slowing global demand.

Park said Samsung would be adequately funded through its capital requirement for investment in growth opportunities. Besides

IPO, there are different means to acquire capital, such as institutional borrowings or through corporate bonds, among others.

"So, there are multiple options that you can get the working capital in place. So, IPO is not the plan for Samsung," he said.



President and CEO of Samsung Southwest Asia, JB Park

On Day 1, Navi Mumbai International Airport handles 48 flights serving 4,000 passengers

MUMBAI, Dec 25 (ANI)

THE Navi Mumbai International Airport (NMIA) that commenced commercial operations on Thursday handled 48 flights connecting nine domestic destinations, serving over 4,000 passengers on day one.

Peak traffic was recorded between 05:00 and 07:00 hours, reflecting strong early demand and operational readiness from the outset, a statement released by the Adani Group said.

Chairman Gautam Adani personally welcomed passengers from the inaugural flight and interacted with airport staff, frontline workers and first-time flyers. He later joined a ceremonial walk through the departure terminal with airport employees, community representatives and Adani Foundation benefi-



First passengers are welcomed as airside operations commence at Navi Mumbai International Airport on Thursday. (ANI)

aries. The airport launch concluded with a flag-hoisting ceremony led by Param Vir Chakra awardees Captain Bana Singh and Subedar Major Sanjay Kumar, followed by the national anthem. Leading sportspersons Suryakumar Yadav, Mithali

Raj and Sunil Chhetri, along with social influencers Malini Agarwal and Viraj Ghelani, were present.

Adani said that welcoming NMIA's first passengers, alongside the Param Vir Chakra awardees, offered a glimpse of India now taking shape.

Standing with workers, farmers, social workers and colleagues with disabilities, he said, captured the spirit of a nation moving forward with confidence and compassion. Calling it "a proud day for Mumbai and for India," he added that NMIA stands as a promise of what the country can achieve when ambition is guided by purpose and delivered with speed and execution.

Airline leadership from IndiGo, Air India Express and Akasa Air participated in the launch, confirming the start of scheduled departures from Navi Mumbai.

Cultural performances featuring traditional Maharashtrian Lezim (folk dance), Dhol (percussion drums) and Tutari (ceremonial wind instrument) added a strong local flavour, offering visitors a vivid glimpse into Maharashtra's cultural heritage.