

DIPLOMATIC BOYCOTT OF WINTER OLYMPICS



Issue

The US government has announced the diplomatic boycott of Beijing Winter Olympics game that will be held in February 2022.

Background

China's capital city, Beijing will become the only city in the world to host both the summer and Winter Games.

Details

- After the announcement by US, countries such as New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom and Canada will also diplomatically boycott the games.
- Diplomatic boycott does not mean that athletes will not participate in the games but only the official representation will not be carried out.

Diplomatic boycott

- It means that countries will not send an official government delegation to Beijing during the Games.
- During the summer Olympics in Tokyo, First Lady Jill Biden had led the official government delegation to the games.

Reasons for boycott

- The US has been accusing China of human rights violation in Xinjiang province against the Uighur Muslims and other ethnic minorities.

- Other countries have also cited the same reason for diplomatic boycott. The Peng Shuai controversy also played a significant role in decision.

China's reaction

- China has said that there will not be any impact on success if officials from the certain countries so not attend the games.
- It is expected that the move will not have any financial implications as official sponsors or broadcasters have not pulled out.

Effects of boycott

- Boycott of games by participants will be catastrophic for both athletes and also revenue. Large number of channels pay a fortune to telecast the games and governments invest resources in training athletes.
- The upcoming games in 2028 and 2032 are slated to be held in USA and Australia. There are fears that Chinese sponsors may pull out during the event.

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