

India takes up 'anomalies' in new UN world map with officials concerned

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

The External Affairs Ministry said on Tuesday that it has taken up the "anomalies" in the world map, used extensively in the United Nations General Assembly during the discussion on the India-backed "Correct the Map" resolution, with the persons concerned. The map depicted India's Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as distinct regions caught between unspecified Indian and Chinese claim lines.

In the Ministry's bi-weekly briefing, spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal reiterated that India had voted for the principle behind the "Correct the Map" resolution but had not endorsed any map. The resolution seeks to correct distortions in commonly used world maps, "which are seen as misrepresenting the relative size of continents and contribute to a diminished perception of Africa and other equatorial regions", as per the UN.

The Hindu reported on Tuesday that the map released on July 1 by UN Geospatial, and which remains on the UN



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RANDHIR JAISWAL

Spokesperson,
External Affairs Ministry



Geospatial website, did not use the traditional UN cartographical markers like "Indian line" and "Chinese line" while demarcating Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin, thereby creating ambiguity regarding the status of the two regions.

The map showed the Line of Control between India and Pakistan in Jammu and Kashmir as a dotted line and gave an explanation for it.

However, it did not give explanations for not clearly specifying the Chinese and Indian claim lines in Arunachal Pradesh and Aksai Chin as the UN had done in previously published maps.

India's stance

Responding to a question on this, Mr. Jaiswal said, "We have endorsed the principle of equalising

maps, but not of any map. There may be maps for consultation. We have taken up the anomalies with the concerned persons".

"India voted in favour of the resolution and has issued its clarification there. The UN has not endorsed any map," said Mr. Jaiswal.

The "Correct the Map" resolution was passed on September 4.

Following the passing of the resolution, Mr. Jaiswal had said on Sunday that India had voted in favour of the "underlying principle of promoting equal-area cartographic representation", adding, "India's sovereign territory, including the Union Territories of Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, must be depicted in accordance with India's official map. Any inaccurate or misleading depiction is unacceptable."

Karnataka told to release 6,000 cusecs a day to T.N.

Cauvery Water Management Authority upholds CWRC order; Karnataka Minister calls decision illogical, says State is in the grip of drought and may approach SC; Tamil Nadu seeks more water

B.S. Satish Kumar
BENGALURU

The Cauvery Water Management Authority (CWMA), which met in Delhi on Tuesday, has upheld the Cauvery Water Regulation Committee's (CWRC) direction to Karnataka to ensure flows to the neighbouring Tamil Nadu at the rate of 6,000 cusecs a day for the next 15 days.

The CWRC issued this direction earlier in the day and Karnataka had challenged it before the CWMA. However, the CWMA endorsed the CWRC's decision and asked Karnataka to ensure a flow of 6,000 cusecs a day at Biligundlu inter-State water gauge for 15



Vital support: Farmers in Tiruchi welcome the release of Cauvery water from the Mettur reservoir for irrigation recently. M. MOORTHY

days, beginning 8 a.m. on September 9. The total quantum of water that has been ordered to be released amounts to approximately 7.8 tmc ft.

Karnataka Water Resources Minister N. Cheluvarayanaswamy expressed dis-

appointment over the order to release water when the State is gripped by drought and termed the decision "illogical".

He indicated that Karnataka would consider approaching the Supreme Court on Wednesday after

consulting Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar.

Expressing anguish over the order, he said, "The authorities who are issuing orders in Delhi are unable to understand the conditions on the ground."

Earlier, Karnataka told the CWMA that storage available in the four reservoirs of its Cauvery basin was critically inadequate and was barely enough to meet the State's needs.

Meanwhile, Tamil Nadu maintained that delayed releases would seriously affect Samba cultivation and the livelihood of farmers. It sought higher releases to the tune of 1.76 tmc ft a day (20,370 cusecs) for the next 15 days to clear its claimed backlog based on pro-rata entitlement.

Russia welcomes India's efforts to end Ukraine war

Both India and Russia want peaceful end to the war that has gone on for four-and-a-half years, says Kremlin spokesperson, adding Indian citizens deployed on the frontline will be sent back

Kallol Bhattacharjee

NEW DELHI

A week after Prime Minister Narendra Modi reiterated his call for an end to the long-running Ukraine-Russia war on the sidelines of the SCO summit, Kremlin spokesperson Dmitry Peskov in a virtual press interaction with the Indian media said on Tuesday that both India and Russia want a peaceful end to the war that has continued for more than four-and-a-half years.

Mr. Peskov gave a positive outlook of the upcoming BRICS summit in India on September 12 and 13 and announced that President Vladimir Putin will hold talks with Prime Minister Modi ahead of the summit on September 11.

Welcoming India's contribution to end the war, he said: "We know the position of India on the Ukrainian conflict, and to a great extent, it corresponds with our own position, because we do want the solution to the Ukrainian conflict by



Boosting ties: Narendra Modi and Vladimir Putin will hold talks ahead of the BRICS summit in New Delhi. FILE PHOTO

peaceful means, and Russia is open to this process."

Mr. Peskov added: "We welcome the willingness of the Indian side to contribute."

He noted that there are Indian citizens who are on the frontlines in Ukraine, saying that Russia has asked for a list of such individuals who India claims were fraudulently lured to fight in Ukraine on Russia's behalf. "They will be sent back," said Mr. Peskov.

The External Affairs Ministry on Tuesday said there are 24 Indian citizens

who continue to remain deployed in Russian forces and are engaged in frontline.

Mr. Peskov said Mr. Modi and Mr. Putin will meet ahead of the BRICS summit, and added: "Like always, they will touch on the bilateral agenda. Trade and economic cooperation have a very wide scope."

He referred to the challenges of sanctions from the U.S. for Indian energy purchase from Russia and said, "You know that lots of issues cannot be discussed publicly, having some un-

friendly countries that are trying to put obstacles in the way of further development of our cooperation. So it is being discussed discreetly, but in a very, very constructive manner."

India has been arguing that purchase of Russian oil is a policy that is taken keeping in mind domestic energy requirements. Mr. Peskov exuded confidence about increase in the bilateral energy trade and said, "I won't give you a figure. Every month, we have a new record."

On the expectations and challenges before the BRICS summit that will be chaired by India this time, Mr. Peskov said BRICS is not "anti-western" and that it is a grouping of countries who share an outlook.

Earlier in May 2026, strong differences between Iran and the UAE had prevented the BRICS Foreign Ministers meeting from coming out with a joint statement and there are lingering feelings that these differences could hamper a joint statement at the summit as well.

Modi hits out at critics as he opens freight corridor

PM inaugurates key sections of Western Dedicated Freight Corridor; dismissing Rahul Gandhi's campaign against his govt. as an 'echo of lies', Modi says his opponents will continue to complain

Press Trust of India

VADODARA

Prim Minister Narendra Modi on Tuesday took a dig at the Opposition over the newly inaugurated dedicated freight corridor, saying critics would still complain like a "*naraz fufa*" (grumpy uncle) and manufacture grievances, while dismissing Congress leader Rahul Gandhi's campaign against the government as "*jhooth ki goonj*" (echo of lies).

Speaking at the inauguration of three key sections of the Western Dedicated Freight Corridor, connecting Jawaharlal Nehru Port in Navi Mumbai with Dadri in Uttar Pradesh, and marking the project's completion, Mr. Modi praised his administration's pace of execution and called the



Grand welcome: Prime Minister Narendra Modi greeting attendees at the event in Vadodara on Tuesday. PTI

former UPA regime's working speed "sluggish".

"After 2014, with your blessings, when I reached Delhi, and as soon as we arrived there, we began accelerating this project. Work on the dedicated freight corridor has been completed today," he said.

The "*jhooth ki goonj*" jibe appeared to mock the *Chhatron Ki Goonj* student dialogue campaign launched by the Congress.

'Finding fault'

Targeting Mr. Gandhi without naming him, Mr. Modi said opponents would al-

ways find fault with major infrastructure milestones such as the newly inaugurated freight corridor.

"Now, the *naraz fufaji* (grumpy uncle) will start shouting: What will happen to the truck drivers? Where will the trucks go? What about the trucks people have purchased? Now, *fufaji* has found something new to complain about," the Prime Minister said, implying that Opposition parties would go out of their way to manufacture grievances against national progress.

The Prime Minister pointed to "rapid modernisation" under his decade-long tenure compared to the previous administration's shortcomings.

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U.K. govt. bans trade with illegal Israeli settlements in West Bank

Sriram Lakshman

LONDON

For one of its first foreign policy moves, the administration of U.K. Prime Minister Andy Burnham has announced a ban on trade with illegal Israeli settlements in the West Bank.

France and Canada joined the U.K. in its move.

Together these three countries issued a joint statement with Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Spain and Sweden confirming their intention to introduce new restrictions on trade with illegal settlements. Some of these countries have already sanctioned trade with illegal West Bank settlements and some have sanctions in process.

The U.K. government has said the move is to



Ed Miliband

keep alive the possibility of a 'two State solution'. British Foreign Secretary Ed Miliband told the U.K. House of Commons that Canada and France have joined the U.K. in banning such trade. The British government position was that settlers in the West Bank had engaged in ethnic cleansing, Mr. Miliband said.

He added that a new sanctions regime on illegal settlements would be in

place within six to nine months. The sanctions would also include construction, infrastructure financing and real estate companies that assist in settlements. Mr. Miliband announced that the official view of the British government was that the settlements were unlawful, as he called out settler violence and the record number of settlements built under the government of Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu over the last four years.

Mr. Miliband said the U.K. continued to support trade with 'Green Line Israel' and warned against anti-Semitism in Britain.

The economic impact of the sanctions, however, is likely to be minimal. Only a small proportion of the \$8.12 billion in bilateral trade between the U.K. and

Israel originates in the West Bank.

Israel had issued tenders for 1,200 settlements in the so-called E1 area, east of Jerusalem. Such a settlement would split the West Bank into two parts, making a contiguous Palestinian state virtually impossible. East Jerusalem and the West Bank are considered occupied territory under international law.

Israeli President said the U.K. decision would fall "on the wrong side of history" as he accused the U.K. of interference in the upcoming Knesset elections. The British consulate in Jerusalem would be shut down, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Sa'ar said.

U.S. Ambassador to Israel Mike Huckabee called the move an "irrational action" in a BBC Radio 4 interview.

Muizzu invites Burnham for discussions over Chagos Islands

Meera Srinivasan

COLOMBO

Maldives President Mohamed Muizzu on Tuesday invited British Prime Minister Andrew Burnham for talks on the disputed Chagos Islands.

In a letter to the British Prime Minister, President Muizzu “expressed the Maldives’ concerns regarding the United Kingdom’s decision to proceed with the handover of the Chagos Islands to Mauritius”, his office said in a statement.

In May 2025, Britain



Mohamed Muizzu

signed an agreement with Mauritius to transfer sovereignty over the contested Chagos Islands, saying the move would ensure the future of a U.S.-U.K. military base vital to British securi-

ty. U.S. President Donald Trump criticised the agreement, calling it “a big mistake”. In April this year, however, the British government put on hold its deal to cede sovereignty of the Chagos Islands and shelved the legislation needed for the move.

Since the beginning of this year, the Maldives has voiced opposition to the U.K.’s decision to cede sovereignty over the Chagos Archipelago to Mauritius, with Mr. Muizzu maintaining that the Maldives holds “the most legitimate claim” to the archipelago.

TEHRAN-BACKED HOUTHIS ACCUSE RIYADH OF LAUNCHING AIRSTRIKES ON YEMEN

Houthi strike oil facilities in 4 Saudi cities as war expands

US submersible captured near Strait, says IRGC

Reuters
Cairo, Dubai, September 8

YEMEN'S TEHRAN-backed Houthis attacked four cities in the south of US ally Saudi Arabia Tuesday, injuring over 70 people and setting oil installations ablaze in what appeared to be a major expansion of the six-month-old West Asia war.

The Houthis said they launched a broad operation deep into Saudi territory. They used drones and missiles to strike a Saudi airbase in southern city of Khamis Mushait, and targets belonging to Saudi Arabia's state oil company in nearby Abha, Najran on the Yemeni border, and Jazan, a major Red Sea port city that houses a large refinery and power plant.

NASA satellite images showed a thick cloud of black smoke over the Jazan refinery and a column of white smoke rising from an oil distribution centre in Abha.

Saudi authorities described blazes at the sites and said women and children were among the 73 people hurt. The reports of such large numbers of



wounded suggested the attacks were among the biggest carried out against Saudi Arabia since the US and Israel launched their war against Iran in February.

The Houthis released pictures of explosions of what they said were trucks from Saudi Arabia they had hit in separate strikes at the border in another area the previous day.

Houthi-controlled media reported later on Tuesday that Saudi warplanes had carried out airstrikes in Yemen's Jubah district east of the capital Sanaa and Taiz province in the southwest.

Saudi Arabia has led an Arab coalition battling against the Houthis in Yemen for more than a decade. That war had calmed in recent years, but a ceasefire there has broken down, with the Houthis threatening shipping at

the mouth of the Red Sea.

The International Organization for Migration said more than 18,500 people had fled their homes because of fighting along Yemen's west coast over the past three days. "The coalition will take all necessary operational measures to deter this terrorist militia and resolutely confronts its hostile approach," Turki al-Malki, spokesperson for the Saudi-led coalition, son X.

Houthi spokesperson Yahya Saree accused Riyadh of having escalated the war by launching airstrikes on Yemen, and said the Houthis would respond.

Meanwhile, the navy of Iran's Revolutionary Guards said on Tuesday it had captured an unmanned US submersible at the mouth of the strait. There was no confirmation from Washington.

US imposes 36 fresh sanctions on Iran, aviation sector targeted

Washington: The United States on Tuesday issued 36 fresh Iran-related sanctions targeting Iran's aviation sector and other companies as part of a broad push to escalate economic pressure on Tehran as the war in West Asia entered a seventh month.

The US Treasury Department said the action was aimed at grounding Iran's Mahan Air, already sanctioned by the US and the EU, and all other Iranian airlines.

The sanctions also took aim at covert front companies, foreign intermediaries and deceptive trans-shipment routes that Washington says Iran relies on to obtain US-origin aircraft and sensitive technology.

The Treasury also issued an alert asking financial institutions to report any procurement networks supporting Iran's aviation industry, while designating firms based in Turkey and the UAE that it said helped Tehran procure US-origin aircraft and sensitive technology. **Reuters**

Israel to close British consulate after UK, France, Canada ban trade imports from settlements

12 countries make statement in support of two-state solution

London, Tel Aviv, Paris, September 8

ISRAEL SAID Tuesday it was closing Britain's consulate in East Jerusalem in response to plans by the UK, France and Canada to block imports from Israeli settlements in West Bank.

Britain will also no longer participate in a US-led coordination mission for Gaza and some British officials, including former Labour party leader Jeremy Corbyn, and other nationals will be banned from entering Israel, Israeli Foreign Minister Gideon Saar said.

"The British move is morally distorted, and constitutes blatant interference in the affairs of a sovereign state and its electoral process," he said, describing comments by Foreign Secretary



A view of the British Consulate in east Jerusalem. AP

Ed Miliband about ethnic cleansing of Palestinians by Israel as accusations that were "outrageous lies".

The British consulate in East Jerusalem is accredited to the Palestinian Authority in the West Bank. Saar said that he had coordinated Israel's response with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu as Israeli President Isaac Herzog accused Britain of interfering in Israel's upcoming elections, due in late October.

The trade measures pro-

posed by Britain, France and Canada on Tuesday are the latest in a series of actions targeting Israel's settlement policy and underscore its growing diplomatic isolation among some of its traditional allies.

They were joined by foreign ministers of 10 countries, including Denmark, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden, in a statement reaffirming support for a negotiated two-state settlement, a Palestinian state co-existing peacefully alongside Israel. Concern is mounting over settlement expansion and violence in Israeli-occupied West Bank.

"Together, we are resolute: the two-state solution must be protected, and we will take action in pursuit of a just and lasting peace," they said.

Miliband said on Tuesday that Britain could no longer simply "call out" injustice and suffering, but had to act to oppose the expansion of settlements, which he said threatened viability of a Palestinian state.

India, China Corps Commander talks went on for two days: MEA

Amrita Nayak Dutta

New Delhi, September 8

INDIA AND China held Corps Commander-level military talks in the eastern sector on Sunday and Monday, the Ministry of External Affairs said Tuesday. The meeting took place amid ongoing tensions in the Taksing area of the Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh.

The first Senior Highest Military Commander-Level Flag Meeting was held on two consecutive days at Wacha on the Indian side in Arunachal Pradesh and Damai on the Chinese side on Sunday (September 6) and Monday (September 7), respectively, official spokesperson for Ministry of External Affairs, Randhir Jaiswal, said at a press conference. He added that a similar mechanism also exists in the Western Sector.

This mechanism has existed in eastern Ladakh since 2020 to resolve the military standoff between India and China along the LAC. India and China have held 23 rounds of Corps Commander-level meetings at the

Chushul-Moldo border meeting point in eastern Ladakh to resolve issues related to the military standoff along the LAC.

Jaiswal said the meeting took place pursuant to the understandings reached between the Special Representatives of India and China in August 2025 and August 2026, and subsequent discussions at Working Mechanism for Consultation and Coordination (WMCC) meetings in Beijing and New Delhi in May and August 2026, respectively.

Lt General Girish Kalia, commander of the Army's III Corps, also called the Spear Corps, headquartered at Rangapahar near Dimapur in Nagaland, met his Chinese counterpart along with other officers for talks. These talks follow a meeting in Beijing on August 25 between NSA Ajit Doval and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, the Special Representatives of the respective countries for boundary talks. This comes ahead of Chinese President Xi Jinping's likely visit to India for the BRICS Summit on September 12-13.

'PERHAPS WE SHOULDN'T DISMISS GDP DATA BECAUSE IT DOESN'T CONFORM TO PRIOR EXPECTATIONS'

'Surprised by furore over GDP; methods, data already public'

According to MoSPI Secretary Saurabh Garg, any comparison between the old and new GDP series is "unwarranted"

Siddharth Upasani & Aanchal Magazine
New Delhi, September 8

THE ONGOING furore over the new GDP series is surprising as it comes six months after it was originally released, said Saurabh Garg, Secretary, Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation (MoSPI). Garg further said the old numbers — that have now been revised down — should not be termed overestimates.

"Saying overestimation gives the impression that there was a systematic bias. That's alluding a bit much," Garg told *The Indian Express* in an interview. "...it's not an overestimation. GDP is an estimation and you make estimations based on the best data available. When the 2011-12 and 2004-05 series were estimated, certain indicators were used and later changed, leading to better estimates. Now you have even better estimates."

On August 31, MoSPI released GDP data for the first quarter of 2026-27, which

showed growth was 7.8%, well above what most economists had anticipated. According to Garg, this higher-than-expected growth print may be the reason for the criticism.

"Maybe my sense is that no one expected a 7.8% number. When your a priori assumption does not meet the data, and the data is showing that there is no reason to doubt the numbers, perhaps we should not dismiss the GDP data simply because it does not conform to prior expectations."

When asked about comments that India's rapid growth is not being 'felt' on the ground, Garg argued that while GDP is an important indicator, there are "other factors, uncertainties, the global situation" which determine how each individual 'feels' about economic indicators.

"It's like someone mentioning 'We don't feel the inflation, we feel inflation (rate) should be higher'. So, individually, how you see the prices might be different from when they are aggregated across the country



Saurabh Garg, MoSPI

and across different areas," he said. Pointing to several high-frequency, or monthly, consumption and production indicators such as those for steel, cement, electricity, and automobiles, Garg said any comparison between old series and new series was "unwarranted". The new GDP series is built on a wider set of indicators and surveys which provide a more comprehensive picture of the economy. This, he said, makes the new series the best so far.

"Every series, at that time, is the best series. There is no doubt (that the new series is the best) because we are using the best available data," Garg said, adding that the last 10 years

have seen numerous new data sources. This is unlikely to be repeated in the next five years or so when the next GDP base revision is done.

"Earlier, Goods and Services Tax, Periodic Labour Force Survey, Annual Survey of Unincorporated Sector Enterprises (ASUSE), and Public Financial Management System were not there... Digital data like e-Vahan was not there."

Dismissing the criticism from former Chief Economic Advisor Arvind Subramanian that MoSPI does not have good and timely data on the informal economy, Garg said ASUSE and PLFS figures, not proxies, are being used even for quarterly GDP estimates. While released in February 2026, the new GDP series has come under fire from various quarters, sparked by comments from former finance secretary Subhash Chandra Garg that the 7.8% real growth rate in April-June was only possibly because of a reduction in the year-ago GDP data. According to Subhash Chandra Garg, nominal GDP growth in April-June should have been 2.6%, and not 10.3%, and real growth close to zero. He arrived at these numbers after comparing data from the old and new GDP series.

Calling this debate "un-

necessary", MoSPI Secretary Garg said he cannot think of any reasonable criticism of the new GDP data as the government had "made the best use of data, digital data, and surveys".

The primary reason for the downward revision in nominal GDP in previous years, he said, is the transition from proxy-based estimates in old series to direct, empirical annual surveys for the informal sector in the new series. Rejecting criticism that MoSPI has not disclosed various aspects and methods of calculating the new GDP series, Garg said all the relevant data and technical issues were made public months ago and the keenly-awaited 'Sources and Methods' document would only be a compilation.

The new IIP series was released in May and output PPI data starting 2022-23 was made public in June. Before that, in February, MoSPI had released three reports by sub-committees of the Advisory Committee on National Accounts Statistics. These reports were on 'Methodological Improvement for the Base Revision of GDP', 'Constant Price Estimates', and 'Incorporation of New Data Sources, Rates and Ratios'.

FULL REPORT ON

WWW.INDIANEXPRESS.COM



Rupee falls 18 paise to close at 94.74 against U.S. dollar

The rupee fell 18 paise to close at 94.74 against the American currency on Tuesday as geopolitical tensions in West Asia and rising Brent crude prices nearing \$99 per barrel weighed on investor sentiment. Forex traders said the rupee declined on a surge in crude oil prices amid fresh attacks on Aramco's facilities by Yemen's Houthis. Rising geopolitical tensions in West Asia and a weak trend in domestic equities further pressured the rupee. PTI