

Russia moots UN resolution on banning arms in space

UNITED NATIONS, May 2 (AP)

RUSSIA has circulated a UN resolution calling on all countries to take urgent action to prevent putting weapons in outer space "for all time" a week after it vetoed a US-Japan resolution to stop an arms race in space.

The Russian draft resolution, obtained on Wednesday by The Associated Press, goes further than the US-Japan proposal, not only calling for efforts to stop weapons from being deployed in outer space but for preventing "the threat or use of force in outer space," also "for all time."

It says this should include deploying weapons "from

space against Earth, and from Earth against objects in outer space."

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia told the Security Council when he vetoed the US-Japan draft that it didn't go far enough in banning all types of weapons in space.

The vetoed resolution focused solely on weapons of mass destruction including nuclear arms, and made no mention of other weapons in space.

It would have called on all countries not to develop or deploy nuclear arms or other weapons of mass destruction in space, as banned under a 1967 international treaty that

the US and Russia ratified, and to agree to the need to verify compliance.

Before the US-Japan resolution was put to a vote on April 24, Russia and China proposed an amendment that would call on all countries, especially those with space capabilities, "to prevent for all time the placement of weapons in outer space, and the threat of use of force in outer spaces."

The vote was 7 countries in favour, 7 against, and one abstention and the amendment was defeated because it failed to get the minimum 9 "yes" votes in the 15-member Security Council required for adoption.

US Ambassador Linda

Thomas-Greenfield told the Council after the vote that Russian President Vladimir Putin has said Moscow has no intention of deploying nuclear weapons in space.

"Today's veto begs the question: Why? Why, if you are following the rules, would you not support a resolution that reaffirms them? What could you possibly be hiding," she asked. "It's baffling. And it's a shame."

Putin was responding to White House confirmation in February that Russia has obtained a "troubling" anti-satellite weapons capability, although such a weapon is not operational yet.

Russia's UN Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia said after cast-

ing the veto that the US-Japan resolution cherry-picked weapons of mass destruction.

He said much of the US and Japan's actions become clear "if we recall that the US and their allies announced some time ago plans to place weapons ... in outer space."

Nebenzia also accused the US of blocking a Russian-Chinese proposal since 2008 for a treaty against putting weapons in outer space.

Thomas-Greenfield accused Russia of undermining global treaties to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons, irresponsibly invoking "dangerous nuclear rhetoric," walking away from several of its arms control obligations.

India lodges protest with China over its infra devtpt in Shaksgam valley

NEW DELHI, May 2 (PTI)

INDIA has lodged a strong protest with China for carrying out construction activities in the Shaksgam valley, in an "illegal" attempt to alter the situation on the ground.

Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) spokesperson Randhir Jaiswal said on Thursday that the Shaksgam valley is a part of India and New Delhi never accepted the so-called China-Pakistan

boundary pact of 1963 through which Islamabad "unlawfully" attempted to cede the area to Beijing.

"We have consistently conveyed our rejection of the same. We have registered our protest with the Chinese side against illegal attempts to alter facts on the ground," Jaiswal said at his weekly media briefing.

"We further reserve the right to take necessary
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At UN debate, India backs full membership of Palestinian state

New Delhi: After the US last month vetoed in the Security Council a resolution seeking full membership of the UN for Palestine, India on Wednesday backed Palestine's bid, expressing hope that the endeavour will soon get endorsed, reports **Sachin Parashar**. Palestine is currently a "permanent observer state" at the UN with no power to vote on resolutions and decisions. A full membership will allow the global body to recognise a Palestinian state.

Participating in a debate on the use of veto, Indian ambassador Ruchira Kamboj noted that Palestine's application was not approved because of the US veto. "In keeping with India's long-standing position, we hope this would be reconsidered in due course, and Palestine's endeavour to become a member will get endorsed," said Kamboj.

Pak embarks on moon mission, on China wings

Srinivas Laxman

Nearly nine months after India's Chandrayaan 3 soft-landed on moon's south pole and set records, Pakistan is set to embark Friday on its maiden lunar mission on board China's Change'6 orbiter.

Change'6 is slated for lift-off around 1.30pm (Indian time) from Wenchang Satellite Launch Centre on China's Hainan Island. According to Pakistan's Institute Of Space Technology (IST), the moon-bound spacecraft is a lunar cubesat, named ICube Qamar (ICUBE-Q), with a three-month mission span. It is a collaborative effort of IST's faculty and students, Pakistan's national space agency Suparco and China's Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU).

According to IST, ICUBE-Q weighs approximately 7kg and is equipped with two optical cameras to capture the lunar surface. It features systems for attitude control, thermal management and deep-space communication.

Turkiye 'halts' trade while Colombia breaks diplomatic ties with Israel

Turkiye stopped all trade with Israel as of Thursday, according to two Turkish officials familiar with the matter, adding to already high-running tensions between the once-close allies over the war in Gaza.

The move expands last month's restriction on some Turkish exports to Israel, as Prez Recep Tayyip Erdogan steps up criticism of the Jewish state. Ankara hasn't formally announced the suspension and it wasn't clear under what conditions trade would resume. Trade between the countries was worth \$6.8 billion in 2023, according to Turkish statistical institute. "This is the behaviour of a dictator who tramples the interests of the Turkish people and business community, while ignoring international trade agreements." Israel's foreign minister Israel Katz said in a post on X.

Turkiye's move comes a day after Colombia Prez Gustavo Petro announced that his country is severing all diplomatic ties with Israel, describing the Israeli govt as "genocidal". Colombia is the second South American nation to break off relations with Israel after Bolivia, which cut ties in Nov over Gaza war. The Israeli govt denounced Petro's move. AGENCIES

Iran slaps sanctions on US and Britain over Israel support

Tehran: Iran announced on Thursday sanctions on several American and British individuals and entities for supporting Israel in its war against the Hamas. Iran, the regional arch-foe of Israel, unveiled the punitive measures in a statement from its foreign ministry. It said the sanctions targeted seven Americans, including General Bryan Fenton, commander of the US special operations command, and vice-admiral Brad Cooper, a former commander of the US navy's fifth fleet. UK officials and entities targeted include secretary of state for defence Grant Shapps, commander of the British army strategic command James Hockenhull and the UK Royal Navy in the Red Sea. Penalties were also announced against US firms Lockheed Martin and Chevron and British counterparts Elbit Systems, Parker Meggitt and Rafael UK. The impact of the measures on the individuals or entities, as well as their assets or dealings with Iran, remains unclear. AFP

What is keeping heatwave at bay? 5 western disturbances & counting

Unlike Many Parts Of Country, Delhi Has Seen Mercury Crossing 40°C Just Once

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New Delhi: Parts of the country are recording severe heatwave conditions with some stations touching 47 degrees Celsius, but the mercury in Delhi has remained below 40 degrees Celsius, except for one day, so far this season. Delhi, which witnesses most heatwaves from April's third week to first week of June, has not seen any such day so far.

Met officials said strong winds and cloudy skies under the influence of five western disturbances in April did not let the temperature rise higher. The maximum temperature in summer till now has mostly seen temperatures around normal or slightly above normal. The highest maximum temperature was 40.5 degrees Celsius on April 27, shows India Meteorological Department's data.

"April this year saw five western disturbances. No significant amount of rainfall was recorded due to these western disturbances, but there was cloudiness and strong winds on many days, which prevented a rise in temperature. A dust storm was also seen on a few days,"

STRONG WINDS, CLEAR SKIES HELP

No. of heatwaves recorded at Safdarjung

Year	March	April	May	June	Total no. of heatwave days
2024*	0	0	0	0	0
2023	0	0	0	0	0
2022	0	9	4	0	13
2021	1	0	0	1	2
2020	0	0	4	0	4

*Till May 2

- Delhi is yet to record a heatwave this season
- Five western disturbances in April did not let temperature to rise
- Peak season for heatwave is recorded from third week of April to first week of June

Heatwave is unlikely in Delhi for the next few days

Heatwave to severe heatwave conditions are being recorded in some areas of Gangetic West Bengal, east Bihar, east Jharkhand, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat region, Konkan & Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, south coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Telangana and interior Karnataka



Criteria for heatwave

IMD defines a heatwave day when the maximum is 4.5 degrees and above normal temperature and the maximum is at least 40 degrees Celsius. A heatwave is also considered if maximum temperature touches 45 degrees Celsius or above. A 'severe' heatwave is declared when the maximum is 6.5 degrees and above normal

said Kuldeep Srivastava, scientist and head, Regional Weather Forecasting Centre, IMD. He added that another western disturbance would start impacting the region

from Friday and it would keep the temperature around normal for a few days.

In summer 2023, no heatwave was seen at Safdarjung, which is the city's base sta-

tion, but parts of Delhi were under the grip of heatwave for three to five days. 2022 saw the longest streak of heatwaves with nine such days in April and four in May at

Safdarjung. However, the summer of 2021 was different as it recorded one heatwave each in March and June and nil in April and May. Heatwaves are largely reported in April and May, but March and June also record heatwaves, shows IMD's data.

The met department's forecast shows that heatwave is unlikely over Delhi for the next seven days. However, the met department has predicted severe heatwave to heatwave conditions in parts over Gangetic West Bengal, east Bihar, east Jharkhand, sub-Himalayan West Bengal, Odisha, Gujarat Region, Konkan & Goa, Madhya Maharashtra, Marathwada, Tamil Nadu, Puducherry & Karaikal, south Coastal Andhra Pradesh, Rayalaseema, Telangana and interior Karnataka in the next two days.

IMD defines a heatwave day when the maximum is 4.5 degrees and more above normal temperature and the maximum is at least 40 degrees Celsius. A heatwave is also considered if maximum temperature touches 45 degrees Celsius or above. A 'severe' heatwave is declared when the maximum is 6.5 degrees and more above normal.



Xenophobia causing China, Japan & India's 'economic woes': Biden

Washington: President Joe Biden has called Japan and India "xenophobic" countries that do not welcome immi-



grants, lumping the two with adversaries China and Russia as he tried to explain their economic

► **'Biased': MEA on US report on religious freedom, P 22**

► **At UN, India supports full membership for Palestine, P22**

circumstances and contrasted the four with the US on immigration.

The US President made the controversial remark at a campaign fundraising event Wednesday evening. There was no immediate reaction from either the Japanese or Indian governments. AGENCIES

MEA protests China's road in Shaksgam Valley

New Delhi: India has registered a protest with Beijing for constructing a road in the Shaksgam Valley, which was ceded to China by Pakistan in 1963, asserting it is a part of Indian territory. The MEA said India has never accepted the so-called China Pakistan Boundary Agreement of 1963 through which Pakistan unlawfully attempted to cede the area to China, and India has consistently conveyed its rejection of the same. "We have registered our protest with the Chinese side against illegal attempts to alter facts on the ground," MEA said. TNN