

# MAPS TODAY

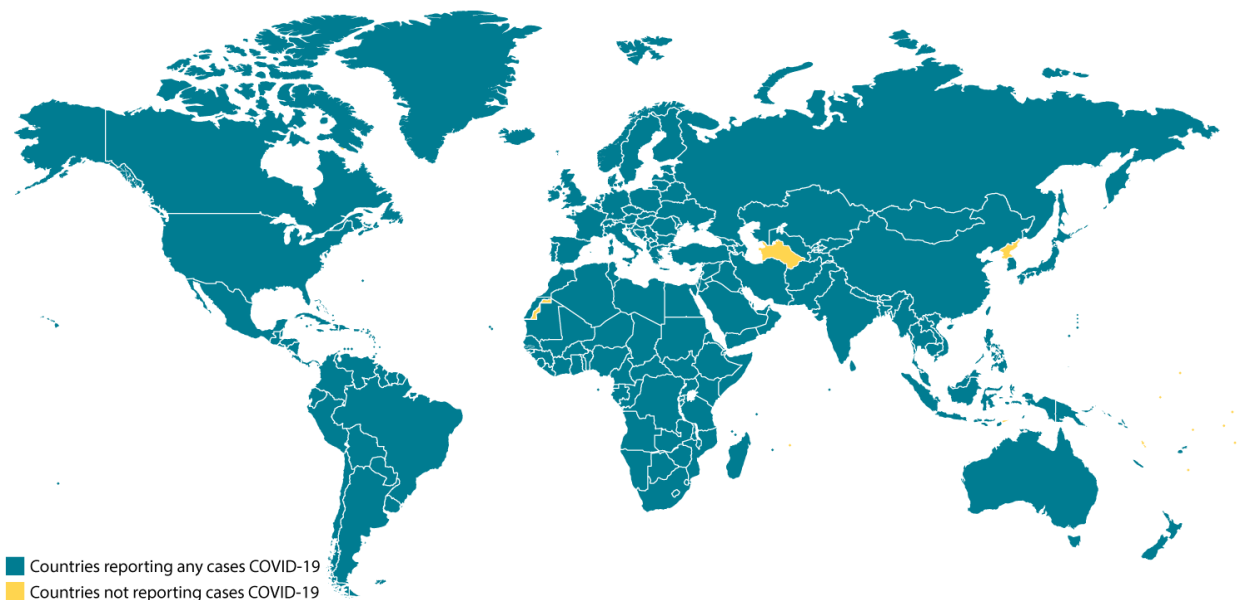
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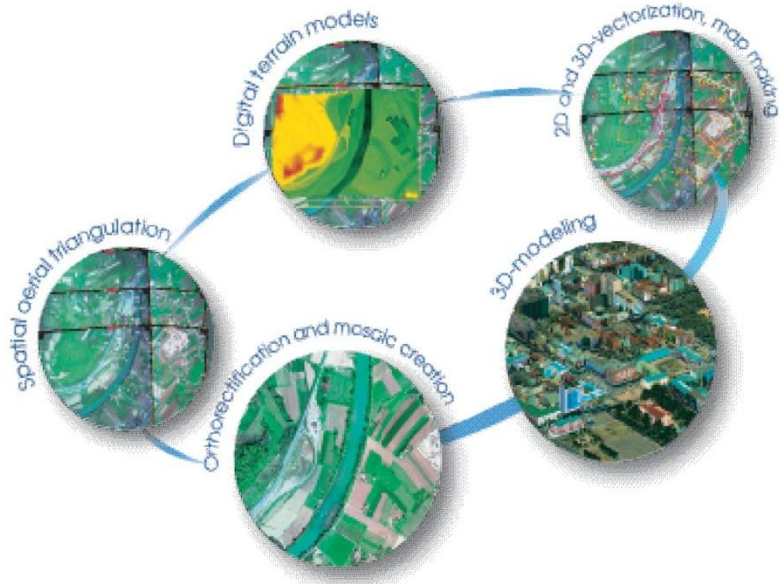


## Overview



RACURS, Russia

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# Maps Today



(Formerly GIS India since 1992 ) *On Line Journal sponsored by GeoMap Society (GEMS)*

Volume 2 Issue 4

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## **Editorial**

Boundary issues exist with our neighboring countries for decades. Read news reports and articles associated with this.

Govt of India announced Drone based mapping for villages. This is a good development though track record of results of earlier announcements has not been encouraging.

Suggestions and comments invited for improving content

Send mail to [mapstodaygis@gmail.com](mailto:mapstodaygis@gmail.com)

## **C O N T E N T**

Editorial – **Page 3**

Subscription details – **Page 5**

Maps at 1:10,000 scale – **Page 6**

    Boundary issues – **Page 7**

    China – **Page 13**

    Corona affected Map of world – **Page 14**

    Implementation Gaps – **Page 15**

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## **Maps at 1:10,000 scale**

### **India gets Web Map Service and maps at 1:10,000 scale**

By  
**Geospatial World** 10/20/2011

Vilasrao Deshmukh, Minister of Science & Technology and Earth Sciences, Government of India (GOI), released two innovative products of Survey of India (SOI), the first map of the country at 1:10,000 scale and Web Map Service (WMS).

The map of Jadcherla Mandal, Mahabubnagar District in Andhra Pradesh, India, has been prepared under an ambitious plan of mapping the entire country at 1:10,000 scale. The SOI prepared map of Jadcherla Mandal in association with NRSC and APSRAC and cleared by the Ministry of Defence. About the map, Deshmukh said, "This activity of producing a GIS enabled Open Series Maps at 1:10,000 scale for the entire country is to be completed during the 12th plan with an approximate outlay of INR 1,900 crores. This mammoth task of mapping of over 3 million square kilometres of area on 1:10,000 scale, including generation of GIS ready topographic data with attributes, is going to be the biggest surveying and mapping operation in the world."

Presently, India has topographic maps at 1:250,000 and 1:50,000 scale for the whole country and at 1:25,000 scale for about 60 percent of the country. Considering the need for higher resolution GIS Ready maps in digital form with attribute information for decision making and for other developmental programmes, SOI was entrusted with this work by the GOI.

Another product release by the minister was the launch of Web Map Service (WMS) which will make accessible map data of 1:50,000 scale to users. This service in combination with Bhuvan WMS of Department of Space fulfils the long felt need of the user community in India for accurate and authentic geospatial data through web portals. According to the Minister a proposed National Data Sharing Accessibility Policy (NDSAP) is going to usher a new era in increasing the accessibility and easier sharing of non-sensitive data amongst the various users and their availability for scientific, economic and social developmental purposes and the new web map services are aimed in this direction.

**Source:** SOI



## Boundary Issues

### NEPAL

#### **Explained: Kalapani, a small area on the India map that bothers Nepal**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/explained/explained-why-a-small-area-in-india-map-bothers-nepal-6113408/#:~:text=The%20new%20political%20map%20of%20India%2C%20recently%20released%20by%20the,far%2Dwest%20Nepal%20and%20Tibet.>

**Mapped within Uttarakhand is a 372-sq km area called Kalapani, bordering far-west Nepal and Tibet. While the Nepal government and political parties have protested, India has said the new map does not revise the existing boundary with Nepal.**



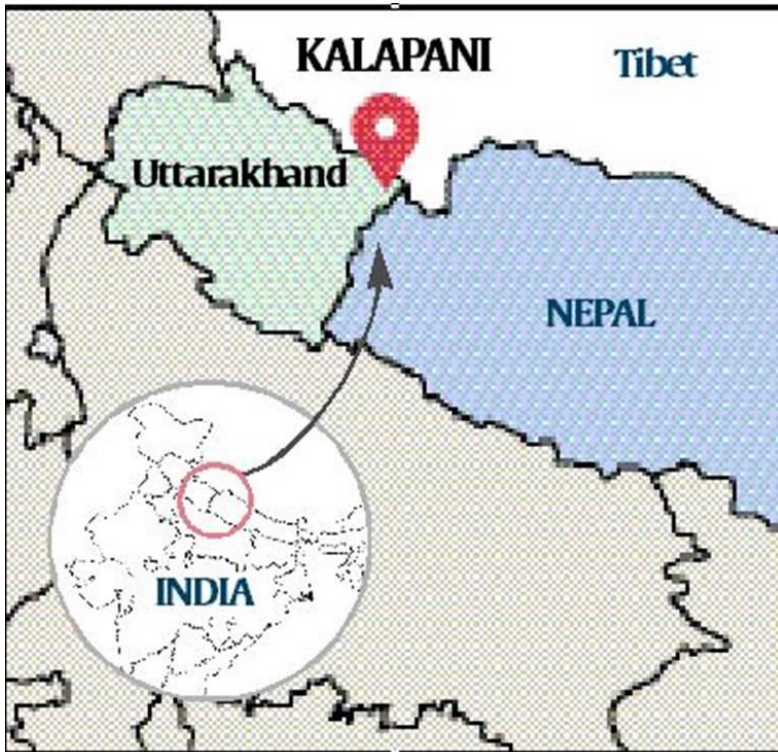
The new political map of India showing the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir

The new political map of India, recently released by the government to account for the bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, has triggered fresh protests over an old issue in Kathmandu.

Mapped within Uttarakhand is a 372-sq km area called Kalapani, bordering far-west Nepal and Tibet. While the Nepal government and political parties have protested, India has said the new map does not revise the existing boundary with Nepal.

Following reports about the publication of the map, youths and students of the ruling Nepal Communist Party and the opposition Nepali Congress came on the streets. The Nepal government described India's decision as "unilateral" and claimed that it will "defend its international border"

In India, Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Raveesh Kumar told journalists that the map "accurately depicts the sovereign territory of India".



bifurcation of Jammu and Kashmir, shows Kalapani as part of India

At an all-party meeting on Saturday, leaders of various parties urged Nepal Prime Minister K P Singh Oli to take up the matter urgently with Indian Prime Minister [Narendra Modi](#).

### **Defining the boundaries**

Nepal's western boundary with India was marked out in the Treaty of Sugauli between the East India Company and Nepal in 1816. Nepali authorities claim that people living in the low-density area were included in the Census of Nepal until 58 years ago.

Five years ago, Foreign Minister Mahendra Bahadur Pande claimed that the late King Mahendra had "handed over the territory to India". By some accounts in Nepal, this allegedly took place in the wake of India-[China](#) War of 1962.

A committee formed by the Nepal government to study this claim submitted a report to Prime Minister Oli during his first tenure. It claimed that India had "occupied" an additional 62 sq km land.



## **Bilateral talks**

The Prime Ministers of the two countries discussed the issue in 2000, with [Atal Bihari Vajpayee](#) assuring Nepal that India would not occupy even an inch of Nepal. Five years ago, the matter was referred to a new mechanism comprising foreign secretaries of both sides.

“There had been some sincere efforts made soon after Vajpayee’s assurance,” a former diplomat in Nepal said. Then National Security Adviser Brajesh Mishra and Indian Ambassador to Nepal K V Rajan had gone for an aerial survey, but the matter did not move further, the diplomat added.

In New Delhi, Raveesh Kumar said: “The boundary delineation exercise with Nepal is ongoing under the existing mechanism. We reiterate our commitment to find a solution through dialogue in the spirit of our close and friendly bilateral relations.”

At least two former Foreign Ministers of Nepal — Upendra Yadav (now Deputy Prime Minister) and Sujata Koirala — had said that 98 per cent of border-related matters had been settled with India. Apart from Kalapani, another unresolved issue involves a vast area along the Nepal-Uttar Pradesh border. During his visit to Nepal in 2014, Prime Minister Modi had said that the Susta and Kalapani issues would be sorted out.

### **Did Army Chief wade into India-Nepal cartographic dispute?**

Reports suggest that the Nepal government is planning to launch a social media campaign within the country to create an anti-India sentiment. This is aimed to enhance the standing of the Oli government and reduce criticism on its failings, by projecting the strong stance it has taken.

#### **Maj Gen Harsha Kakar**

Answering queries from guests during a question-and-answer session at the end of a webinar organised by the Manohar Parrikar Institute of Defence and Strategic Analysis on 15 May, Army Chief M.M. Naravane discussed objections by Nepal on the Dharchula-Lipulekh road. He stated that there was no reason for a controversy since the road was well within Indian territory and had been discussed with the Nepalese side.

He further added that the timing of the aggressive claim was not without a motive and that Nepal was acting at “someone else’s” behest. Nepal’s objections to the road, post its inauguration on 8 May and the commencement of the standoff in Ladakh were near simultaneous. The Chinese objection in Ladakh was also the construction of a bridge over the Galwan rivulet.

The bridge, once complete, would give India easy access to Daulat Beg Oldie, the last Indian post south of the Karakoram Pass. Nepal’s initial claims were rejected by the Indian government with a statement, “India is committed to resolving outstanding boundary issues through diplomatic dialogue and in the spirit of our close and friendly bilateral relations with Nepal.” While India and Nepal do have boundary disputes, the road is well within Indian territory. The current road follows the alignment of the track taken by

pilgrims moving for the Kailash Mansarovar yatra, ending at Lipulekh, which is also a bilateral trade route between India and China, based on an agreement of 2015.

Jammu and Kashmir, Feb 26 (ANI): Chief of Army Staff Gen. Manoj Mukund Naravane interacts with soldiers as he reviews the prevailing security situation during his two-day visit to Line of Control, in Kashmir on Wednesday. (ANI Photo)

Nepal had objected to this agreement being signed without Nepal's consent. Post objections being raised by Nepal on 8 May, the Indian government stated, "The road follows the pre-existing route used by the pilgrims of the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra. Under the present project, the same road has been made pliable for the ease and convenience of pilgrims, locals and traders." The cartographic issue had begun simmering since India released new maps in November 2019, post creating the two Union Territories of Ladakh and Jammu and Kashmir in August.

The map remains the same as before but since it was issued afresh, Nepal objected. New Delhi stated it was open to talks once the coronavirus lockdown is eased. But Kathmandu wanted the talks to be held as early as possible. The reason for rise in temperatures within Nepal is its tense internal political climate. Current PM K.P. Sharma Oli is facing internal criticism for multiple failures including corruption, governance and inability to handle the pandemic.

His government was saved from imminent collapse by timely intervention of the Chinese Ambassador and a phone call by the Chinese President Xi Jinping. Oli needed an opportunity to enhance national spirit while diverting public attention. This was the opportunity and hence he had a new map drafted which included regions, beyond the current dispute, into Nepalese areas and even considered amending the constitution to adopt this map.

The attempt to amend the constitution is currently ongoing. To further divert attention from his failings, Oli went as far as blaming his own detractors working alongside India to push in Covid-affected persons into the country. He stated, "Those who are coming from India through illegal channels are spreading the virus in the country and some local representatives and party leaders are responsible for bringing in people from India without proper testing."

It was around this time that the Indian army chief made his comments. As per the Kathmandu Times of 15 May, the statement of the Indian army chief was made, "hours after Nepalese Foreign Secretary, Shanker Das Bairagi, held a meeting with Chinese Ambassador, Hou Yanqi, in Kathmandu regarding the boundary row with India over Lipulekh". Thus, China was directly or indirectly involved in the raising of Nepal's protests.

This statement was initially exploited not in Nepal but within India by a columnist and political commentator, who claims to have served in a quasi-military organisation as also runs a website on defence issues. His piece in an online journal was aimed at sowing discontent within the Indian Army's Gurkha Units, a large part of whose manpower flows from Nepal. He even sought to the army chief's simple statement a political overtone. He

wrote, "No soldier, in India or in Nepal, believes that General Naravane's inconsiderate remarks have not been instigated by someone within the Narendra Modi government."

He added, "This incomparable time-tested bond has been placed under a strain by an utterance that is both avoidable and unmilitary." The writer's own understanding of India-Nepal military relations as also of the structure and cohesion within the Indian army appears to be extremely shallow. Apart from the two Army Chiefs being honorary chiefs of the other army, the Indian Army supports the Nepalese Army in training and equipment. Nepal Army officers attend Indian Army training courses.

Their current army chief, General Purna Chandra Thapa has himself done the Defence Services Staff College and the National Defence College courses in India. The Indian Army also pays pension to 1,25,000 retired Gorkha soldiers and civilian personnel. The strength of Indian army officers in the Indian embassy in Nepal is the highest army presence in an embassy anywhere in the globe, as they are responsible for the welfare and wellbeing of the Gurkha veterans. Indian army veteran Gurkha Officers criticised the comments.

Bhim Bahadur Shahi, a third generation Gurkha Officer, wrote in the Eastern Link that the author by his comments, "dishonours and disrespects the entire community of the Gorkha Rifles, serving and retired, in India and Nepal". He added, "Politics does not affect the Gorkha soldier in the Indian army because he is here for soldiering, not for politics." However, these comments were exploited by political elements within Nepal.

The Nepalese defence minister, Ishwor Pokhrel, also spoke on similar lines. The Nepal army refused to be drawn into the controversy. The office of the Nepali army spokesperson refused to comment stating that the army was not entitled to comment on "opinions" of the Defence Minister. Nepal is now seeking talks at the foreign secretary's level to resolve the issue. India turned down the offer demanding that Nepal first creates "an environment of trust and confidence". The statement added, "Even in these challenging times of Covid-19, India has ensured unimpeded trade and supply of essentials including medicines to Nepal."

Nepal's intention is to keep the subject boiling for political purposes. Recent reports indicate that the Nepalese government is planning to launch a social media campaign within the country to create an anti-India sentiment. This is aimed to enhance the standing of the Oli government and reduce criticism on its failings, by projecting the strong stance it has taken. Stalemate on the case continues. It is advisable that the case be handled at the level of the MEA, rather than novices jumping in to vitiate the environment.

***Maj Gen Harsha Kakar (Retd) has held a variety of appointments in every part of the country including J&K and the Northeast until he retired from Indian Army in 2015. During his service he was also the head of the department in strategic studies at the College of Defence Management, where he wrote extensively on futuristic planning and enhancing joint operations. He has also served as part of the United Nations Peacekeeping operations in Mozambique.***

## China

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-china-border-latest-news-live-updates-border-tensions-6470292/>

### **India-China Border News Live Updates: Mutual consensus to disengage, says Army after Corps Commanders talk**

By: **Express Web Desk** | New Delhi | Updated: June 23, 2020

At the Corps Commander level talks held between the two sides and **which ran for over 10 hours**, sources have said they were conducted in a “cordial, positive and constructive atmosphere,” and “there was a **mutual consensus to disengage** with modalities for disengagement from all friction areas in Eastern Ladakh being discussed and that they will be taken forward by both sides.”

At the Congress Working Committee meeting today, party president **Sonia Gandhi** blamed the “wrong policies” and mismanagement of **Narendra Modi**-led NDA government for much of the border crisis. Former prime minister Dr. **Manmohan Singh** endorsed Gandhi’s remarks and said that if the crisis on the border is not tackled firmly, it can lead to a “serious situation.”

In the presence of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Tuesday underlined the need for recognising legitimate interest of partners in a multilateral set-up and following ethos of international relations.

Addressing a virtual conference of the Russia-India-**China** (RIC) trilateral, Jaishankar said, “This special meeting reiterates our belief in the time-tested principles of international relations. But the challenge today is not just one of concepts and norms, but equally of their practice.”

### **In presence of Chinese FM, Jaishankar says need to follow ethos of international relations**

<https://indianexpress.com/article/india/india-china-border-latest-news-live-updates-border-tensions-6470292/>

Meanwhile, addressing a virtual conference of the Russia-India-**China** (RIC) trilateral, External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar Tuesday underlined the need for recognising legitimate interest of partners in a multilateral set-up and following ethos of international relations. In the presence of Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, Jaishankar said, “This

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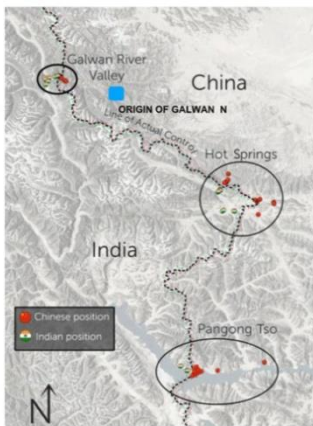
This was Jaishankar’s first face-to-face meeting with his Chinese counterpart Wang Yi after the violent face-off in the Galwan Valley in which 20 Indian Army personnel, including a Commanding Officer, were killed. [READ FULL STORY HERE](#)

### **Explained Ideas: Why India claims Galwan belongs to them**

Lt General AL Chavan, who was the Commander of the 3rd Infantry Division in Ladakh in 2013, when Chinese troops had come into Depsang Valley leading to a standoff, writes that of the nearly 50-km long Galwan Nala, 45 km lie to the Southeast of India’s perception of the Line of Actual Control (LAC) at Patrol Post 14, which is five to six km east of where Galwan Nala meets Shyok river. This is why China claims that Galwan Valley belongs to them.

In Pangong Tso, both sides used to patrol till their claim lines, which is Finger 8 for India and Finger 4 for China. Prime Minister Narendra Modi was technically correct when he said there is no intrusion in our “borders” the Chinese have deployed at Finger 5, and our troops are deployed at Finger 4, the endeavour is for the Chinese go East of the Finger 8 and we move back West to our original position, thus restoring status quo ante as obtaining on 20 April 2020.

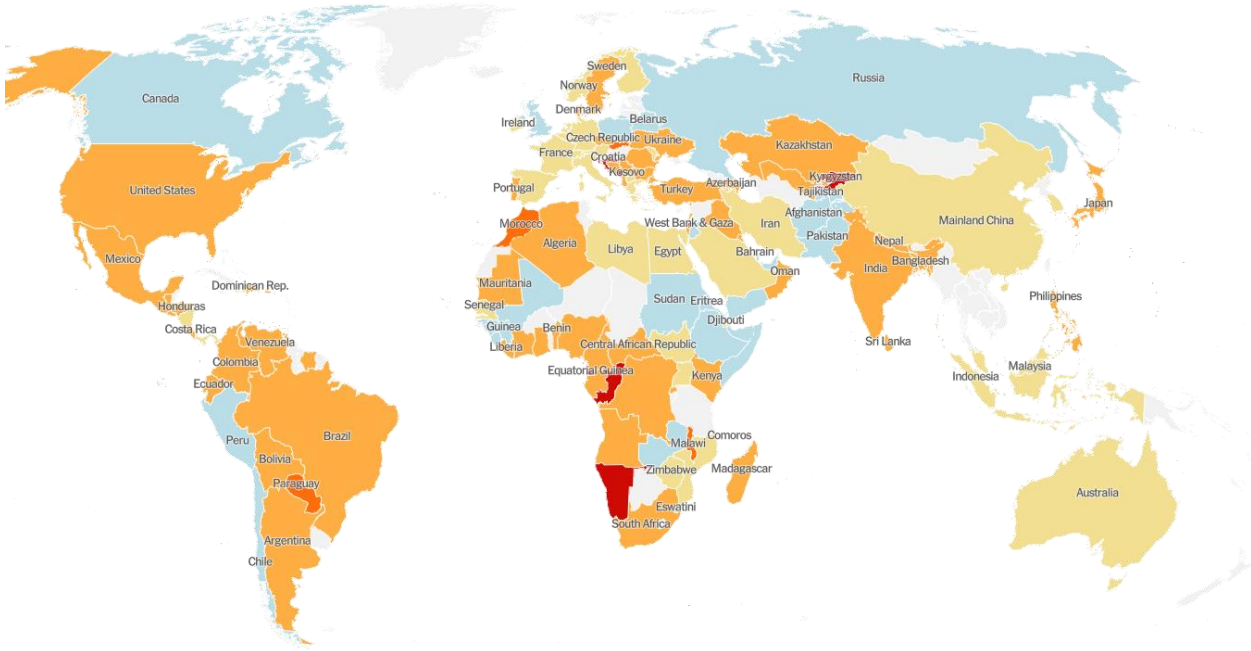
The Galwan Nala



The Galwan Nala is nearly 50 km long.



## Corona affected Map of world



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## When civil engineer and electrical engineer are husband wife



## **Implementation Gaps**

GS Kumar, Former Director, Survey of India, Editor, Maps Today

In the past several decades, several announcements were made by the government. Many have not been or partially implemented. I wish to quote announcement of government of Telangana In 2011 about enacting an ACT under which “conclusive titles will be issued”, This is one example. Another example is announcement of mapping on 1:10,000 scale of the country by Survey of India in 2011. We reproduce the news item of 2019 related to land titles..We invite latest information from readers about implementation of the announcement related to conclusive titles. What can be done if announcements are not implemented nor follow-up information is not published.

## **Why we need conclusive titles**

TelanganaToday | Published: 24th Apr 2019

Telangana Chief Minister K Chandrasekhar Rao recently declared that the State government will enact a “revolutionary and path-breaking” Revenue Act by this June. “Every little bit of land will be accounted for. After June, once the Act is in place, every issue, whether related to ownership by tribals, non-tribals, podu, revenue or non-revenue land, will be identified and conclusive titles will be issued,” he said. He even appealed to the people to have some patience and not to bribe anyone to solve their land issues!

In this context, it is important for us to know why land titles are unclear, what actually conclusive titles are about, what potential benefits to the people and the State are expected from such an Act and what challenges they pose in the process of their implementation.

Currently, the Transfer of Property Act, 1882, provides that the right (or title) to an immovable property (or land) can be transferred or sold only by a registered document. Such documents are registered under the Registration Act, 1908. Therefore, the registration of land or property refers to the registration of the transaction (or sale deed) and not the land title. This means a registered sale deed is not a government guarantee of land ownership.

Further, since no one document guarantees ownership in India, land ownership is established through registered sale deeds, record of rights, property tax receipts and government survey documents. This means, land ownership is presumptive in nature, and subject to challenge. The onus of checking past ownership records of a property is on the buyer, and not the registrar.

## **Key Principles**

A conclusive title may be defined as an unassailable and conclusive proof of ownership of property. In order to reach the stage of conferring conclusive titles, four fundamental principles need to be in place, namely, that: (a) there should be a single agency to handle property records; (b) the ‘Mirror’ principle should be operative. This requires that at any

given moment, the property records should mirror ground reality, ie, they should be 'real-time records'; (c) the 'Curtain' principle should be applicable. This requires that the record of a title should depict the conclusive ownership status making probing into past transactions and titles of the property should become unnecessary; and (d) there should be title guarantee and insurance for indemnifying the property holder against any loss arising due to inaccuracies.

Most States, including Telangana, have two or three agencies handling property records. The Revenue Department usually prepares and maintains the textual records; Survey and Settlement Department prepares and maintains the maps; Registration Department does verification of encumbrances and registration of transfer, mortgage, etc, of property.

A few States have a Consolidation Department in lieu of a Survey and Settlement Department. In some, the local bodies have been empowered to do undisputed mutations. The urban local bodies update property records for purposes of taxation in urban areas. Merging these departments into a single agency is administratively and politically difficult. But that is precisely the challenge which the Telangana government is taking up.

The tedious manual processes of survey and of the system of property record management has resulted in outdated maps and vast arrears of data entry in a vast number of cases. Resultantly, the records do not always reflect the ground reality and, hence, are not universally 'real-time records'. At present, registration of deeds and documents requires probing into past ownerships and transactions of properties to establish non-encumbrance due to the system of 'presumptive' titles and due to arrears in mutation. In the system of 'presumptive' titles, the question of giving title guarantee and indemnification does not arise.

## **Potential Benefits**

As a result of conclusive titling, maintenance of property records will cease to be merely a tool for governance and revenue generation but will be added to the agenda of citizen services. This is a fundamental shift from the past and the new approach is in the absolute interest of the people.

Since computerisation will enable property records to be placed in the public domain, property owners will have easy access to their records, in contrast to the present system, where the property records are in the custody of Revenue Department. They will be real-time records obtainable from a single window, thereby, saving the time and effort of the citizen in obtaining them. Litigation will considerably reduce once the titles are conclusive and tamper-proof. Moreover, the time taken for preparing and obtaining real-time records, registration and mutation will be greatly reduced.

This will also facilitate property transfers and electronic payment of stamp duty and registration fees. While the citizens are likely to be the real beneficiaries of conclusive titling, real-time records will also help in better governance as well, in areas such as disaster management, land acquisition, rehabilitation and resettlement, land use planning and consequential food security, management of barren land and watershed programmes,

e-credit facilities, and enhanced revenues due to proper valuation of stamp duty and registration fees.

## **The Road Map**

The last principle of conclusive titling, ie, indemnification will be possible only when the first three have been put into place. Such a programme has four major components – (i) computerisation of property records; (ii) survey and preparation of maps using modern technologies, (iii) computerisation of the registration process and (iv) training and capacity building.

'Land' is a State subject and the Central government cannot legislate on it. Each State government will have to bring in its own laws keeping in mind the overall spirit of conclusive titling and at the same time adjusting local requirements. Some Central Acts may also need modification for which the Central government will have to take the initiative. The latter is developing a 'model law' for conclusive titling as a handholding exercise for those States, which need help in drafting the State legislation.

In most States, Revenue, Registration, Panchayat Raj or local bodies departments are headed by separate Ministers/Secretaries. Politically and administratively, it is challenging to integrate them. Information Technology has provided a way out by enabling inter-linking procedurally without disturbing the present system until new arrangements are in place.

*(The author Chinnamaneni is MLA and Humboldt-Expert in Agriculture, Environment and Cooperation)*

## **SWAMITVA**

Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.

<https://www.civildaily.com/news/swamitva-scheme-to-map-rural-inhabited-lands/>

The Prime Minister has launched the Swamitva Scheme and e-Gramswaraj Portal & mobile app as a portal to prepare and plan Gram Panchayat Development Plans.

### **Swamitva Scheme**

- SWAMITVA stands for Survey of Villages and Mapping with Improvised Technology in Village Areas.
- Under the scheme, the latest surveying technology such as drones will be used for measuring the inhabited land in villages and rural areas.
- The mapping and survey will be conducted in collaboration with the Survey of India, State Revenue Department and State Panchayati Raj Department under the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.

- The drones will draw the digital map of every property falling in the geographical limit of each Indian village.
- Property Cards will be prepared and given to the respective owners.

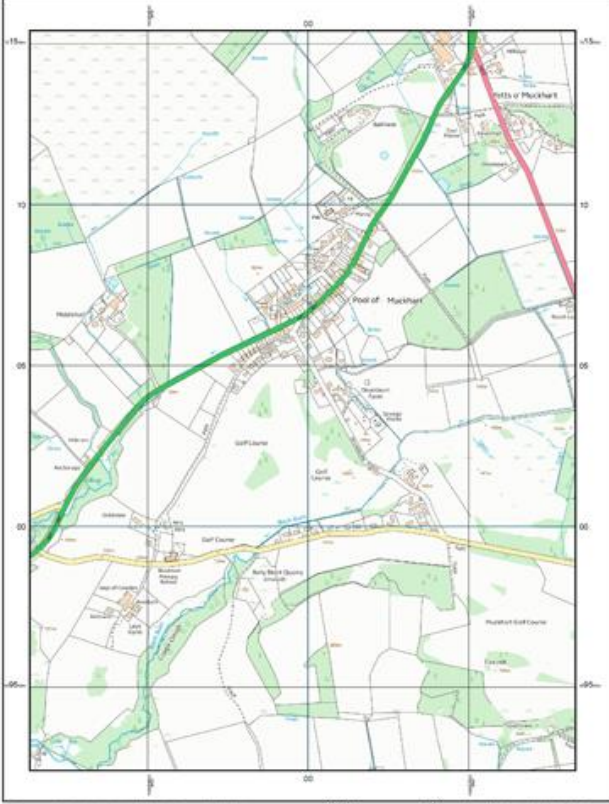
### **Benefits**

- The scheme will create records of land ownership in villages and these records will further facilitate tax collection, new building plan and issuance of permits.
- It will enable the government to effectively plan for the infrastructural programs in villages.
- It would help in reducing the disputes over property.

### **What is e-Gramswaraj Portal?**

- E Gram Swaraj portal is the official portal of central govt for the implementation of Swamitva scheme.
- By visiting this portal people can check their Panchayat profile easily. It will also contain the details of ongoing development works and the fund allocated for them.
- Any citizen can create his or her account on the portal and can know about the developmental works of villages.
- The user of E Gram Swaraj portal can also access all work of the Ministry of Panchayati Raj.
- This single interface will help speed-up the implementation of projects in rural areas from planning to completion.



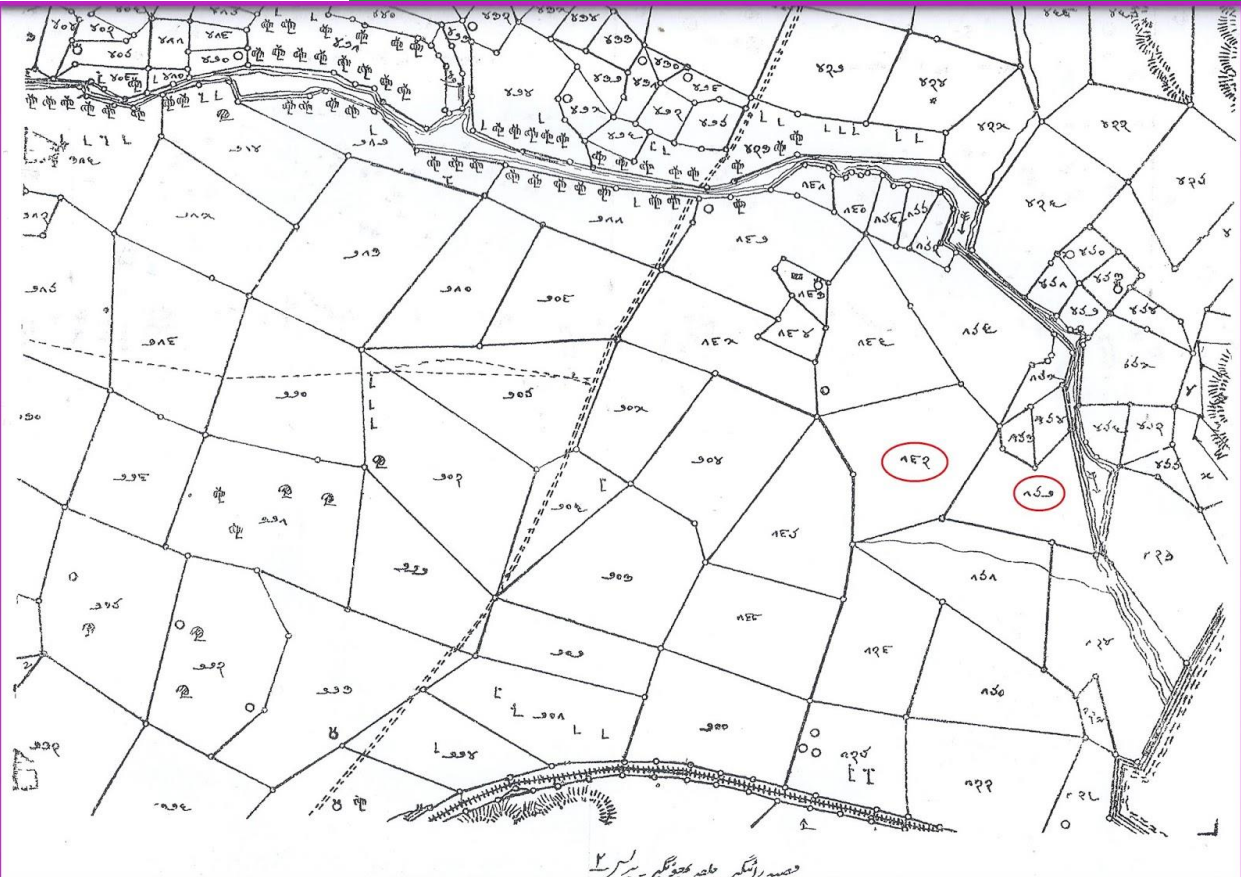


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The representation of roads, tracks or paths is no evidence of a boundary or right of way.  
The representation of features as lines is no evidence of a property boundary.

250m  
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### HONOURS & AWARDS

Geospatial World Excellence Award 2018  
Best Professionally Managed Company 2014  
Geospatial Company of the year 2013  
National award for Excellence in Engineering Consultancy 2012  
Project of National Excellence - Urban Infrastructure 2011  
Export Excellence Award 2008 & 2010



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