

Res Novae

SAPERE AUDE - DARE TO KNOW

India's Newfound Self-Sufficiency - Is It Time?

In a candid interview, Foreign Minister S. Jaishankar addresses the friction regarding Iranian and US relations



featured in today's issue

EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

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UNHRC

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AFRICAN UNION

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UNSC

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AMERICAN CABINET

By Freyana Buhariwala
and Saachi Singh

Q) Do you feel that India has taken the right call in maintaining their so-called neutral stance by risking negotiations with the USA and Iran? Don't you feel it would have been better to side with Iran since the USA indirectly questioned the national integrity of India by threatening severe sanctions?

Subrahmanyam Jaishankar: I believe there are two ways to answer this question. One, I definitely believe that negotiation is important and we need to understand the implications of which countries we choose to side with. On the other hand, the USA has a lot of might in this world, so to dissatisfy them is not something I would advocate. On the diplomatic front, Iran has definitely been a good country to us, and overall have been more understanding. The fact that they were ready to collaborate indicates that we have a stronger tie with them.

Q) What exactly did you mean when you mentioned that the Republic of Iran may start “marginalising” Indians residing in Iran?

SJ: This was alleged information we received from the Indian Ambassador to Iran. He informed us that if we did comply with the USA, Iran may cause trouble for the Indian residents.

However, this was more a threat as I feel they would not really go through with that - they're good friends. Iranians are very kind to Indians.

Q) Can India afford to produce oil domestically? How long will it take to reach a substantial level of production and what substitute for the loss from Iran will we be using in the meantime?

SJ: We were dependent on other countries for around 70% of our oil needs, which I think is unfortunate. What I thought we could do was to own private oil refineries in the Middle East. We already have Reliance rigs in Iran and Iraq. So, I think India definitely needs to pile on a great deal of investment in oil production facilities and with Reliance petroleum, the PM has decided to take on a deal, which the Ministry of Corporate Affairs will reveal when required. I think there will be a day in the next 10-15

years when India will reach that level of self-sufficiency to self-satisfy all its resource needs.

Q) If India had the ability to produce oil domestically, why didn't it do so when many opportunities to do so have arrived numerous times in the past in the case of previous sanctions?

SJ: India's priorities have been different. We have been trying to get investment in our education and other issues. A country's priorities evolve with a country itself. I think the more we develop, the more we understand that being largely dependent on any other country is not the best policy and hence, decided to take action. I think the broader picture is to henceforth discontinue being at the mercy of another country ever again.

Q) How does Reliance Industries alone plan to take over production of oil? Has it partnered up with another corporation that we do not know of yet?

SJ: Of course, there are other corporations working in collaboration with Reliance, mainly the Indian Oil Corporation and Bharat Petroleum. However, in terms of foreign investment, Reliance has a better profile than most companies. I think it is the most successful and t

"I think the broader picture for our nation is to never be at the mercy of another nation"

- S Jaishankar,
MEA

he most investable petroleum business in India, which is why Reliance would spearhead this initiative.

Q) What is your opinion of Russia denying India any support against China in lieu of the recent oil deals made between India and Iran?

SJ: It is expected for Russia to deny support as it is closely allied with China, North Korea and Iran. After what occurred with Iran yesterday, I think Russia is also fearing the withdrawal of our support to them, which may make them conscious, understandably. That is where the wonderful part of diplomacy comes in- in worked up situations, you keep your calm, stay collected and try and negotiate, because the day diplomats stop negotiating is the day the world may disintegrate into chaos.

When the going gets tough, the tough get going

Intense discussion and innovative solutions enliven debate

By Aditi Yadav
and Mayank Ladwal

The session started with a moderated caucus, the subject being, "Allocation and Re-allocation of the Rohingya Muslims". The delegate of Ukraine left no stone unturned by voicing how the state has been willing to provide aid by the condemnation of the actions against the Rohingyas as highlighted at the UNSC session held with reference to the Rohingya crisis. The delegate of China proclaimed to take in the Rohingya refugees to this Bolivia countered on as to how it can take in any refugees being the most populated country. China responded "Unlike your country at least we are willing

to help the situation at hand". The session resumed with the moderated caucus wherein the delegate of Singapore made laudable points expressing how crucial it is for the Myanmar government to end discrimination and human right abuses against the Rohingyas. Just when the committee started to get dry, a crisis was introduced. 300 young Rohingya's came to protest against the low standards in the refugee camps. Numerous police officers were deployed, that opened fire, killing 38 Rohingyas and injuring over 100. After the crisis was introduced, delegates spoke in the Special Speakers List

where the delegate of China insisted that everyone work together and arrange for funds to develop Cox's Bazar instead of pointing fingers at each other.

The committee introduced working paper 1.0 for the crisis at hand the clauses were discussed with which the committee session was concluded.

"Keep your pity to yourself, what we need is immediate action."

- Delegate of Bangladesh



AU Triumphs Over Crisis

Crisis calls; US, Sudan go under the table, Libya suspended?

By Manya Mishra
and Sneha Gupta

A formal debate was voted upon on the topicv- ‘Civilian role in Transitional period’. The delegate of Sudan made it clear that power should not be handed over to the furious civilians and “rational decisions cannot be made in anger”. The delegates of Burundi and Liberia stated that civilians yearn for their best interest and hence civilian rule would be satisfactory. Questions were raised regarding the legitimacy of a transitional government, pointing out its autocracy. A constant debate revolved around the capabilities and qualifications of the civilians to form the government.

Formation of a union solely dedicated to take down Bashir’s regime where civilians would have the upper hand was suggested. Sudan yet again emphasised on the consequences of political intervention. The delegate of Burundi suggested equal representation of TMC and civilians in a democratic government, which led to a debate. However, it was interrupted as a crisis changed the course of committee. An under-the-table deal was struck between the US government and the Sudanese military which granted the US access to the oil reserves of Sudan in exchange for “help”. The delegate of Sudan had a plethora of questions to

answer.

Sudan justified the deal by pointing out that every nation in the AU was providing aid along with a lot of political intervention which was unwanted hence the country resorted to such a deal. Liberia suggested that Sudan cancel the deal with the US and wait for the AU to take action, assuring no political intervention. The fact that this deal was made covertly increased suspicions. The US made a controversial statement by saying that it had “provided arms to help the civilians” not keeping in mind that Sudan has always been an autocratic and undemocratic regime.

“Peace and rights of citizens cannot be sold like arms and weapons”

- Delegate of Chad

Chad called out the US for being “opportunistic” and having an undying “lust for power”. A crisis arose when it was claimed that Yemen was leaking information and Libya was providing arms to the SPA.



Moments later, Libya openly accepted that it had indirectly funded terrorism in Sudan. Libya was suspended from the AU. Yemen justified the leak "in the name of democracy". It was then revealed that Saudi Arabia had provided arms to the SPA, causing civil unrest throughout the country.

Mozambique said that the transparency of the TMC is crucial as it can prevent civil unrest, lest,"the Nile will turn red".

Libya asserted that no arms will be withdrawn from Sudan until the TMC takes action. The third session was filled with a constructive discussion on the directives of the "crisis communique". A fiery debate between Yemen, Sarawii and Sudan and against Libya, Saudi Arabia and Niger, followed by a rebuttal session. The communique was passed with majority and the AU was out of crisis.



War Declared Amidst Edu Talks

Resolutions on education disrupted by violence in Haiti

By Khwaiish Dhir
and Shriya Saxena

Committee commenced with delegates possessing newfound confidence and zest. Multiple speeches stressed on the provision of monetary aid to the Haitian Government for the betterment of the country in order to revive the nation's faith in its government. The delegate of the US contributed by stating that the UN "needs to quell the present rebellion as it puts the essence of life at stake". The committee then moved on to a moderated caucus focusing on human rights violations. France, Venezuela, Cuba and the UK stressed on the injustice faced

by women, children and the LGBTQ+ community in Haiti. This was then followed by an intense debate on the improvement of education in Mali. In light of this, the committee came to a consensus revolving around providing experienced personnel in fields of healthcare and education. General debate was then disturbed by a brand-new crisis. Following yesterday's tentative communications between France and rebel groups, the committee was notified on attacks conducted by France on the Haitian Parliament building.

Meanwhile, suspicion lay heavy on Dominican Republic and South Africa. Following this Dominican Republic declared war on Haiti.

Furthermore the concerning topic of drug abuse was briefly discussed where Peru brought up the illegal drug trade between Haiti and the USA. To work out a concrete plan, two working papers were introduced. They were discussed in the committee only to be rejected later as the delegates deliberated on it. The working paper presented by Dominican Republic - 'Working Paper 1.1 (a)', was further questioned by the delegate of Russia as they pinpointed a fair argument - "why is the Dominican Republic trying to help the people of a country they are at war with". The committee was temporarily adjourned to reconvene the next day so as to discuss and pass resolutions.



Chief of Staff Reported Dead

Gunshot wound found on body, culprit yet to be apprehended

By Chanchal Bajoria and
Shivi Mohan

Earlier today, the body of Chief of Staff Reince Priebus was found dumped in an alley on the outskirts of Washington, DC. A single gunshot wound in the chest confirmed the cause of death due to a close-range, direct hit at the chest.

Mr Priebus was part of the American Presidential Cabinet, which has lately been involved in discussing the Iranian threat.

Declining to give further details, investigating authorities said that they were considering a terrorist angle.

However, reports from highly credible sources suggest that Mr Priebus was allegedly involved in spying for Iran, and when it came to the knowledge of President Trump, he is believed to have passed an order to have him executed.



- Ira Welankar