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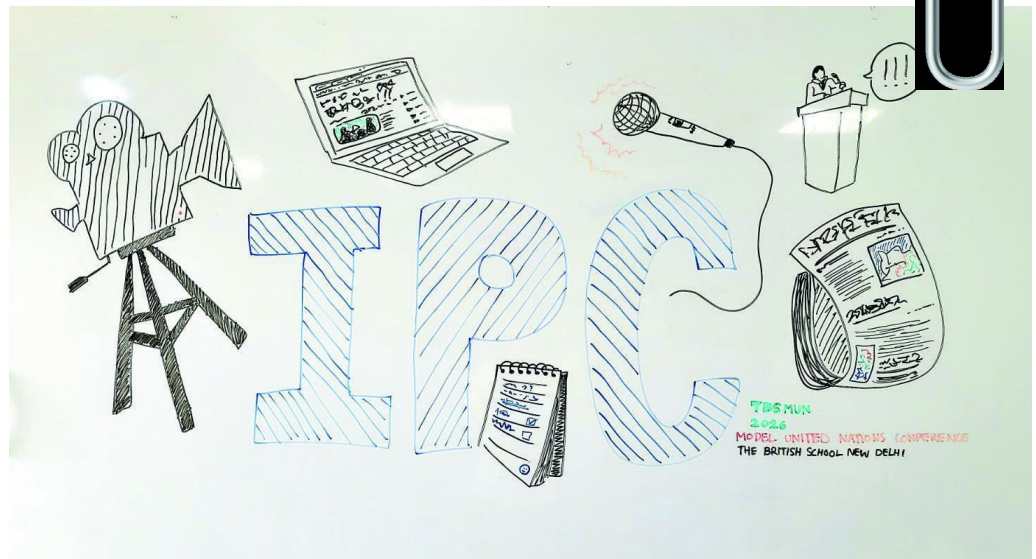
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TBSMUN 2026 NEWSLETTER

**6 COMMITTEES. 3 DAYS.
1 WORLD. TBSMUN.**



On behalf of the International Press Corps, it is our privilege to welcome you to TBSMUN '26. With our first edition, we hope to capture a conference filled with debate, diplomacy, and different perspectives.

Within these pages lies the work of journalists committed to not only documenting the conference, but to examining the ideas, debates, and developments that define it. Through thoughtful reporting and critical reflection, we hope to capture both the events unfolding within committee rooms and the conversations they inspire beyond them.

Above all, we hope this edition leaves you with something to think about, whether it is a question, an idea, or simply a different way of looking at things. As conference unfolds, we hope you read with an open mind, engage with the conversations around you, and take something meaningful away from the experience.



Singularity in Dichotomy

By Jaidev Vikas Dhoot and Praanya Nath



NEW DELHI, September 17 — Two lamps look at a bird flying alone through the night sky.

“Such loneliness,” one comments; “Such freedom,” the other whispers.

Nations, like that bird, would soon learn what it means to fly alone beneath two watching lamps.

More than a decade ago, humanity had ostensibly trumped the throes of War. Peacetime had been proclaimed. Peace germinated, spreading world over, concomitant with novel ideas of liberation. Nations rose from the crimson ashes of hostility, free to determine their own destinies, free to chart their own histories, free to obey the will of their own people. The latter half of this twentieth century marked a newfound epoch: a so-called era of emancipation.

And so, it was believed that Peace had prevailed in this perceived dichotomy of War and Peace. Peace, it seemed, had no suzerain, just as the newborn nations had not. The economy, polity and society of the globe began to intertwine like never before. Peace was a unifying force.

Yet Peace too had a dichotomy within itself.

Peace matured not out of volition, but out of compulsion. It matured and morphed into an incarnation that seemed to contradict all that it was supposed to represent. In other words, it transformed into a peace that was no peace, from a force in its own right to a diminished puppet: a Sisyphus of humanity, forever approaching fruition yet never quite reaching it.

Like children to their mother, nations in infancy, the fruits of nascent Peace, turned to the pre-eminent superpower nations of the world. Perhaps these benefactors were considered a necessary support for Peace to be maintained. After all, Peace was a fragile thing, fragile enough to be displaced by brute strength.

And so, under the pretext of protecting Peace, the Allies-turned-nemeses, the United States and the Soviet Union, have evidently set off to become hegemonies of the world. There is a dichotomy in power too, defined and driven by the ideological extremes of capitalism and communism.

Peace is, today, an end goal used to justify division, as evident in the Korean peninsula, in the inner precincts of Berlin, and in the remnants of French Indochina in Vietnam. Nuclear arms, evolved iterations of the likes responsible for the tragedies in Hiroshima and Nagasaki during the Second World War, too, have emerged as a catalyst to “protect Peace”: for the capitalists and communists, ballistic collateral.

Cuba, on the grand chessboard of the world, has become ground zero. In the wake of the failed Bay of Pigs operation launched by the United States, communist revolutionary leader Fidel Castro has turned increasingly towards the Soviet Union for protection. The Soviets, in turn, have stationed ballistic missiles on the island, bringing their nuclear arsenal to the doorstep of the United States. The Caribbean Sea has become the most recent epicentre of this bipolar tug of war.

Peace is in tatters.

Far from the ideal of nations being able to determine their own destinies, a dichotomy continues to shape the course of the world at large. Independence may have granted nations borders, flags and governments of their own, but it has not freed them from the pull of two opposing powers.

The world today continues to struggle in a ceaseless cycle of prolonged, protean War, and intermittent, evanescent Peace...

The bird is still flying, somewhere over a border it did not draw and cannot see. It does not know it is being watched.

It does not know that one lamp has already decided it is lonely, and the other has already decided it is free, and that neither will change their mind for its sake.



The New York Times

The Leftovers of Last Century

By Sarah Jagtiani and Syra Nagpal



NEW DELHI, September 17 — Nobody could have foreseen the showdown in UNSC on the very first day of MUN. We were faced with flag hoistings, roaring thunder bangs on tables, a senior sendoff and a nation taken to the International Court of Justice!

To begin with, the almost 8 decade long enemies take the stage on fire again with a heated argument starting with a feisty take on the Pahalgam incident, occurring on April 22nd 2025.

The argument began when the United States of America questioned why Pakistan is so driven toward peace, whilst simultaneously keeping the disputed region of Kashmir under the hawk eyes of its army. Although it was one of the first countries in the 2013 session to state that autonomous weapons raise complex moral, ethical, and legal dilemmas and recently called a prohibition on it, India took to shame how 26 of its civilians were shot dead near Baisaran Meadow in Jammu and Kashmir, solely because they did not practice the same religion as the Islamic terrorists.



The Russian Federation steps in to defend its close ally, presenting the Muslim nation with a simple question, “What is Kashmir?”. Most would struggle to come up with a dictionary definition, as the area has been victim to numerous rebel movements, coup d’états and violent uprisings over the years. The delegate was quick to bounce back, however, claiming Kashmir is theirs. Countering, the Russian Federation restated how they just mentioned it was a “sovereign state” a few minutes back.

And as one can rightly assume, the spark of what was lost in 1947 got reignited.

What began as a heated, continuous exchange between India versus Pakistan suddenly turned into bigger accusations! As accusations flew across the committee over autonomous weapons, alliances and accountability, the spotlight shifted and just like that, the United States of America was on trial.

It all started with the first confrontation between the United States of America and the Russian Federation, where India questioned the United States’ position, asking how a country could authorise autonomous weapons while allegedly relying on similar technology in war. The Russian Federation seized the opportunity, accusing Washington of hiding behind a “language of peace” while its actions told an entirely different story. The United States of America, however, did not stay silent. The debate soon turned to the use of drones and autonomous systems against Ukraine, raising an uncomfortable question for every delegation: when a machine makes the decision, who takes the blame? With lives potentially lost and accountability unclear, Sweden and Mexico argued that humans must remain involved in such decisions, particularly when nuclear weapons are concerned.

This was followed by the second trial between Switzerland and the United States of America, bringing international law into the spotlight. The United States of America challenged Switzerland for its alleged failure to comply with the Hague Convention. As the Chairperson fired back, questioning how the United States of America could accuse others of breaking international law while itself facing allegations of not following it. As it came down to trial

after the debate between Switzerland and the United States of America, the trial was overshadowed by the facts proven; it resulted in reconstruction costs, with the total charge reaching approximately \$13 billion in the committee.



Besides that, the United States of America continued to defend its actions, while the Russian Federation pressed its case. The confrontation spilt beyond the battlefield, with the United States turning its criticism towards the Russian Federation's economy. The United States of America described the Russian Federation as having a “crippling economy”, raising personal remarks.

Coming to a consensus, the Open House turned the committee into a standoff rather than forming an alliance. With the United States of America backed by the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and France, and the Russian Federation standing alongside India, Pakistan and China, every sentence seemed to carry greater weight. Yet the Chairperson remained satisfied with both sides, proving how fierce debate could still produce diplomacy.



ALJAZEERA

“Human Lives Are Not Inherently Valued Monetarily” - Thai Proclamation Derails ASEAN Mid-Session

By Alvira Kumar and Lavith Anand



NEW DELHI, September 17 — The ASEAN session descended into a major diplomatic crisis after a leaked audio recording appeared to capture two individuals alleged to be members of the delegation of the Kingdom of Thailand discussing an alleged attack on Cambodia. Against a backdrop of South China Sea territorial disputes, historical iconoclasm and economic tensions, the controversy pushed the committee into geopolitical deadlock.

The leaked recording described two members of the Thai delegation discussing the logistical mechanisms of alleged genocidal violence against Cambodia, drawing severe criticism of the Thai delegation after the speakers addressed the Thai-Cambodian border as ‘whatever [they could] produce photographs of’. The recording drew harsh criticism from ASEAN powers, who condemned the reduction of sovereign, progressive nations to merely



an ‘other half [who] cannot read a map’. The Delegate of the Kingdom of Cambodia expressed grave ‘disappointment’ in Thai authorities, demanding urgent involvement by the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and labelling the threat as ‘[proof] of Thailand's true intentions’. Their statement was met with a forceful defence from led by Thailand, which justified the proposed action as a means of consolidating Thai sovereignty in the face of external threat posed by the peril of Cambodia’s rising casino industry. An estimate of 150 border casinos, lined across the regions of Poipet, Bavet, Sihanoukville, and Phnom Penh, were alleged by the Thai delegation to be functioning as military bases, described by Thailand as a hyper-militarized threat to their recent push to legalise similar entertainment complexes, even going as far to describe the lengths of branding the casino monopoly as a violation of sovereignty, contradicting ASEAN’s core values of sovereignty, independence, and peace.



This is particularly significant, considering Thailand is recognised as a fully sovereign state by both the United Nations (UN) and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and yet, the Delegate of Thailand demonstrated agreement with the views expressed in the audio, reaffirming the sentiments expressed in the recording: “Human lives are not inherently valued monetarily”. This shocking statement met harsh criticism by the committee, shifting debate towards questions of human rights and the value of civilian life. The Delegates of the People’s Republic of China and the Democratic Republic of Timor-Leste passionately championed human rights arguments, while the latter highlighted the destruction caused by the brutal 24-year Indonesian occupation of Timor-Leste, leading to nearly 180,000 civilian casualties. The Delegate of Thailand issued an immediate apology and retraction, an alarmingly flippant response to internal political conspiracy, human rights insensitivity, and militarised intentions.



Calls were raised to oust Thailand from ASEAN entirely, leading to the proposition of a sub-motion as the Delegate of Taiwan (officially the Republic of China) argued that it would be hypocritical barring a nation due to lack of community and misalignment of interests, when nations such as the Republic of the Union of Myanmar have committed horrendous human rights violations and crimes against humanity, including but not limited to massacres, sexual abuse, murder, enforced disappearances, kidnappings, torture, and cultural apartheid, frequently targeted at ethnic minorities, such as the Rohingya, Kachin, Karen, and Shan people.

Members of ASEAN moved to propose immediate resolutions and punitive measures to address escalating Thai-Cambodian tensions, with a joint directive authored by Timor-Leste, Japan, Myanmar and New Zealand. The directive attracted signatories from the vast majority of ASEAN and ASEAN+6 members, with the exception of Thailand, and proposed fiscal compensation by Thailand for provocative statements made on behalf of its delegation, the imposition of sanctions, the removal of pro-Thailand trade incentives, the establishment



of an ASEAN investigation into illegal casinos in Cambodia alongside probationary measures, and, finally, the formation of a Crisis Network among ASEAN and ASEAN+6 states, funded by Japan.

In this urgent clash of beliefs, the evolving geopolitics of the Global South demand coordinated action, demilitarisation efforts, international investigation and, above all, the restoration of fundamental democratic practices to preserve an increasingly fractured yet deeply interwoven geographical, historical and cultural order.





Sudan Crisis exposes Deep Divisions Over Who and What Should Lead the Path to Peace

By Sahira Bhagchandka and Jenifer Islam Jaara



NEW DELHI, September 17 — The UNHRC opened with delegates addressing the humanitarian crisis in Sudan, but the discussion quickly turned towards the role of foreign states and whether international involvement is helping or worsening the conflict.

The first moderated caucus shifted the discussion towards sovereignty. Somalia argued that sovereignty should not be used as a shield when civilians are being harmed. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland similarly argued that sovereignty does not allow authorities to block humanitarian corridors or avoid accountability. The Russian Federation disagreed, saying that political decisions about Sudan should be made by Sudanese people. Egypt also stressed the importance of Sudanese sovereignty and warned against foreign interference.

During the General Speaker's List, the United States of America spoke about famine, sexual violence, violations of international law and humanitarian aid failing to reach civilians. The United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland focused on the refugee crisis and civilian protection, while France called for action rather than relying on previous peace agreements. Nigeria took a harder position on the role of outside actors, calling for action against the flow of weapons into Sudan and greater accountability. Uganda also pointed towards foreign weapons and financial interests, while Italy argued that the conflict is being sustained by outside actors.

The second moderated caucus focused on the failures of states to de-escalate the conflict. Pakistan pointed towards arms routes and diplomatic friction between countries, while Nigeria called for sanctions and restrictions on weapons entering Sudan. Uganda argued that several foreign actors have contributed to the escalation.



The discussion then became centred around two competing solutions. One side argued for continuing to work through Sudan's internationally recognised government. The other side supported a proposal involving the RSF, creating concern among delegates who viewed this as a challenge to the existing international framework.

In an interview after the debate, Nigeria and Algeria explained why they opposed the second solution. Both delegates described their countries as neutral and argued that working through the RSF would compromise that neutrality. Nigeria also questioned whether the proposal was consistent with the United Nations framework. "If we go with the B solution, we're not going in accordance with the UN," the delegate said.



The disagreement reflects the divide that has developed throughout the committee. While delegates continue to agree that civilians need protection and humanitarian aid, they remain divided over the role foreign states should play and whether sovereignty should limit international action. For now, the debate remains unresolved, with delegates continuing to argue over whether the priority should be protecting Sudanese sovereignty or taking stronger action to protect civilians.



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