

POSITION PAPER ON INDIA'S ROLE ON SUDAN CRISIS

The cause of the crisis in Sudan is complex and it can be traced back to a power struggle between the two main factions of the military regime : the Sudanese armed forces led by Ge Abdel Fattah al-Burhan, and the Rapid Support Forces led by Gen Mohamed Hamdan Dagalo. The two factions cooperated to oust former President Omar al-Bashir in 2019 in a coup but disagreed on the direction and pace of the transition to civilian rule. The tensions escalated in April 2023 when the RSF redeployed its troops around the country sparking clashes with the army in Khartoum and other regions. The fighting has resulted in hundreds of deaths and a humanitarian crisis, dealing a significant blow to chances of a transition to democratic rule in the resource-rich country. The rival commanders of the two forces agreed to ceasefire brokered by the U.S, but the truce didn't last long as fierce fighting in the capital Khartoum and other parts moved into second week, with civilians reporting clashes around the military headquarters and international airport.

India has economic and energy stakes in Sudan, and lack of democracy and poor governance has perpetuated the conflict and peace unsustainable. Prolongation of such a situation is not in India's interest. As many as 4,000 Indians were trapped in Sudan while India in coordination with various countries, including the US, UK and Saudi Arabia safely evacuated its citizens by sea and by air in Operation Kaveri.

Given the shared cultural similarities and diversity between India and Sudan, it is essential for the upholder of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam' to ensure a strategic and diplomatic solution that paves the way for building consensus. The Sudanese Ambassador to India, Abdalla Omer Bashir Elhusain, has also emphasised the importance of New Delhi's position in fostering cooperation and coordination for a confident future between Africa and India. This brings a crucial role for the current president of the G20 summit as India has the opportunity to champion diplomacy and foster cooperation between the nations to secure a future that ensures prosperity by collaborating towards shared objectives.

SPEECH ON INDIA'S ROLE ON SUDAN CRISIS

The basic cause of the crisis in Sudan is the power struggle between the two main factions of the military regime : the Sudanese armed forces, and the Rapid Support Forces. The two factions cooperated to oust former President in 2019 in a coup but disagreed on the direction of transition to civilian rule. Tensions escalated in April 2023 when clashes erupted between RSF and the army in Khartoum and other regions. The fighting has resulted in hundreds of deaths and a humanitarian crisis and later the rival commanders of the two forces agreed to ceasefire brokered by the U.S, but the truce didn't last long as fierce fighting in the capital Khartoum and other parts moved into second week, with civilians reporting clashes around the military headquarters and international airport.

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