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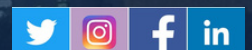
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WEAPONISING CLIMATE CHANGE BY THE NATIONS BY PROF (DR) NISHAKANT OJHA

ORGANISED BY CENJOWS
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Using climate change as a tool in foreign policy is a complex and thought-provoking concept. Traditionally, weapons are seen as physical tools for defense or offense, but harnessing climate change for diplomatic leverage is a newer idea. This disruptive ideation has generated interest in many developed and developing nations. Though the balance hinges on G-7 nations, as they are being blamed of severe climate changes while the suffering is being caused to the entire landscape. As the world is evolving itself into a more inclusive entity, Climate change has turned into a significant foreign policy challenge in the 21st century, affecting global security dynamics and posing challenges to societal functioning with potential economic, social, and political consequences.

To address these challenges, a new approach to climate diplomacy is emerging, which involves utilizing a range of policies including development cooperation, conflict prevention initiatives, and humanitarian aid, alongside traditional measures of climate change adaptation and mitigation. The leading nations which are at the forefront of climate impact, like USA and China to include G-7 nations have to come to a singular platform to ensure that Climate change though imminent, should have minimal impact on human life and more so on the planet. These policy measures extend beyond conventional climate strategies, aiming to shift from assessing risks to taking preventive actions.

There is another angle that is emerging out of this entire milieu and that is weaponising the climate, using it as a potential weapon with adverse effects on the War fighting which includes, weaponising during preparatory stage, Assault stage as well as consolidation stage. The impact will be enormous as it will be a classic example of Non Contact-Non Kinetic warfare, to stranglehold the enemy. China, US, Russia, to mention a few have known and documented resources to carry out these activities. If the climate gets weaponized, it will be catastrophic for most of the humanity. Few initiatives like IRENA and ISA have enabled many developing and underdeveloped nations to join the cause to save our planet. However, the journey is not what it seems

as it is full of multiple challenges and potholes. India has come in the forefront to take this Solar initiative to the needy and underdeveloped nations thereby using it as a diplomacy overture. As these alliances move ahead and hit the curve, we would require integrating climate change considerations into development, foreign, and security policies, strengthening diplomatic networks, forging new partnerships, and raising awareness about both the negative impacts of climate change and opportunities for sustainable societal transformation. This approach also supports the implementation of the Paris climate accord, bridging the gap between developed and developing nations.

As the world is passing through a complex geostrategic upheaval, it basically hinges on the relationship and understanding US - China show towards each other. Though not entirely, but both of them are playing a significant role in starting a New Cold War regime, this time though with different stake holders.

Weaponizing climate in future will involve considering various aspects such as geopolitical factors, livelihood security, and the economic benefits of climate action. Despite their different focuses, these narratives underline the importance of foreign policymakers developing specific capabilities to address climate change challenges.