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GLOBAL STRATEGIC LANDSCAPE AND INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY

BY
AMB ANIL TRIGUNAYAT

ORGANISED BY CENJOWS
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Presently, there is Global Churn, unprecedented in its impact and outreach, which has shaken the transitional global order. The 4Gs contestations in Global Governance, i.e. Geo political, Geo economic, Geo religious and Geo technological, are at play across geographies. The multilateral Institutions like the UN, WTO, WHO, etc. are in decline and heading towards irrelevance. The WWII mindset of victor and vanquished is on the rise. At the UNSC, the rivalry between G3 (the Western democratic permanent members: France, the UK, and the US) Vs G2 (China and Russia) is making peace an elusive entity.

This year, the United Nations marks its 80th anniversary; however, the UN is at its weakest for its ability to putting order in the present global conundrum. The disruptions caused by President Trump are disrupting the multilateral institutions and setting up a dysfunctional global order, which is being leveraged by China. The war between Russia and Ukraine directly and between Moscow and Washington by proxy, have impacted the whole world. It has brought about four challenges in Global governance due to the weaponisation of 4Fs: Financial Instruments, Food; Fuel; and Fertilisers. With the sharp dividing lines between the West and the East led by the USA, China and Russia and no meeting ground as of now, the World is heading towards a more fractured system, yielding to a more invidious Cold War 2.0. Above all, Strategic Autonomy is the preferred foreign policy choice for many countries, especially in the diffuse Global South and even in rich Gulf countries. For the superpowers, unilateralism is the core of their foreign policy. The blending of these in a new order is a subject of speculation and a challenge as well.

In an increasingly interconnected yet fragmented world, humanity faces a host of pressing global challenges. These include climate change, the pursuit of green and sustainable development, counter-terrorism, food and health security, energy security with an emphasis on renewable energy, and the need for resilient connectivity and interdependence. Compounding these issues is the continued absence of truly representative and effective global institutions capable of addressing such complex concerns.

Against this backdrop, India's diplomatic posture is also increasingly geared towards facilitating its internal transformation. The twin goals of economic development and conflict avoidance are pursued through nimble-footed diplomacy, supporting the nation's long-term vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India) by 2047. India leverages not only its strategic partnerships but also its civilizational heritage, cultural richness, and soft power assets, from yoga and Ayurveda to cinema, democracy, and its vibrant diaspora.

Guided by its ancient civilisational values, India seeks to contribute to global welfare through equitable access to global goods and commons. The philosophies of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family), Vishwabandhu (global kinship), and Vishwa Mitra (universal friendship) form the moral compass of India's external engagement, shaping its identity as a responsible and compassionate global actor.

As India consolidates its global role in an uncertain world, building comprehensive national power becomes imperative. This approach was aptly captured by External Affairs Minister Dr. S. Jaishankar, who outlined India's multifaceted diplomatic strategy:

“This is the time for us to engage America, manage China, cultivate Europe, reassure Russia, bring Japan into play, draw neighbours in, extend the neighbourhood, and expand traditional constituencies of support.”

This layered, pragmatic, and values-driven foreign policy equips India to act with strategic clarity and moral purpose in a rapidly shifting geopolitical landscape.