

Essays

Polity

CHANGING GEOPOLITICS POST CORONA

The whole world is facing a pandemic in the form of COVID-19. There will be a significant change in everything around us which from now on, will be described in terms of pre-Corona time and Post-Corona time. Humanity had already faced a pandemic in the form of the Influenza virus in 1918, and the world changed in various geopolitical aspects after that pandemic. The same result is being expected now, i.e., the world will change in geopolitical terms post-corona. There will be changes in the dynamics within countries, as well as in relations between the countries with the US and China.

Uncertainty in the US

The US did not take the required measures at the initial stages of a pandemic, and no lockdown was in place at that time. It is said that the US government was conscious of the economic losses that it might have to bear. Finally, now they are better prepared to fight the virus, but this raises the question of whether there is actually democratic governance in the country or are the authorities forcing governance. The people of the country didn't take the threat posed by the Coronavirus seriously, and they were just fine with the government's approach.

Recently there is political upheaval in the US due to the death of a black man George Floyd after being attacked by a white police officer. Riots took place in the US, and people are not happy with the government. This surely will create an uncertain condition post corona in the US and raise a question of who will form the next government.

Addressing Public health issues

Many countries had the world believe that they had large quantities of food and petroleum stock, which will make their food and energy security stronger. But they have actually been found wanting in terms of medical facilities to treat the COVID affected patients.

For example, the US president asked help from India with the supply of HCQ or hydroxychloroquine medicine to treat their patients, and this seemed extremely bizarre that a developed nation like the US does not have stocks of normal medicines. Not only the US, but many other developed European countries also did not have HCQ in stock.

It is for sure that from now on, the government of every country will focus on public health more seriously after the situation normalizes.

Large-scale Productions

Many companies or industries used to manufacture their products based on a "just-in-time" strategy. This was done mainly because of the associated profits as well as their logistical constraints. But now the companies have realized that they need to manufacture products according to the needs rather than merely for profits.

Post-COVID, the majority of the production sectors will re-align their production scale and will strive to make it possible for them to face any situation like this in the future.

Social Safety for the poor

The inequality for the poor or less fortunate people was increasing even before this pandemic, and now it has been shown clearly through the state of poor people in many countries, especially in India. The rich or fortunate managed the lockdown with just boredom hitting them, but the poor lost their daily income and were finding it hard to arrange food to eat. India has crores of unregistered and daily wage workers. With this lockdown, they suffered a lot, and now the whole nation clearly understood the injustice and the difficulties faced by them. In rich countries like the US, the injustice to blacks is also being exposed. In India, many laborers died because of walking for several hundred kilometres to their homes without food and shelter, causing unrest amongst a large section of the population.

After this pandemic ends, every nation would have a separate social safety program for the lesser privileged to provide them with access to food, shelter, and medicine in crucial times.

India's measures for COVID-19

India has not only successfully navigated the lockdown but has also taken advantage of the strategic opportunities at this time. The clever decision to export medicines such as HCQ and Paracetamol to neighborhood countries as well friendly countries such as the US., the E.U., Brazil, and Israel was based not only on the broader philosophy of 'Vasudhaiv Kutumbakam'- 'the whole world is one family,' this was also a clear move to lend a helping hand to other countries and strengthen the relationship with them.

India will boost the production of Pharmaceutical ingredients in the upcoming days. India has a robust pharmaceutical manufacturing industry, and it will be a major facilitator for health facilities in other regions.

Sustainable Development and Growth

Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been accepted after long discussions, and the specific target for meeting them is 2030. In particular, SDG 3 talks about "ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all at all ages." Without knowing the full impact of coronavirus disease, it is difficult to predict whether the necessary progress can be made to achieve this goal. Furthermore, depending on the economic impact of this crisis, in particular on countries such as India, the other SDG objectives such as 'No Poverty' and 'Zero Hunger' may be implemented soon.

The conflict between the US & China

The US and China are bashing each other for different reasons amid this pandemic. The US is blaming China for this pandemic and its carelessness in reporting the matter to other countries. The US has also stopped trade with China. This pandemic can cost a loss of 2% to the total GDP of China, which translates into losses worth trillions of dollars to the Chinese economy.

China will face a lot of roadblocks with its economic progress once this pandemic ends as many countries are reluctant to trade with China and are trying to boost their domestic production as well as look for alternative supply chains. India will use this opportunity to invite many countries to invest in India for production, as many countries have found China to be negligent in such a serious matter. This will benefit India on a larger scale. Luckily, India is on friendly terms with the US, and the US being a superpower will help ease this process for India.

Even there are some speculations and many thinktanks are of the opinion that both China and the US will fight for the position for the global superpower once this pandemic ends.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shaken the world, both in terms of politics and economy. All governments are fighting to normalize the situation in their countries as soon as possible. This pandemic has broken the backbone of the global economy. This has shown the people what kind of government they are supporting, democratic, or authoritarian. The US will have many reforms as many people in the US are not happy with the present style of governance, and the US will find it difficult to maintain its status as a superpower. India is facing this pandemic effectively, and more changes are expected in India both politically and economically in the days to come.