

**INDIA'S EMERGENCE AS AN INDEPENDENT POWER IN
“THE POST COVID WORLD”
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ABSTRACT:

The long-term Chinese goal is to erode US dominance in global political, economic, and military affairs. The global economy is reeling due to COVID-19's unexpected effects, writes Ravi Agrawal. The rapid spread of coronavirus worldwide has opened up new avenues for discussion. The crisis has prompted many countries to engage in new geostrategic formats. It's time to bring out the Quad Plus, writes Agrawal's, a virtual G20 summit for world leaders to work together on issues such as pandemics and climate change. He writes that the race to develop AI and 5G capabilities to overcome current limitations in healthcare and telecommunications is on. The pandemic has widened the chasm between two superpowers, the United States and China. India can and must lead the world in establishing a new multilateralism, writes Shashank Joshi.

Keyword: Reeling; Geostrategic; Quad Plus; Chasm; Multilateralism.

INTRODUCTION:

- The global situation has changed dramatically in recent years. Geopolitical and economic contests have created a great deal of uncertainty. Globalization's key drivers have been put under pressure. The propensity for 'weaponized' trade and technology is becoming more pronounced in international relations. The world's flagbearer of democratic ideals, the United States, is attempting to maintain its position at the top of the international order while rejecting multilateralism. The United Nations and its agencies, such as UNESCO, have suffered as a result of this. The World Trade Organization, the Paris Climate Agreement, and transatlantic and transpacific trade agreements are examples.
- On the other hand, China is adamant about preserving the gains of a liberal trading order and lobbying for global acceptance of its political governance and economic development systems, even though it is neither liberal nor democratic. A long-term Chinese goal is to erode US dominance in global political, economic, and military affairs. Let's start with China's outskirts.

MULTICULTURALISM FAILURE:

- COVID-19, a fast-spreading and silent killer that has quickly spread from China to the rest of the world, has dealt a significant blow to the fragile international compact. The pandemic has highlighted flaws in multilateral structures as well as gaps in national capabilities, particularly in the healthcare sector. The irony is that democracies appear to be lagging behind authoritarian regimes such as China. Multilateralism has taken a backseat.
- Most people point to the UN Security Council's egregious lack of action in March 2020, when China was the UN's President. It will go down in history as one of the greatest ironies that, in the face of a massive threat to the lives and security of millions of people around the world, a country that has oddly sought to play a global leadership role has actively suppressed debate.' The United States' decision to withhold nearly \$5500 million in annual voluntary funding from the World Health Organization is linked to WHO's dubious working nature and China's biased system.

THE DOWNTURN IN THE ECONOMY:

- The global economy is reeling due to COVID-19's unexpected effects, with the IMF predicting an impending recession. The service sector and interdependent supply chains in The manufacturing industry have been hit the hardest globally. Manufacturing has taken a hit that has never been seen before.
- Even if it goes against market principles, one might wonder if the present situation will bolster protectionist policies and local production. Ironically, the urgent need for a new perspective on globalization and collaboration in dealing with catastrophes and other issues occurs at the same time as a morally and financially destabilized global economy labelled by secure borders and interrupted value and supply chain stores

TECHNOLOGY AND ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE ON THE RISE:

- The daily deluge of information about the pandemic has created a surreal atmosphere within the confines of global lockdowns. Work, leisure, and human contact routines in Quintilian society have disrupted various unrecognizable ways. 'Work from home has resulted in an increase in the number of users and the flow of data in the digital world, putting a massive strain on existing bandwidth capacities that are difficult to change. With the growing reliance on webinars and online tasks, including hospitals, the established. The internet property's vital infrastructure is evolving: banks and essential service providers.
- Due to these circumstances, a race develops a vaccine and moves from "lockdown" to "open" in a graded manner with the least possible risk Bourne has designed. Simultaneously, a race is underway to develop AI and 5G capacities in order to overcome inherent limitations in healthcare and telecommunications. The

next generation of telecommunications infrastructure will have to accommodate this to mass healthcare schemes in terms of cost and scope.

- COVID-19 is also reshaping public safety and international security dynamics. Armed forces can be found all over the globe. In confined/small spaces, bunkers, armored vehicles, and troop carriers, as well as naval ships, are frequently deployed. They'll have to make difficult choices to stop the coronavirus from spreading without jeopardizing national security.
- As the outbreak of the COVID-19 virus demonstrated, the pandemic could have broader implications/effects for military positions in the Indo-Pacific.
- Beyond the threat of asymmetric war and the use of hard power in wars, countries will need to re-evaluate hypothetical outcomes and build numerically adequate forces of contagion specialists, physicians, and health professionals to serve as the new foot soldiers in this fight. Healthcare has risen to the top of the list of critical infrastructure that will shape the future of national security.

COVID-19: INDIA'S ABILITY TO LEAD:

The rapid spread of coronavirus worldwide has opened up new avenues for discussion in a variety of fields. There is hope as well as potential for a new global compact. Contributions in dollars and cents will be evaluated, as well as countries' desire to share thoughts, best practices, and available resources in order to develop a worldwide framework for tracking, authentication, advance detection, and collaboration by many countries.

THE CIVILIZATIONAL ETHOS OF INDIA:

- The Buddha's teachings of peace and nonviolence stand out among India's ancient civilization's contributions to the world. Mahatma Gandhi's nonviolent struggle for India's Independence continues to inspire people all over the world. Gandhiji also advocated for restraint in the use of the planet's finite resources. He famously stated that the earth has sufficient resources to meet our needs, not our greed.
- Prime Minister Narendra Modi is a firm believer in the natural harmony between humans and Mother Nature. This is especially true as we work to form a new cohort for cooperation in the fight against not just the COVID-19 pandemic but all pandemics. However, there are also concerns about economic growth, healthcare, and food security in the post-COVID-19 era.

SCRUTINY OF WET MARKETS:

- In light of COVID19, there is a case to be made for a closer examination of "Wet Markets" in China and Southeast Asia. Animals, such as tigers, monkeys, donkeys, and pangolins, and snakes and bats, play a role in many other countries' culinary traditions, which are influenced by culture, geography, and climatic conditions. Around the world, geckos and monitor lizards have all been the victims of illegal

poaching and trafficking. These activities raise the risk of zoonotic transmission of unknown and potentially fatal viruses.'

- It is critical to develop more effective methods for dealing with the unlawful mass murder of wild animals for bush meat and animal extracts for traditional medicine. The Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), a unilateral treaty with over 180 signatories, requires strengthening and improvement. Should not only CITES focus on the illegal and lethal global trade that it has already addressed? On the other hand, inordinate extraction of esoteric flora and fauna within national boundaries must be addressed.
- Every country has signed the agreement. Like the rest of the world, China needs to pass and enforce strict legislation to regulate domestic wild animal consumption and close down questionable wet markets and animal farms. India has a better record of preservation and regulation of punishments for the murder and impoverishment of shielded wildlife than most other countries. 'There is significant room for the Modi leaders to enforce the result in proposing that CITES be given more teeth to global standards criticism and safety checks.'

CONVENTION ON BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS (BWC) REFORM:

- It's now or never. On a strategic level, the world appears to be against China, despite its attempts to regain legitimacy by emphasizing the "superiority of its system in dealing with the pandemic" rather than the origins of the coronavirus.
- The coronavirus is thought to have started in a Wuhan lab, with theories abounding about biowarfare programmers and an unintended release. This is a fantastic chance to highlight the BWC's inherent flaws as a 1975 organization. It is a non-prohibitive demilitarization pact that allows bacterial infections, such as coronaviruses, to be kept and used for preventative reasons, such as clinical research for prognosis and immunization.
- It lacks a protocol for dealing with any suspected use of biological agents. Despite the fact that the UN Security Council has the ability to examine concerns in this area, the permanent members' absolute power, which includes China, renders this a mirage. In preparation for the 9th Review Conference of the BWC in 2021. India could hold its own talks with other major powers to develop a better oversight system.

HOLISTIC HEALTH SYSTEM DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION

- The pandemic of COVID-19 Meanwhile, it has spread a universal truth" that reveals many spider webs, namely that wealth cannot protect anyone, and even the world's wealthiest People are not immune to this silent killer. If a person is infected with COVID-19, those who have a higher level of immunity have a higher chance of surviving.

- Even though infection rates have risen dramatically in India, the death toll has remained low, possibly due to the population's youthful demographic profile and the less privileged sections' naturally higher immunity levels. Who is at a greater risk of infection regularly?
- Yoga, an ancient Indian practice that involves the exercise of a healthy mind and body, is well known for boosting immunity. Under the banner of Prime Minister Modi's initiative, the International Day of Yoga now is the time to strengthen/reintroduce Yoga as a worldwide practice. This year, India should organize special virtual events to encourage people worldwide to practice Yoga for overall health.

INDIA AS VISHWA VAIDYA:

- According to Vasudeva Kutumbakam's ethos, India's readiness to transport the bashing drug hydroxychloroquine to other countries fighting COVID-19 is a "good Samaritan" act by the world's producer and exporter of cheap generic medicines.
- India has also sent rapid response teams to a number of countries in the region. India is also competing in the development of a virus vaccine. India has the potential to be a "pharmacy for the rest of the world," if China is a "factory for the rest of the world." Vishwa Vaidya has the ability to take on a new and well-deserved role (global physician). This enables India to promote Ayurveda, a complementary therapy to Yoga.

MULTILATERAL INSTITUTIONS SHOULD BE RE-ENERGIZED:

- When the UN Security Council, the G-20, the G7, and the EU were all dormant. Prime Minister Modi's initiatives to develop a coordinated response stood out. He called a teleconference with SAARC countries, which resulted in forming a SAARC COVID-19. Emergency Fund for a quick regional reaction. Since then, a lot has happened. Despite the monumental task of providing healthcare to its 1.3 billion people, India has dispatched rapid response teams of specialists and medical equipment to some countries, including its neighbor's, according to Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Our community collaboration should be held up as a model for the rest of the world."
- Similarly, Prime Minister Modi's proposal for G20 countries to collaborate led to the convening of an Incredible, Digital G20 Leaders' Summit on March 26, 2020, to negotiate the outbreak's challenges and create a coordinated global response. During the meeting, he emphasized the need for "reformed multilateralism." He urged world leaders to usher in new globalization for humanity's collective well-being and to have a multilateral focus on promoting humanity's shared interests, despite the fact that globalization had failed in many ways. Prime Minister Modi and Minister of External

Affairs S. Jaishankar has been extremely active in enlisting international partners' assistance in combating the pandemic.

THE INDO-PACIFIC FROM A 'QUAD PLUS' PERSPECTIVE:

- The COVID-19 crisis has prompted many countries to engage in new geostrategic formats. It's time to bring out the Quad Plus. Other countries such as the Republic of Korea, Vietnam, New Zealand, Israel, and Brazil have recently been invited to exchange views and propose cooperation with select African countries bordering the Indian Ocean.
- After all, the Indo-Pacific, which extends from the US west coast to India's west coast, is a huge region, and governs the entire Indian Ocean's maritime space. A Quad Plus creates a more inclusive and acceptable firm structure. There is potential for collaboration in promoting connectivity and infrastructure projects for the entire region's benefit, based on fundamental openness principles. Transparency and the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and international standards governing development assistance, fiscal responsibility, environmental stewardship, sovereignty, and territorial integrity.

A NEW INTERNET GOVERNANCE MODEL:

India must renew and significantly increase its efforts to advocate for a multi-stakeholder internet governance model in cybersecurity. This is especially important in light of the rise in cybercrime and malicious attacks by both state and non-state actors, as well as threats to critical infrastructure. Artificial intelligence, big data, drone and other surveillance technologies, and online platforms will play a more prominent role after COVID-19.

CONCLUSION:

The COVID-19 virus will eventually be vaccinated, but the world must be prepared to prevent paying a lot of money by not trying to treat epidemics as a one-time occurrence. Given the frequency of SARS, MERS, as well as other comparable viral infestations in ancient times, COVID-19 is hardly a "black swan" event. Many more natural disasters may befall humanity, and it will be up to us to deal with or prepare for them. The post-COVID-19 era's contours are hazy, especially in terms of improving the economy, universal health care, and food safety. There don't appear to be any clear winners at this time. The pandemic has widened the gap between the US and China, the two superpowers. Given the Chinese national economy's irreplaceable primacy in global value chains, however, it's unclear whether the US, the EU, or Japan will be able to achieve significant separation. COVID-19 has demonstrated the worldwide effect of China's deeds. China's coordination will be critical in reshaping international institutions and practices, regardless of the cost of holding it accountable for its crimes. Within the SAARC and G20 frameworks, Prime Minister Modi has done an outstanding job grasping the nettle and leading the charge to

forge a new global compact. India enjoys friendly relations with a number of major powers. It's very popular in developing countries. 'With excellent long-term economic prospects in the coming decades, a confident India appears fully capable of absorbing the pandemic's shocks and striding forth to engage a world beset by tariff war and ideological dissent. In this world, despair has no place. Despite its difficulties, India has the ability and responsibility to lead the world in establishing a new international cooperation that prioritizes the common good of humankind over limited country's interests. It's possible. Multilateralism provides India with a strategic opportunity to emerge as an independent pole in the post-COVID-19 world. In this task, Prime Minister Modi's mantra should be used. India will be guided by the values of Samman (respect), Samvad (dialogue), sahyog (cooperation), Shanti (peace), and Samridhi (prosperity)

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