

2nd National Chief Secretaries' Conference

Global Geopolitical Challenges:

India's Response

Geo-political Challenges

- Crisis of Globalization & Return of Great Power Competition
- Geopolitical Realignments
- Rebalancing/Multipolarity
- Economic manifestation
- Race for strategic resources/minerals & technology controls
- Threats & Coercion (Military and Economic)

States/UTs & Geopolitics?

•How is geopolitics relevant to states/UTs?

- Trade & Investment Linkages
- Shared international borders/frontiers
- *[Terrorism/Aggression/Infiltration/Drugs/Illegal migration/Crime]*
- Shared resources *[Water/Oil/Gas/Marine]*
- Shared ethnicities
- Diaspora Issues

Issues for States/UTs

- Economic and Commercial Ecosystem
- Border Infrastructure/Coastal Management
- Water rights
- Fisheries

China

- Military aggression (Ladakh & Arunachal)
- Water
- Economic exploitation
- Social subversion/disinformation/propaganda
- Dominance of key supply chains (e.g., solar)

Other Challenges

- China
- Fracturing Global Value Chains/Technology Sanctions
- Covid
- Climate Change
- Russia's conflict with Ukraine – global security and economic crisis; defence/commodities (fertilizers) supply chain challenges for India
- High dependence on **Imported Crude** (80%) and **Gas** (50%)
- Transition to **Renewables** dependent on imports - need for **alternative supply chains**

Opportunity India - 2030

- Display of capability (Covid/Ukraine crises)
- A balanced international posture
- Adoption of technology
- Optimism about India – G-20 / Role of States
- Flux in global supply chains creating space
- Demographic dividend

Economic Strategy

- Upgrade infrastructure – physical/digital (GatiShakti/JAM)
- Increase share of manufacturing in GDP – PLI – boost exports/employment
- Lower cost of borrowing in economy
- Energy initiatives – diversification and efficiency
- Climate adaptation
- A 21st century Education/Skilling/Knowledge Ecosystem (NEP)
- Startup ecosystem
- Indian narrative – (LiFE)

Energy Efficiency = Energy Security

- Energy intensity of growth coming down; but needs to be lower still
- Need to optimize energy consumption – metering
- Need to develop critical minerals/rare earth deposits
- Create facilities for recycling

Education/Skilling/Knowledge

- “Multiple Intelligences”
- Prepare children for 21st century challenges – climate change, mental health, coexistence with AI/ML, interpersonal skills
- Go beyond enrolment and arithmetic efficiency
- Re-imagine what children are taught and what they learn

Growth through Fiscal Discipline

- Government's borrowing rate sets rate for rest of the economy
- Lowering this rate is key to enabling investments in infrastructure and manufacturing
- Governments can help by putting their finances in order; clean up hidden and contingent liabilities; lower risk premium; contribute to lower interest rate and higher investments; invest in the future

What Can States/UTs do?

- Fix financial viability of power generation & distribution
- Address contingent and hidden liabilities
- Skill the youth
- Create primary/secondary/tertiary & preventive healthcare infrastructure
- Equip municipal corporations with capacity and resources to build tomorrow's smart and resilient cities

What Can States/UTs do?

- Broaden understanding of geo-strategic undercurrents – political/economic
- Engage more intensively and regularly with national authorities on international developments
- Leverage local resources/attributes for taking advantage of opportunities created by shifting global trends
- Resist penetration/subversion of society by adversaries
- Promote research/study of international relations

Thank You