India Now Has Acceptance With the Global North and Global South

The Balancing Challenge

India's balancing role means maintaining productive relations with both the Global North and Global South without becoming excessively dependent on any one power bloc, but this becomes increasingly difficult in a rapidly changing geopolitical environment.

US–China Rivalry

US–China rivalry puts India in a delicate position because India cooperates closely with the US and its partners through platforms such as the Quad and the Indo-Pacific, while China remains an important neighbour and major economic power. Therefore, India needs diplomatic agility and strategic autonomy rather than choosing sides.

Russia–Ukraine Conflict

Similarly, the Russia–Ukraine conflict creates another challenge because India has longstanding defence and energy ties with Russia while simultaneously deepening its partnerships with the US and Europe, requiring India to balance national interests with its commitment to dialogue and peaceful resolution of conflicts.

Fragmentation of the Global Order

The fragmentation of the global order—with growing competition among the US, China, Russia, the EU, India and other regional powers—also makes global governance more complex and strengthens India's case for reforms in institutions such as the UN, IMF and World Bank.

Divergent Expectations of the Global North and Global South

At the same time, the Global North expects greater cooperation on issues such as climate action, security, technology and trade, whereas the Global South prioritises development, poverty reduction, climate finance, food and energy security, debt relief and greater representation in global institutions.

What India Needs

India therefore needs economic strength to support its defence, technology and diplomatic capabilities, diplomatic agility to engage different powers simultaneously, and consistency in its principles of strategic autonomy, sovereignty, peaceful dispute resolution and reformed multilateralism.

The Larger Challenge

Thus, India's challenge is not simply to balance the North and South, but to convert its position between competing power centres into strategic leverage and emerge as a bridge-builder and rule-shaper in a multipolar world.

Editorial Summary: "India Now Has Acceptance With Global North and Global South"

The editorial "India now has acceptance with Global North and Global South" highlights India's growing ability to engage simultaneously with both the developed Global North and developing Global South, reflecting its emergence as an important bridge and balancing power in a multipolar world order.

India's Multi-Aligned Approach

India's approach is rooted in strategic autonomy and multi-alignment rather than choosing one geopolitical bloc: it maintains partnerships with the US and Europe while retaining strong ties with Russia and actively engaging with platforms such as BRICS, G20, SCO and other Global South initiatives.

Strengthening Credibility on Both Sides

India's leadership of the Global South agenda, including efforts to bring developing-country concerns into global institutions, has strengthened its diplomatic credibility, while its growing economic, technological, defence and geopolitical weight has increased its acceptance among developed powers.

Leveraging This Positioning

This positioning allows India to pursue its national interests while advocating reforms in global governance, climate finance, development, trade and international institutions.

Sustaining the Balancing Role

However, maintaining this balancing role requires diplomatic agility, economic strength and consistency, particularly amid US–China rivalry, Russia–Ukraine tensions, fragmentation of the global order and competing expectations from the Global North and South.

From Rule-Taker to Rule-Shaper

The larger significance is that India is moving from being a rule-taker to a rule-shaper, seeking a greater voice in institutions such as the UN Security Council, IMF and World Bank while championing a more representative and multipolar international order.

Relevant Topics

- International Relations- India and the Global North & Global South
- Strategic autonomy
- Multi-alignment
- India’s role in a multipolar world
- India–US/EU relations
- India–Russia relations
- BRICS, G20, SCO
- Reform of global institutions
- India’s claim for UNSC permanent membership and Global South leadership