



DECCAN DIALOGUE

CRISIS AND COOPERATION: IMPERATIVE IN THE TIMES OF PANDEMIC

CONCEPT NOTE

November 16, 2020

Deccan Dialogue is an initiative of Indian School of Business (ISB), supported by the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA), Government of India.

Organised by ISB, Deccan Dialogue has become an annual flagship event aimed at promoting multi-stakeholder conversations on various aspects of diplomacy and India's external engagement. Deccan Dialogue brings together policy makers, representatives from business, diplomatic and strategic community, media, and academia on a common platform, to engage and deliberate on emerging aspects of diplomacy and development.

The first edition of Deccan Dialogue was held in 2018 on the theme 'decentralised cooperation' and the second edition held in 2019, focused on the theme 'diplomacy in the age of disruption'. Currently we are indeed facing heights of disruption due to the ongoing pandemic.

The third edition of Deccan Dialogue will deliberate on theme of 'Crisis and Cooperation: Imperative in the times of Pandemic'. It is imperative that all stakeholders keep pace with the changes and engage in a policy dialogue where international, national, and local stakeholders can come together to jointly address and respond to the crisis. This dialogue will be organised on a digital platform.

INAUGURAL DIALOGUE

CRISIS AND COOPERATION: IMPERATIVE IN THE TIMES OF PANDEMIC

The COVID-19 is a transnational threat and does not recognise international borders. As humans, we are pathogenically connected across the globe and this has widespread and uneven effects.

As novel coronavirus is spread throughout the world and the number of cases continues to rise, no country or community remains untouched by this threat. The countries at their individual level are doing their bit to limit the spread of COVID-19, isolating the positive cases and taking care of them, reduce social and economic disruptions to the possible extent, and meet basic human needs through various governmental measures. However, the pandemic is a global crisis and much needs to be done, together. At this critical time, it is essential to emphasise the need for international cooperation. This global crisis needs a global response.

The Government of India has emphasised the need for cooperation to come up with a strategy to fight coronavirus. Addressing SAARC nations, Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi said: "Together we can set an example to the world and contribute to a healthier planet".

India's foreign policy may undergo a significant change due to the changing global dynamics triggered by COVID-19. As India seeks to sustain its economic might in the post COVID-19 global economic landscape, there is a need to discuss and deliberate on the continuities and change in India's foreign policy due to the global pandemic.

The objective of the 3rd edition of Deccan Dialogue is to explore ways and means to address the crisis through various diplomatic efforts of cooperation and talk in detail on the pertinent issues faced by the world order.

DIALOGUE I:

INDIA'S CRITICAL ROLE IN 'HEALTHCARE DIPLOMACY: POLICY IMPLICATIONS'

COVID19 has brought out some important challenges across the globe that would need coordinated and cooperated action. In the post Covid scenario, what could be some better strategies to address future global

healthcare challenges? Are scientific communities competing among each other or cooperating with each other? What do we learn from our current experience? The objective of the panel is to take stock of India's global agenda in healthcare management.

DIALOGUE II:

'ATMANIRBHAR BHARAT: SYNCHRONISING GLOBALISATION WITH DECENTRALISED COOPERATION

Atmanirbhar Bharat talks about the need to strengthen local economy by creating value and growth within the country. It does not talk only about assembly but also touches upon the need to innovate and create the required economic value. This calls for a decentralised growth agenda. However, what does it mean for globalisation and international trade and business cooperation? In an increasingly inter-connected world, how do we balance the need for an accelerated domestic growth while fulfilling our global leadership aspirations? The objective of the dialogue is to make the participants understand the philosophy of the initiative – Atmanirbhar Bharat and find a synchronous functioning between globalisation and decentralised cooperation.

VALEDICTORY DIALOGUE

'Together we can set an example to the world, and contribute to a healthier planet', says Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi. India recognises the importance of international cooperation against Covid-19. Many countries sought to tackle the coronavirus on their own without any considerations of cooperation. However the vulnerabilities of such countries still stand high. It is observed by some scholars that India is moderately placed among the major world economies on the criterion of potential vulnerabilities. Decentralised cooperation is an important window of diplomacy to address these vulnerabilities.