

The pandemic has strongly challenged the Laissez Faire Globalisation and enhanced the process of Gated Globalisation.

Gated Globalisation is a selective globalisation fueled by national interests like Atmanirbhara Bharat or America First.

Unlike open globalisation of pre pandemic - washington consensus which calls for borderless trade, tariff reduction & freedom,

Gated globalisation calls for trading blocks of countries having similar interests and keeping others out. For example RCEP, VSMCA etc.

Unlike regionalism it is not limited by geographical boundaries

but converge with political, economic  
and strategic interests globally.

Post pandemic realities now push countries  
to adopt gated globalisation because

(i) Avoided shocks - 2001, 2008 & COVID 19  
crisis severely affected the joint globalisation.

→ gated globalisation will help to  
break chains of such impacts & save  
countries from domino effects.

(ii) Chinese rise - as the gravity shifts  
towards Asia, & Indo-Pacific, India  
& other countries like Vietnam need  
an aligned strategic block.

emergence of QUAD & QUAD plus  
can be seen in this light.

(iii) Atmanirbhar Bharat - building  
domestic industries with selective

Trading favours India.

iv) Diluted WTO - also calls for self interested policies because alignment of interest in large trading block is tough.

However,  gated globalisation is challenging for countries like India.

(i) Atmanirbharata v/s isolation

→ not joining RCEP, has isolated India, from regional value chain.

(ii) Against competition - when best practices & technology like 5G is selective, it reduce the pace of development.

(iii) Consumer's dilemma - It hurts consumer by keeping cheap/best products away.

(iv) Non Alignment - making gated military parts is against India's long term stand of non alignment. It promotes scepticism & mistrust.

However, as MEA quotes, aligning with other countries doesn't mean aligning against others, gated globalisation should follow it.