Threats to achieving SDGs

What is the issue?

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- US President Trump’s stance on Iran nuclear deal and North Korea's threat implies a trend of prioritising individual national interests above the shared global objectives.
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- In this protectionist context, achieving global goals like the Sustainable Development Goals has become highly uncertain.
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What are the unfavourable developments?

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- Most of the advanced countries are confronting with serious **fiscal constraints.**
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- **'Politics' and 'economics'**, many a times, are not complementing each other and thus are further complicating the welfare measures.
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- The rising migration provides larger scope for spreading the political stress and instability of one country into other countries.
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- The growing problem of **refugees** in many parts of the world is evidential of this trend.
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- The rising dominance of **knowledge-intensive technology** leaves a possibility of making less-privileged groups, classes, sectors, and regions struggle to compete.
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- The SDGs have always had challenges in terms technological disruption, geopolitical rivalry, and widening social inequality.
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- In addition to these, the rising populist demands for nationalist policies,

including **trade protectionism**, have intensified these challenges considerably.
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- All these developments are increasingly eroding the faith of the downtrodden on the development orthodoxy of good governance and SDGs as a solution to many global challenges.
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What is required?

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- The SDGs aim at relieving some global pressures, by protecting the environment and improving the lives of people within their home countries.
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- It requires countries to cooperate and exhibit responsible politics and a much stronger social consensus.
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- There is a need for a fundamental shift in the mindset of the countries, from one of **competition to cooperation**.
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- **Multilateral institutions** intended at this purpose should be upgraded and restructured to meet and decide on these global development challenges and goals like the SDGs.
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Source: Business Standard

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