

US India - The Uncertainty Crisis

What is the issue?

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India needs to revisit past assumptions about India-US strategic ties.

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What are the uncertainties prevailing in US?

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- Trump has thrown traditional US political rules and politeness out of the window with no regard for decorum.

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- This has forced the press and his political rivals to follow suit and democratic space for accommodative discussion has literally vanished.

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- The White House, meanwhile, has turned into a dysfunctional battleground as one senior staffer after another heads for the exit.

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- Last week, he refused to condemn neo-Nazis outright and also lost his key right-hand man Steve Bannon.

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- The US is still the world's reigning superpower, so Trump's antics affect everyone on the planet.

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- The President's erratic tweeting habits have also sent out confusing signals ruining years of carefully crafted diplomatic victories.

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What are the implications for India?

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- Since the start, Trump has shown little real interest in India and his volatile behaviour has put our policy experts in a big dilemma.

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- Although we've been building a close relationship with the US to counterbalance China, given the US uncertainty, it's going to be an increasingly lonely trek.
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- US may also be hoping the Chinese will help in dealing with the menace of North Korea, a tilt that will work against India's interests.
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- With this hazy maze in the background, we may have to proceed all the more carefully in the days ahead.
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Source: Businessline

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