

Economy & Policy

Sword Of Consensus: How India Is Fighting World's Rich To Protect Its Farmers

The geopolitics of Geneva came knocking doors of millions of India's farmers, while most of them sit unaware. However, India, which champions the Global South, was determined to resist the charge by using the old rules of the game

A former WTO official who did not wish to be named says developed nations could not prepare ground for the proposal. This is because as per rules of amendment, a consensus is required to make changes to the decision-making process.

“Consensus is very much part of the DNA of the system. It would require close to consensus among the important members to change that,” says Lorand Bartels, professor of international law at the University of Cambridge.

The discussion on consensus and voting comes at a time when the significance of the WTO is diminishing. Nilanjan Banik, professor at Mahindra University attributes this trend to the proliferation of bilateral and regional trade agreements.

He suggests the erosion of the global trade body could potentially become a platform for geopolitical maneuvering, which developed economies might exploit to further their interests.