Occasional News Wrap – #29/November 2020



The Biden Administration Hopes and Aspirations for Indo-U.S. Relations

09 – 12 November 2020

The U.S. being the oldest and India being the largest democracies, the future of bilateral relations will depend upon how the Biden administration can carry forward the legacy of both its democratic and republican predecessors in deepening the relationship. Having a track record of steering the Indo-U.S. Civil Nuclear Deal and worked with the President Obama in taking the relationships to the higher levels, there remains hopes and aspirations for greater partnerships not just between the two countries, but for ensuring a rules-based Indo-Pacific which is 'the' imperative for a balanced global order for underlining peace, security, stability and prosperity. This ONW reflects upon such developments.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
The real significance of the Biden win By Radha Kumar The Hindu November 10, 2020	The Indian media has analysed the impact of a Joe Biden presidency on relations between the United States and India in some detail. Most commentators are right in saying there will be little overall change and what there is might be marginally beneficial: India will remain a potential ally in a troubled neighbourhood, defence and counter-terrorism cooperation will continue as will trade negotiations, and there will be greater potential for cooperation on climate change.
Under Biden, unfurling India's foreign policy concerns By Chinmaya R. Gharekhan The Hindu November 10 2020	Nobody in the world is going to be sad about U.S. President Donald Trump leaving the White House next January, except, most likely, the Israeli Prime Minister Netanyahu — they had close links. Mr. Trump's only real achievements in foreign policy were the agreements on establishment of diplomatic relations that he negotiated between Israel and a couple of the Gulf States; these will not be affected by the change in the presidency.
Restoration of India's GSP status, a small Indo-US trade deal to send very strong signal Mukesh Aghi, USISPF The Economic Times November 10, 2020	Restoration of India's Generalized System of Preferences (GSP) status by US President-elect Joe Biden and Washington quickly closing a small trade deal with it would send a very strong signal to New Delhi, according to the head of a top India-centric American business advocacy group. In an interview, Mukesh Aghi, President of US India Strategic and Partnership Forum (USISPF), said that India and the US should close a small trade deal as a quick win and start focusing on the bigger issue.

Biden victory: Plenty of positives for India, Indian Americans By Frank F. Islam South Asia Monitor November 10, 2020	Former Vice President Joe Biden has defeated President Donald Trump in a <u>tightly contested</u> American election held in the backdrop of the biggest health crisis in more than one hundred years. The election was followed closely in India for three reasons: the presence of a candidate of Indian origin on the Democratic ticket; the rising prominence of the Indian American community in US politics; and the foreign policy implications that every new administration presents.
Joe Biden's China policy and its impact on India-US relations India Today November 10, 2020	The good thing about strong India-US ties is that both countries will try and work with whoever occupies the highest office in each country. Prime Minister Narendra Modi congratulated US President-elect Joe Biden the night (in India) elections were called. Biden has also said he will continue to strengthen India-US relations.
Joe Biden believes India-US partnership is defining relationship of 21st Century The Indian Express November 08, 2020	US President-elect Joe Biden believes India-US partnership is the defining relationship of the 21st century, and he plans to strengthen ties between the two countries. Biden, 77, who has a track record of advocating a stronger India-US relationship, also believes that there is a lot of scope in bilateral trade. When the former vice president travelled to India, he set a goal of taking the bilateral trade to \$500 billion, which as of now is little over U\$150 billion.
How a Joe Biden Presidency Could Change U.SIndia Relations Time November 07, 2020 What's next for India, South Asia as Joe Biden enters White House	The confirmation that Joe Biden will be the next President of the United States will reshape the nation's relationship with countries around the world. Biden has pledged that he will restore the U.S.'s "respected leadership on the world stage" and bring together representatives of democracies around the world to "honestly confront the challenge of nations that are backsliding." US President-elect Joe Biden's "spectacular victory" will certainly impact India as it inches closer to America strategically under the Indo-Pacific set-up and faces a tough challenge from China, while
By Nayanima Basu The Print November 08, 2020	a lot of tasks remain to be accomplished with a new administration. As America begins to "unite" and "heal", New Delhi is pinning its hopes on the new US administration to make Biden's 2020 dream of making India and the US the "two closest nations in the world" come true.
Issues of human rights, religion likely to emerge in future India-US ties Global Times November 09, 2020	Joe Biden was projected to be the winner of the 2020 presidential election after he gained the 270 electoral votes needed to win the election, according to multiple US media outlets. Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Sunday congratulated Biden on his victory on Twitter, praised Biden's vital contribution to strengthening India-US ties during his tenure as vice president, and said he looks forward to closer cooperation between the two countries once again to take the relations to a higher level.
