



The Biden Administration

Hopes and Aspirations for Indo-U.S. Relations

2nd Edition

07 - 30 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 second edition of the ONW continues to reflect upon such developments.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
India's expectations from Biden presidency City Today November 30, 2020	The big picture about the likely course of Indo-U.S. relationship under Biden regime is that the strategic partnership between the two countries will remain undiminished at the level of complete interoperability and exchange of military intelligence that had been already been reached – this is primarily because the two largest democracies do share a common threat from an ambitious China. India should be prepared to face a situation where Biden presidency is full geared to dealing with Chinese aggressiveness in Indo-Pacific region military through QUAD but is not able to see the threat of Sino-Pak collusion against this country with the same alarm.
Promise of a Biden presidency: New Delhi should prepare for a new U.S. administration that genuinely engages with India <i>By Sumit Ganguly</i> The Times of India November 26, 2020	Can India expect a more nuanced policy under a Biden-Harris administration ? Some within India's foreign policy establishment fretted about a possible Biden-Harris victory during the presidential campaign. Their misgivings mostly stemmed from a small handful of carefully crafted comments from both aspirants about India's decision to abrogate Article 370 and the state of Hindu-Muslim relations in India. These comments, however, unpalatable to India's ruling party and its supporters, cannot be seen in isolation. Instead, they need to be contextualised. They represent friendly criticism from India's well-wishers even though on issues of some sensitivity.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>India sees 'strong interlocutor' in Antony Blinken, Biden's choice for U.S. Secretary of State The Print November 25, 2020</p>	<p>U.S. President-elect Joe Biden's decision to name Antony J. Blinken as the next Secretary of State is being seen as a positive move for India, which sees him as a "strong interlocutor" for New Delhi as it aims to build on strategic gains made under the Donald Trump administration. Blinken's nomination brings a "solid assurance" that he will ardently follow his boss' approach on giving "high priority to India", which will put India-U.S. strategic ties on a "steady path".</p>
<p>The Countries With the Most to Gain—and Lose—Under a Biden Administration Yahoo News November 25, 2020</p>	<p>Donald Trump may not be over the U.S. elections ... but plenty of other countries sure are. As the congratulations for President-elect Joe Biden and Vice President-elect Kamala Harris from foreign leaders stream in, here's a quick look at which world leaders have the most to gain and lose with the changing of the guard in Washington.</p>
<p>How Will the Joe Biden Presidency Impact India-U.S. Relations? Transfin November 24, 2020</p>	<p>Under President Trump, India-U.S. trade ties were rocky, to put it mildly. He routinely criticised India as "tariff king", denouncing its tariffs on everything from tech companies to Harley-Davidson motorbikes. A full-blown tit-for-tat trade war was narrowly avoided when trade representatives from both sides sat down to hammer out a trade deal. A Biden administration may be more inclined to compromise on Trumpian sticking points - like access to India's agriculture and dairy sectors. India's re-entry into the GSP can also be anticipated. But expect trade tensions to remain. Why? Because for starters, American trade policy is not merely a matter of executive <i>diktat</i> - it is also reliant on the U.S. Congress, where both major American parties hold sway.</p>
<p>Joe Biden's win is good for India-U.S. ties <i>By Frank F Islam</i> Hindustan Times November 23, 2020</p>	<p>Judging by the number of Indian-Americans Biden has included in various cabinet transition committees, one can expect a significant Indian-American presence in the administration. There are close to two-dozen Indian-Americans in the 500-member transition agency review teams. Three teams are led by Indian-Americans. 2020 was a long and contentious year politically which ended with a win for Biden, the U.S., and India. That is good news. The better news is that the best is yet to come.</p>
<p>Biden administration will have more deliberate, thoughtful engagement with India: Expert The Economic Times November 22, 2020</p>	<p>In some cases, there will be a "little bit of consistency" as both U.S. president Donald Trump and President-elect Joe Biden believe that India is an important strategic partner in the region. But Trump's relationship with India was a bit more short-term and reactive, the Biden administration is likely to have a slightly more deliberate and thoughtful engagement with India, said Sohini Chatterjee, a faculty member at Columbia University who previously served as senior policy advisor in the Obama administration.</p>

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<p>The U.S. at an Inflection Point <i>By Amit Dasgupta</i> Eastern Times November 21, 2020</p>	<p>If New Delhi believes it would be business-as-usual, it would be sadly mistaken. On a variety of issues, including China and Pakistan, the Biden Administration is likely to approach matters with new eyes. Islamabad’s recent decision to handout jail terms to Hafiz Saeed, the 26/11 terror attack mastermind, is not as a consequence of pressure from India but rather a blatant attempt to woo Washington with assurances of strong action against terror suspects.</p>
<p>U.S.-India Insight: Revisiting Good Ideas <i>By Richard M. Rossow</i> CSIS November 20, 2020</p>	<p>When a U.S. administration changes, those focused on the U.S.-India relationship offer useful commentary on what initiatives should be started, what should change, what should end, and what will remain the same. These are important considerations, but there is another category of initiatives that should also be considered: older ideas that are dormant or are currently underperforming but can bridge gaps in the U.S.-India relationship. Some good ideas simply need a second chance or prioritization from leaders within the administration.</p>
<p>Biden and new diplomacy: India will need to recalibrate its strategy to shifting global realities <i>By Yoginder K Alagh</i> The New Indian Express November 18, 2020</p>	<p>A crucial area of Indian Interest will be global trade negotiations. The Biden presidency is likely to be as aggressive on this as the Trump regime. It will also pursue the U.S. objective of strengthening multilateral accords and WTO rules with much greater technical clout and diplomatic pressure. Our government had already given up the food security and livelihood clauses as preconditions for discussing “other issues”, basically tariff reduction.</p>
<p>India Will Face No Problems in Taking Forward Ties With U.S. Under Joe Biden: S Jaishankar India.com November 18, 2020</p>	<p>External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar, on Tuesday, 17th November, said that the Indian government will face no problems in taking forward ties with the US under the Joe Biden administration because of the strong element of bipartisan support for the bilateral relationship. While talking about India’s relationship with Joe Biden, Jaishankar said that President-elect Biden is “not a stranger to India” and India has dealt with him in his former roles as vice president in the Barack Obama administration.</p>
<p>Bye, Tariff Man. Biden’s India Play Must Be Apps The Washington Post November 13, 2020</p>	<p>It’s time for a saner approach. The Biden administration can strike a bargain, persuading New Delhi to accommodate greater U.S. involvement in consumer apps, and to treat this investment fairly. In exchange, the U.S. would unwind Trump’s tariff increases and restore India’s access to the so-called generalized system of preferences that encourage developing nations to industrialize. Trump took away India’s GSP privilege last year.</p>
<p>Biden will priorities defence and security partnership with India says Obama-era official The Week November 12, 2020</p>	<p>Based on the priorities articulated already by President-elect Biden, I would anticipate that the Biden-Harris administration will continue to place a high priority on the defence and security relationship with India, the major area that has advanced during the Trump administration,” Alyssa Ayres Senior fellow for India, Pakistan, and South Asia at the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR).</p>

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<p>What will President Biden's United States look like to the rest of the world? <i>By Timothy Garton Ash</i> The Guardian November 07, 2020</p>	<p>If the Biden administration is wise, it will envisage this as a network of democracies, rather than a fixed alliance or community of democracies. Even a “summit of democracies”, reportedly a pet scheme of the president elect, would pose tricky questions of who’s in and who’s out. For example, Narendra Modi’s India is anything but a model liberal democracy at the moment, yet indispensable for addressing the “3 Cs”.</p>

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