

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

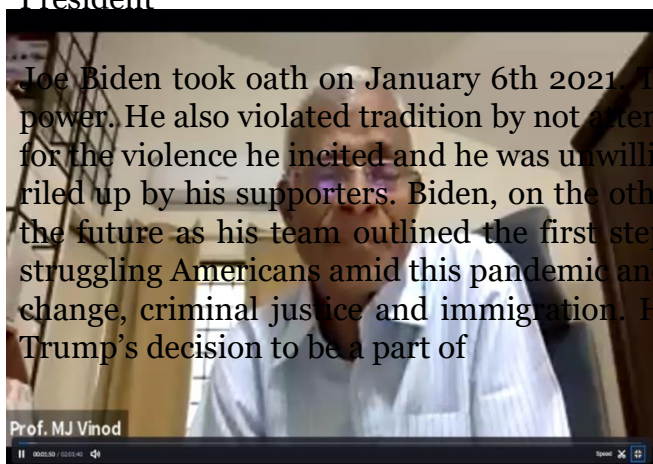
Volume 1, Issue 1, 2021

The World View - Future Trajectories of Indo-U.S. Relations

It is often said that when America catches a cold the whole world sneezes. The swearing in of Joseph R Biden Jr. as the 46th American President and that of Kamala Harris as the first Women Vice President signaled a new wave in the realm of power dynamics in the world the ripples of which will be felt in every nook and corner of this world. To deliberate on this CERSSE, JAIN organised a Panel Discussion on January 21st, 2021 on 'Future Trajectories and Trends of Indo-U.S. Relations: Impact on South Asia'. The panelists were Prof. M.J. Vinod, Professor, Department of International Studies, Political Science and History, School of Social Sciences, CHRIST (Deemed-to-be University), Bengaluru, Prof. D. Suba Chandran, Professor and Dean, School of Conflict and Security Studies, National Institute of Advanced Studies, Bengaluru and Prof. Rahul Tripathi, Professor, Department of Political Science, Goa University, Goa. Dr. Reetika Syal, Assistant Professor, CERSSE welcomed everyone and introduced the panelists. Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Associate Professor, CERSSE, JAIN chaired the session and gave her introductory comments of highlighting the watershed moment in world history that the Biden-Harris American Government was poised to embark on. The panelists reflected on all dimensions of this grand event in international relations, through the lens of its impact on South Asia at large and Indo-U.S. Relations in particular. Dr. Mythili P. Rao, Research Coordinator delivered the vote of thanks. It was held online and was attended by academics, research scholars and students.

The aim of the webinar was to reflect on this transfer of power with the departure of former President Donald Trump from his office. This shift was marred by the violent insurrection at the U.S. Capitol, Washington D.C. which resembled a police siege to ensure this peaceful transfer of power when President

The aim of the webinar was to reflect on this transfer of power with the departure of former President Donald Trump from his office.



Joe Biden took oath on January 6th 2021. Trump remained out of public view in his last week of power. He also violated tradition by not attending his successor's swearing-in and was unrepentant for the violence he incited and he was unwilling to abandon the false election claims that have been riled up by his supporters. Biden, on the other hand, has been trying to get Americans focused on the future as his team outlined the first steps that his office would be taking towards aiding the struggling Americans amid this pandemic and fulfil all the campaign promises he made like climate change, criminal justice and immigration. He is now emerging as the climate hero for reversing Trump's decision to be a part of

the Paris Accord and he has done it in the first few hours of his presidency. The bottom-line of this new power dynamic is for an "United" States of America. A promise of a President and a Presidency which speaks even for those who acted against them! There is a sense of mutuality of interest with the United States of

America.

We are going to see a change in the outlook and a change in the approach and that definitely matters how to deal with a person and with leaderships of other countries. We are going to see a shakeup of Trump's Foreign Policy, partly indicated in terms of Biden signing the Paris Accord to be a part of it.

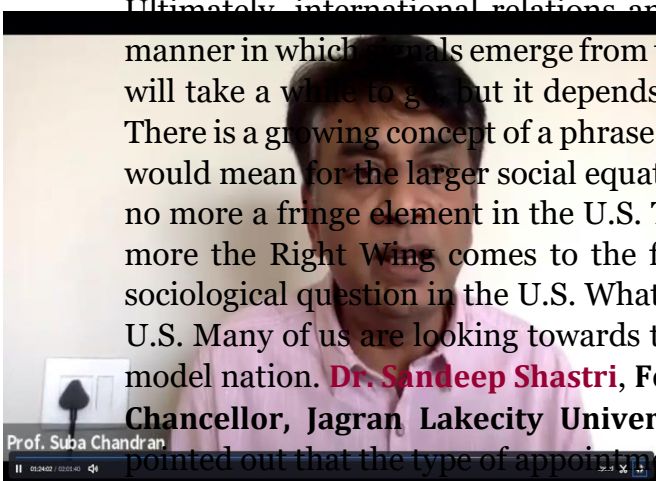
Biden would perceive the largest scenario in terms of the policies that he would have to come up with the challenges that come across in the U.S.— Pakistan relations reflecting their understanding of issues raised by India in the context of Cross-Border Terrorism. The way the US looks at the world, a kind of isolationism—let's do it alone attitude which had become the hallmark of Trump's administration will not be there. One would see the United States engaging more and more with the multilateral regimes, whether it is climate change, WTO, G20 we will see a greater orientation of each other's interests. We may see a U.S.



which is now more and more engaged across the world. Biden's expectation from South-Asia would be the manner in which South Asia on its own is able to project a picture of the region which is in some way or the other able to converge with a larger U.S. policy of democracy and human rights.

Concluding Remarks

Ultimately, international relations and political leaderships do matter. The manner in which things emerge from top leaderships sets the tone. Trumpism will take a while to go, but it depends on the rest of the world to let go of it. There is a growing concept of a phrase called 'Browning of America'. What this would mean for the larger social equation in the U.S. is that the Right Wing is no more a fringe element in the U.S. The more America becomes Brown, the more the Right Wing comes to the forefront. This is going to be a great sociological question in the U.S. What happens in the U.S. doesn't stay in the U.S. Many of us are looking towards the U.S. as the greatest democracy, as a model nation. **Dr. Sandeep Shastri, Former Pro-VC, JAIN and currently Vice Chancellor, Jagran Lakecity University, Bhopal** joined the webinar and pointed out that the type of appointments that the Biden administration has done and proposes to do is that most of those he has appointed are people who served in the second level positions during the Obama administration are now



in the top positions in the Biden administration. This is a signal of the fact that there will be a continuity in the Biden administration

from the Obama administration in many senses. What Biden was a part of as Vice President will now continue as the President. He will be a President for even those who voted against him and it would be seen that Biden, as is his nature, would be accommodating in his approach. It will be interesting to see that in the last four years how this approach would make these any different. The Indo-U.S. relations has very little to do whether a Democrat or a Republican is at the power. This notion that either one of those parties is good for India is something that has never been empirically proved.