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Pathway to Citizenship for 11 Million Illegal Immigrants in US
Biden plans sweeping reversal of Trump's immigration agenda, from deportations to asylum policy



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FRONT PAGE FEATURE



Biden plans sweeping reversal of Trump's immigration agenda, from deportations to asylum policy

While the COVID-19 public health crisis and its impact on the U.S. economy will preoccupy President-elect Joe Biden during his first weeks in office, the incoming Democratic administration is also expected to quickly start dismantling President Trump's immigration agenda.

After Mr. Biden is sworn-in in January, his administration will move to fully restore an Obama-era program that shields 640,000 undocumented immigrants who were brought to the U.S. as children from deportation, halting Mr. Trump's unsuccessful efforts to end it, people familiar with the plans told CBS News. The incoming administration also intends to rescind Mr. Trump's travel and immigration restrictions on 13 countries, most of which are African or predominantly Muslim.

Mr. Biden will look to implement a 100-day freeze on deportations while his administration issues guidance narrowing who can be arrested by immigration agents. Obama-era memos that prioritized the deportation of immigrants with criminal convictions, recent border-crossers and those who entered the country illegally more than once were scrapped in 2017 by Mr. Trump so that no unauthorized immigrant would be exempted from

being arrested and removed from the country. A source familiar with Mr. Biden's plans said new guidance would be designed to curb so-called "collateral arrests," which are apprehensions of immigrants who are not the target of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) operations but are nevertheless taken into custody because they are in the country without legal status.

Mr. Trump made immigration a major theme of his insurgent and successful 2016 campaign. Despite frequent court challenges, his administration achieved rare success on this front in four years, reshaping the U.S. immigration system through more than 400 high-profile and little-noticed policy changes.

However, all of Mr. Trump's immigration measures — from the so-called "travel ban" and the efforts to end the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, to new requirements for green cards and the asylum restrictions for migrants at the U.S. southern border — were enacted without Congress through proclamations, policy memos, regulations or other executive actions.

With his defeat, Mr. Trump's immigration policy changes are now vulnerable — and Mr. Biden's team is eager to begin the process of undoing most of them. "All

that stuff was done administratively through the [president's] executive authority, and so a new executive can basically reject those and start from scratch," a source familiar with the Biden team's plans told CBS News.

At the southern border, Mr. Biden has pledged to discontinue the Trump administration's policy of requiring non-Mexican migrants to wait in Mexico for the duration of their U.S. asylum cases. It is unclear, however, how the cases of thousands of asylum-seekers currently waiting in northern Mexico will be adjudicated and whether any of them will be paroled and allowed to continue their proceedings in the U.S.

A source familiar with the Biden team's planning said the incoming administration will withdraw from the three bilateral agreements Mr. Trump brokered with Guatemala, El Salvador and Honduras that allow the U.S. to send rejected asylum-seekers to those countries and have them seek refuge there.

The incoming administration will also look at reinstating an Obama administration initiative that allowed certain at-risk children in Central America to request refugee or parole status and reunite with their families in the U.S. if their parents were authorized to be in the country, the source said. The Obama administration created the

Central American Minors program in 2014 in response to a rise in border crossings by unaccompanied migrant children but Mr. Trump ended it in 2017. The potential revival of the program, coupled with increased foreign aid to Central America, would be part of a broader Biden administration approach to address unauthorized migration from the region — a diplomatic task Mr. Biden was charged with overseeing during President Obama's tenure. Mr. Biden's team is also planning to begin the process of terminating the "public charge" rules the Trump administration implemented to deny green cards and immigrant visas to applicants who U.S. officials determine rely — or could rely in the future — on government benefits like Medicaid, food stamps and Section 8 housing vouchers. Because the 2019 rules were instituted through the regulatory process, experts expect their rescission to take longer than that of presidential directives.

Citing the coronavirus-induced economic downturn, Mr. Trump invoked his executive authority this spring to limit legal immigration and the issuance of temporary work visas — and those restrictions have yet to be lifted.

The Trump administration has also expelled tens of thousands of unauthorized border-crossers, including unaccompanied children, without court hearings or asylum screenings through an order issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). While the Trump administration has defended the policy as one

based on public health, former officials have said they were pressured into authorizing it. Mr. Biden has yet to say whether his administration will completely scrap Mr. Trump's pandemic-era limits on immigrant and work visas. Mr. Biden's campaign promised that the former vice president will direct the CDC to review the expulsions policy "to ensure that people have the ability to submit their asylum claims while ensuring that we are taking the appropriate COVID-19 safety precautions."

The president-elect has promised to dramatically increase refugees admissions, moving away from the record-low 15,000 spots set by Mr. Trump and raising the cap to 125,000. Mr. Biden has also pledged to grant Temporary Protected Status (TPS) to certain Venezuelan exiles in the U.S. to shield them from deportation.

León Rodríguez, who led U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) during the Obama presidency, said a Biden administration should prioritize reviewing Mr. Trump's efforts to end TPS protections for approximately 300,000 immigrants from El Salvador, Haiti, Nicaragua, Sudan, Nepal and Honduras. In September, a federal appellate court allowed the Trump administration to terminate the programs, but TPS beneficiaries are not set to lose their protections until March 2021.

Jennifer Molina, a spokeswoman for the

Biden campaign, said the incoming administration will also create a task force to help locate hundreds of migrant parents who were separated from their children at the U.S.-Mexico border in 2017 and 2018 and remain unreachable. "President-elect Joe Biden will restore order, dignity and fairness to our immigration system. At its core, his immigration policy will be driven by the need to keep families together," Molina said in a statement. While Mr. Biden's team will have the legal authority to overturn Mr. Trump's policies, Doris Meissner, a former commissioner of the now-defunct Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS), said it will not be an easy endeavor, given bureaucratic requirements, the ongoing COVID-19 emergency and the volume of changes implemented over the past four years. "The Trump administration had an extraordinary preoccupation with immigration issues and they invested an enormous amount of attention and single-minded focus on immigration," Meissner, who is also a senior fellow at the non-partisan Migration Policy Institute, told CBS News. "An administration that wants to undo those changes would have to devote a similar amount of time and effort — and arguably more, because you don't want to just be undoing things. You want to be moving a proactive agenda as well."

FRONT PAGE FEATURE

Does the US owe amnesty to future illegal immigrants?



a new border wall system to stop the coyotes from smuggling illegal immigrants and prevent the drug cartels from bringing deadly drugs across our southern border.

The administration is on target to complete its goal of 450 miles of this new border wall system by January. As Acting Secretary of Homeland Security Chad Wolf has stated, Border Patrol agents requested this wall system. And it works. Where the wall has been built, apprehensions decrease by at least 90 percent. Biden, on the other hand, has stated that we would immediately stop construction of the border wall system. "Building a wall will do little to deter criminals and cartels seeking to exploit our borders," his campaign website states. Instead, he would direct federal resources to our ports of entry because he stated that "all the bad stuff is happening" at the ports of entry. Our U.S. Border Patrol agents, who operate between the ports, would strongly disagree. The debate moderator and Biden also perpetuated the claim that the administration cannot find the parents of 545 illegal immigrant minors separated from their adult caregivers during the White

House's brief "No Tolerance" policy. The Department of Homeland Security has debunked this claim, explaining that out of the 485 parents who plaintiffs' counsel have been able to contact, they have yet to identify a single family that wants their child reunited with them in the child's native country.

The result is the child remains in the U.S. while the parent remains in their home country. The reason is simple. The parents hope their children become the next "Dreamers" and that they will receive amnesty eventually join them here.

Sponsors of the Unaccompanied Alien Child Protection Act - including then-Sen. Joe Biden - which became law in the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (TVPRA), laid the groundwork for many immigrant minors coming to the U.S. and recklessly changed the course of U.S. immigration. They claimed their legislation would protect immigrant minors, but the bill lowered the bar for such minors to receive immigration benefits and services - providing easily foreseeable consequences that parents would intentionally send their children unaccompanied

across the border in the hopes of gaining a family foothold in the U.S.

Predictably, the number of unaccompanied immigrant minors coming to the U.S. subsequently ballooned - from fewer than 20,000 in 2010 to more than 75,000 in 2019. So, it is no surprise that the parents Biden discussed at the debate want their children to remain in the U.S., separated from them. In fact, the policies established by the advocates for TVPRA incentivize such behavior.

Americans need policies that would continue to secure all of the border, fight human trafficking and drug cartels, and discourage parents from sending their unaccompanied children on the dangerous journey to the U.S.

By contrast, the policies advocated by Biden would concede large portions of the border, enrich human traffickers and drug cartels, and perpetuate the cycle of illegal immigration by giving amnesty to Dreamers and over 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. These policies would prioritize illegal immigrants over Americans. Americans are owed more.

Lora Ries is a senior research fellow for homeland security at The Heritage Foundation.

When immigration was raised at last week's presidential debate, former Vice President Joe Biden said he would quickly pursue amnesty for over 11 million illegal immigrants in the U.S. He added that he would immediately reinstate the DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) program and offer a pathway to citizenship for the so-called "Dreamers" because "we owe them."

These proposals would give smugglers and criminal cartels their next advertisement for new illegal immigrant customers.

Promise of amnesty is the single greatest public relations coup for coyotes (smugglers) imaginable. They will use that promise to recruit many tens-of-thousands of illegal immigrants to pay them many tens-of-millions of dollars to try to sneak them, including children, across the border.

Nothing could be more irresponsible and dangerous. All that does is enrich criminal cartels at the expense of American taxpayers.

Providing amnesty and citizenship to illegal immigrants would eventually cost Americans, according to a detailed study by the Heritage Foundation, a net fiscal burden of \$6.3 trillion for Social Security, Medicare, welfare programs, public education and other government benefits and services. This would also reverse the recent progress the federal government has made on immigration reform and border security. The Trump administration has sought to rescind the unconstitutional DACA program created by President Obama. Customs and Border Protection has quickly built approximately 400 miles of

The Nationalist Case for Amnesty

Perhaps 10 million undocumented immigrants live in the United States. Their fate is among the most polarizing, seemingly intractable issues in American politics. Proponents of a substantial amnesty often make humanitarian arguments, highlighting the most affecting challenges faced by families "living in the shadows." That makes it easy to conclude that the debate is best understood as pitting globalists who emphasize the needs of the least well-off against nationalists who insist that the nation must prioritize what's best for its own citizens. That fault line certainly runs through the immigration debate. But it can be misleading. Imagine that the welfare of undocumented immigrants

counts for nothing at all-that their fate should turn entirely on what makes U.S. citizens best off. Given that constraint, there's still a strong case that an amnesty is the best policy. Many on both sides of the debate intuit otherwise because they conceive of undocumented immigrants as laborers who crowd into segregated urban enclaves, follow harvests, or sleep in worker bunks at meatpacking plants. In this telling, they might interact with Americans when making up our motel rooms or bussing our tables, but were they deported, the worst consequences most of "us" might suffer would be higher prices for lettuce or lawn maintenance. There are wealthy Americans who interact with undocumented immigrants almost entirely as consumers of

cheap labor; there are working-class Americans who interact with undocumented immigrants mostly as competitors for jobs; and those incentives do, in fact, fuel self-interested positions on the issue. But so many undocumented immigrants have been in the United States for so long that literally millions are deeply integrated into American communities. They have friends, classmates, neighbors, and co-workers who are U.S. citizens. Many of them have enjoyed significant economic success too. All of that helps explain polls such as the one Fox News did in 2017, which noted that setting up "a system to legalize undocumented immigrants working in the U.S. receives bipartisan



support: most Democrats (95 percent legalize vs. 4 percent deport), Republicans (69-28 percent) and independents (82-13 percent) want legalization to happen." In 2015, Pew found that "a solid majority (72%) of Americans-including 80% of Democrats, 76% of independents and 56% of Republicans-say undocumented immigrants currently living in the U.S. should be allowed to stay in this country legally if they meet certain

requirements." Most recently, a 2019 Gallup Poll found that 81 percent "favor allowing immigrants living illegally in the U.S. the chance to become citizens if they meet certain requirements over a period of time." Watching Lou Dobbs or listening to Rush Limbaugh, one could be forgiven for concluding that support for a substantial amnesty is a radical position that cosmopolitan elites want to foist on "regular Americans.

COMMUNITY

Redberri Corporation: Adding value in global economic, industrial and philanthropic life cycle

By : [businessviewmagazine](#)

Missouri ,USA - In recent times, technology has enabled us with many innovative solutions. Things earlier considered impossible are now being made possible by means of latest technology. The Enterprise Development of SOA Software into emerging service has also witnessed remarkable transformation. Today, we are going to talk about one such firm which has done fabulous job in the Enterprise Development. We are talking about none other than Missouri-based Redberri Corporation.

Under the leadership of its Chairman and CEO Deepak Kant Vyas, Redberri has reinvented its growth and strategically invested in Enterprise Development of SOA Software into emerging service integration in Financial Markets. Today, Redberri's Core Technology powers world's most popular ATM machines, Logistic and Inventory Management. Transforming and redefining opportunity with growth, Redberri is now poised with disruptive technology, cross platform compatible software, knowledge base for AI – Artificial intelligence in Medical, Research, Life Sciences and Financial transactions.

Let's take our GPS integration with Farming: Today Redberri is poised to prepare for Food Production with technology powering through GPS to spread fertilizers on targeted areas instead of mass spreading. Thus, it saves time, resources and targets where fertilizers are needed. Working closely with seed companies, corporate farmers, and academic institutions, today they have pioneered productivity and enriched their global food production capabilities. Progressive in adopting, restructuring, rejuvenating and repurposing existing technology

Redberri is creative, transformative, active and progressive in adopting, restructuring, rejuvenating and repurposing existing technology with innovation. The Company aims to add value in global economic, industrial and philanthropic life cycle by closely working with global academic & research institutions and partnering public entities to expand and optimize critical care health, food, medicine and productivity.

Also, by means of Medicalciti, its vision is to create world's first global medical portal to create global city of medical practitioners around the five continents and provide comprehensive medical resources including geo dynamic mapping, digitally connecting medical fraternity, providing one source of

The Honourable
Shri Narendra Modi Ji
Prime Minister of India
and Deepak Kant Vyas
CEO of Redberri

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Deepak Kant Vyas
CEO, Redberri



access to rural and underserved geo locations by building bridge to quality medical resource. So far, over 400,000 physicians in the USA have joined their soon-to-launch service and over 129,000 physicians and 89,000 alternate medicine professionals like Chiropractors, Acupuncture specialist and others are now on waiting list.

Talking about the growth of the firm, Deepak says, "As Founder, Chairman and CEO of emerging diversified global company, I am quite humbled with Redberri's Growth, Diversification and bringing value with our innovation and unique technology and proud to bridge urban & rural divide, economic backward with progressive advanced economy in developed nations in western continents". He had exceptional privilege to address United Nations on behalf of world's humanitarian organization on how business can make difference to elevate prosperity with innovation, develop economic opportunities with new technologies and bridge the gap to feed billions, empower people around the world for prosperity and progress.

To reach this far, he has stayed simple, vested in adding value, and focused on providing product or service that will make difference in common man's life. Redberri's innovative product and service offering have transformed and elevated lifestyle, with increase in productivity. Today farmers around the world are using Redberri GEO Farming to grow more food in same acreage of land and making more money by saving resources like fertilizers, water, and planning right produce suitable for the conditions and land.

Develop, define and distribute technology that is sustainable, unique and useful. Coming to Medicalciti, its app will provide one point of contact for world's emergency services, medical hospitals and urgent care by providing doctors, super specialists and clinics in real time on your palm. It will provide you resources to research doctors with verified tracking and fully encrypted

your providers.

Their corporate philosophy is simple – develop, define and distribute technology that is sustainable, unique and useful. "This simple belief in changing life and increasing productivity for common good has always motivated us to overcome challenges ranging from market, financial and adoptability", Deepak asserts.

They strongly believe that business and corporate entity have power to make a difference. So, Redberri Earth Foundation has been spreading message and building mindset to choose prosperity and develop that spirit of entrepreneurs in their stakeholders around the world.

Redberri takes immense pride in having philanthropic corporate culture that strongly believes in developing human capital and collective growth. "Our staff is biggest asset that redefines our purpose and passion to grow. During recent Covid-19 Pandemic, many companies have laid off people or cut their pay, We at Redberri are proud of our culture and retained 100% of our staff and even paid bonus. This is our way of being a leader in our industry", Deepak exclaims.

Common good defines corporate philosophy

Deepak goes by certain thumb rules which have helped him become successful. He believes in "Work is worship". For him, common good defines corporate philosophy. He believes that commitment to service makes you successful. You take care of your customers and they will invest back in you.

Deepak has been associated with Lions Clubs International for last three decades and owe his success to this great organization. His philosophical approach is guided by Mahatma Gandhi, he has inspired business philosophy of taking care of customers and adding value to everything you offer in commerce.

Recently, their foundation has donated and unveiled life size sculpture of

Mahatma Gandhi at Lions International Headquarters in Chicago. This event was attended by diplomats from several nation including China, India, South Africa and Leadership of Lions International. Deepak has an important piece of advice to share. He says, "Lead with your heart and learn to overrule your mind". Leadership is all about being visible and responsible as role model. Title doesn't reinforce anything, learn to work without title and transform your business or organization by leading. Be vested, kind and use words very carefully as words have power to transform people, places and business. Believe in your goals, always remembers everyone has dreams but your determination to strive hard makes you reach and fulfil your dreams. "Let's together spread message of goodwill, grace and gratitude", he signs up.

About the maverick

Deepak Kant Vyas is Chairman & CEO of Redberri Corporation, Medicalciti & Redberri Earth Foundation. He is a visionary entrepreneur, civic leader, philanthropist, and social entrepreneur. Apart from this, he is a serial entrepreneur and founder of several iconic products with global success including US Pneumatic, Aquaglobex, Medicalciti, BIE and Redberri. As a visionary businessman, Mr. Vyas has been the driving force behind Redberri group's rapid expansion into diversified business in over 38 countries around the globe over three decades.

Deepak Vyas has distinction of serving as the President of World Affairs Council. He was the Chairman of Missouri District Export Council and Member of National District Export Council with unique distinction as First Missourian and Asian Indian ever to be elected to the position representing over 14 Midwestern states. He also served as Chairman for Legislative affairs to promote global trade, having closely worked with three administrations that is Clinton, Bush II and Obama administration.

His vision for company has enabled the company to start various ventures. He possesses deep-rooted commitment to philanthropy, passion to pursue economic development, launch disruptive technology platforms and invest their social entrepreneurship around the world.

OP-ED

Fox Doesn't Need to Fear Trump's Wrath

The cable behemoth's audience yowled after the network seemed insufficiently supportive of the president's electoral hopes. But Fox's hold on crackpot news—and viewers—is secure.

It was a media story that sustained a thousand pundits, politicians, media critics and reporters for a generation, and it went like this: Fox News Channel, the devilish invention of Rupert Murdoch and Roger Ailes, rules the commanding heights of conservative broadcast news! It cannot be displaced! It is the tail that wags the dog of the Republican Party! The network that bolsters the Trump presidency and the essential source of news that issues hourly—and often untruthful—marching instructions for America's populist-right millions! But then came Election Night 2020. Fox's coverage earned it Judas status among Trump's most ardent supporters. The network's crimes of betrayal and heresy? It was first to call Arizona for Joe Biden. In the following days, Fox joined the consensus projection that Biden was the winner of the election and show-host Laura Ingraham and co-host Brian Kilmeade drew criticism from the right for meekly allowing that a Biden presidency might be in the offing. Tucker Carlson, as Trumpie as a Trumpie can get without being a member of the family, earned damnation for doubting the berserk election-fraud theories of then-Trump attorney Sidney Powell.

Fox also slow-walked the voting-fraud allegations, and these combined tilts from the usual hard-Trump line fueled a new storyline: Fox was losing its mojo among conservative viewers and bleeding audience and influence to upstart, hard-to-find-on-your-dial channels like Newsmax and One America News Network (OANN). These two channels, unlike Fox, had lent high credence to the election-fraud stories and remained loyal to Trump. The president encouraged the Fox hatred, disparaging the network in a Nov. 15 tweet that ended, "Many great alternatives are forming & exist. Try @OANN & @newsmax, among others!"

Our president-for-the-time-being's move to buffalo his legions of supporters away from his historically loyal mouthpiece



poses a central question about the media-politician axis. Who possesses the real power here? The politician? The audience? The network? And if the network, which one? The answers arrived on the heels of the collapse of Trump's legal ploy to overturn the election. Today, with the presidential election all but officially conceded, the Newsmax and OANN insurgency has faltered. But both networks had struck a chord in Trump country by reliably producing news that matches the priors of Trump supporters and leaving their political preconceptions unruffled. Reject the authority of the newsies, Trump commanded, and accept mine. And Newsmax and OANN bowed with enthusiasm that not even Fox in its toadiest moments ever mustered. Even after Michigan and Pennsylvania certified the Biden victory and Trump had allowed the GSA to fund the Biden transition,

Newsmax and OANN were still hyping the election-fraud angle, stoking its audiences passions with Foxier than Fox, pro-Trump kindling. "Bypass the big media," as one Newsmax on-air promo instructs viewers, taking a shot at not just CNN but Fox, too.

Both channels have historically drawn low viewership numbers, but that's changed at Newsmax. One top Newsmax show, which usually hovers around the 58,000-viewer mark, recently attracted a record 1.1 million viewers, only a couple of million shy of a top-ranked Fox show running in the same time slot. The idea that Fox could be outflanked on the harder right was supported by a recent Wall Street Journal report that a Trump-friendly private equity company had approached Newsmax to buy or invest in it. Suddenly, the prospect of extra-Trumpie news networks

competing with Fox and defecting audience by going full-supplanting it for conservative primacy seemed possible.

Predictions of Fox's diminution—however stirring they might be to liberals—must clear several obstacles before they can be taken seriously. Again and again, Fox has proved itself resourceful in replacing "star" show hosts like Megyn Kelly and Bill O'Reilly with new versions of the same thing, such as Ingraham and Carlson, and carrying on after the departure of network auteur Roger Ailes. For another example, when Fox's favorite presidential candidates have underperformed—such as Ted Cruz and Marco Rubio in 2016—it's been quick to dismount for a winning candidate like Trump and pretend that it always supported him. For another thing, viewership habits are extraordinarily hard to break. In many households, Fox burns like a winter hearth all day long, as background, diversion and even rapt viewing. Audiences have to search their cable dials for the alt-Fox networks or download the OTT apps. Even if they do in times of peak interest like the "election fraud" episode, how many will remain after the hubbub subsides? As Biden moves into the White House and the election fraud story turns to vapor, we can expect Fox to reclaim most of its

defecting audience by going full-bore against Biden with its superior production values and much more talented news and opinion anchors.

The mismatch between the Newsmax and OANN pair and Fox cannot be exaggerated. As data published in the Financial Times shows, the contest isn't really two Davids and one Goliath as much as it is between two dust motes and the burning sun. Fox is expected to reap \$2.9 billion in revenue this year compared with Newsmax's teensy \$26 million and OANN's only slightly less pitiful \$48 million. More than half of those Fox revenues come from the affiliate fees that the cable operator pays to carry the channel, which means that if you're a Democrat and your cable package includes Fox, you're putting about \$1.65 in Rupert's piggy bank every month (96 cents for CNN and 29 cents for MSNBC). At Fox, they'll probably say a prayer of thanks on Thursday as they carve the turkey, expressing joy that it is two underfunded, amateurish operations attacking them from the right instead of a repositioned-to-the-right CNN or MSNBC. What of the argument that one of the alt-Fox networks could become competitive by adding Trump to the programming schedule? Good luck.

Planning for a post-Covid world

The Group of Twenty (G20) ended its annual summit without deliverables, but with a sense that global leaders have begun shifting their gaze to a post-Covid-19 world. The G20 has been largely missing in action through much of the pandemic. The inability to have physical interactions inhibited genuine diplomatic outreach. More dama-ging was the every-government-for-itself scramble that followed the outbreak, something that left little space for the spirit of multilateralism. The hostility between the two most powerful nations, the United States and China, did not make summitry easier. In any summit, participants reach out to their domestic public as well as lay out an agenda for their fellow world leaders. Outgoing US President Donald Trump's

decision to play golf during a special session on Covid-19 was a crude message for his pandemic-denying base



at home. But there was positivity in the manner the summit members spoke of the future. There was the expected noise on vaccine distribution, debt relief and the

need to coordinate economic responses to the ailing world economy. Prime Minister Narendra Modi's important intervention was to underline the need to put climate change front and centre of the global agenda.

Over the next few G20 summits many of these abstractions need to be converted into concrete steps. The G20's strength is its ability to bring to bear the attention and resources of the most-powerful governments on the most-difficult global issues. Ensuring the revival of cooperation over global financial architecture, supply chain stability and climate will be the task of future hosts, including India, which has moved its chairmanship to 2023.

OPINION

When China wanted to make peace with India

India spurned overtures from China between 1959 and 1960 to reach an amicable settlement. More importantly, policymakers misread India's relative position in the changing international environment. This proved costly with India sleepwalking into conflict with a radicalised Mao in 1962.

In April 1960, Zhou Enlai embarked on an ambitious diplomatic mission to India to attempt a resolution. Let us recall the context. The previous year, Sino-Soviet differences had come to the fore, ironically because Moscow publicly broke ranks with Beijing by taking a neutral position on the India-China dispute, and by the first half of 1960, Moscow had withdrawn its experts from China and suspended all economic contracts. The year 1959 had also witnessed two border skirmishes between India and China, including an especially nasty one in the western sector in Ladakh where nearly a dozen Indian security personnel were killed during a patrol in October. As a consequence, the Chinese had come under pressure, particularly from the Soviets. In a rather heated conversation between Nikita Khrushchev and Mao Zedong shortly after that skirmish, the Soviets came down hard on the Chinese for escalating the dispute:

Mao Zedong: "Nehru also says that the events in Tibet occurred on our fault. Besides, in the Soviet Union they published a

TASS declaration on the issue of conflict with India."

NS Khrushchev: "Do you really want us to approve of your conflict with India? It would be stupid on our part."

NS Khrushchev: "...If you allow him (Dalai Lama) an opportunity to flee to India, then what has Nehru to do with it? We believe that the events in Tibet are the fault of the Communist Party of China, not Nehru's fault."

Mao Zedong: "You will see for yourselves later that the McMahon line with India will be maintained, and the border conflict with India will end...The border issue with India will be decided through negotiations."

It was in such a backdrop that Beijing made a decision in January 1960 to take a more pragmatic line on the dispute with India as well as other unresolved frontier disputes with neighbouring countries. The People's Liberation Army (PLA) was also ordered to adopt a policy of restraint and avoid armed clashes. Mao sensed that China was facing a difficult international environment and, therefore, decided to seek a negotiated settlement. This basic sense of

insecurity is reflected in a May 1959 Chinese note to India, which might have been personally drafted by Mao.

"The enemy of the Chinese people lies in the east - the US imperialists have many military bases in Taiwan, in South Korea, Japan and in the Philippines which are all directed against China. China's main attention and policy to struggle are directed to the east, to the west Pacific region, to the vicious and aggressive US imperialism, and not to India or any other country in the southeast Asia and South Asia....our principal enemy is US imperialism...China will not be so foolish as to antagonize India in the west. Our Indian friends! What is [on] your mind? Will you be agreeing to our thinking regarding the view that China can only concentrate its main attention eastward of China, but not south-westwards of China, nor is it necessary for it to do so. Friends! It seems to us that you too cannot have two fronts. Is it not so? If it is, here then lies the meeting point of our two sides. Will you please think it over?" But Jawaharlal Nehru felt this Chinese telegram had been



"discourteous" and he rebuffed the implied suggestion to stabilise the crisis with China. Foreign minister Chen Yi was equally candid when he shared Chinese threat perceptions to Swaran Singh in April 1960. Chen candidly admitted, "Our relations with the US and Japan in the east are tense. It would be stupid if we created a tense situation with India in the west also. The USA has its bases around us, atomic missiles and atomic weapons around us. Our dispute with India is very small...We are in a serious situation and need your friendship...The situation in the east being so tense we cannot afford to have trouble in the west also...If two ordinary countries are negotiating, they do not expose their difficulties to each other. (But) I am telling you about our difficulties... It would be best if we could reach some overall

settlement, but if that is not possible some interim arrangement could be made." Zhou's Delhi visit was an outcome of Beijing's policy to defuse tensions and arrest a worsening of its geopolitical environment. In his meeting with Nehru, Zhou explicitly offered that the Line of Actual Control could form the basis of a settlement. But, for India, how could there be any swapping of claims or "horse trading", as Nehru put it, if all the territory, whether Arunachal Pradesh in the east or Aksai Chin in the west, were Indian? India spurned overtures from China between 1959 and 1960 to reach an amicable settlement. More importantly, policymakers misread India's relative position in the changing international environment. This proved costly with India sleepwalking into conflict with a radicalised Mao in 1962.

Getting ready for the vaccine

Heed the PM's message - prepare, but with caution

In his comments at a meeting with chief ministers to discuss Covid-19, Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi underlined, rightly so, the need to take precautions which will help prevent the spread of the disease. In recent weeks, a range of factors - the most important of which is the fact that citizens have been reckless in their movement, interaction, and visits to crowded places - have contributed to a spike in Covid-19 cases across states. The fact that India's health infrastructure is today better equipped to cope with the pandemic, there is an established medical protocol to deal with the disease, and the

country has had - for reasons that are still not clear - a low fatality rate is positive. But the PM's cautionary note is important to save lives and states must strive towards his target - a positivity rate less than five per cent - till the vaccine is ready to be distributed.

And that, indeed, was the other focus of the PM's speech. He suggested that the government was on top of understanding the stages of vaccine development both domestically and internationally, and was in touch with foreign governments, companies as well as multilateral organisations. He emphasised the commitment to ensure that

each citizens receives the vaccine and urged states to come up with comprehensive plans, including cold storage facilities, to ensure its distribution. But the PM also, once again, expressed caution. Vaccines must be scientifically vetted before any final decision is taken; there isn't clarity on the number of doses that will be required; and there is also an absence of clarity on the costs of the vaccines.

This tentativeness is actually a positive signal. While claiming that it is preparing a vaccine strategy, the government is also clear that it does not have all the answers - yet. Indeed, this has



been the most severe challenge to policymaking in times of the pandemic. How do you take appropriate decisions in the absence of full information and a fog of uncertainty? The good news is that with Pfizer (which health minister Harsh Vardhan has suggested may not be appropriate for Indian conditions),

Moderna, Oxford-Astrazenaca-Serum Institute, and now Sputnik V showing high rates of efficacy, India will have options. The challenge is to procure, store, prioritise, distribute, and ensure that every Indian is equipped to battle the most disruptive health challenge in recent times.

OPINION

The ball is in China's court

With its strong response across spheres, India has shown that it has options and a willingness to exercise them



By Harsh V Pant

India's recalibration of its ties with China continues apace even as the situation along the Himalayan frontier remains tense. From Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi targeting China at the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO) summit to external affairs minister S Jaishankar talking of the need to respect territorial integrity and sovereignty at the East Asia summit, New Delhi is now more vocal than ever at articulating its frustration with Chinese behaviour. The irony in the Chinese leadership extolling the virtues of rules and norms in the conduct of international relations at various global forums is not lost on a world that is struggling to come to terms with Beijing's

aggression and a newfound sense of entitlement.

India has also mounted a vigorous challenge to China across sectors - political, economic, military and diplomatic - though it is not readily evident if Beijing is cognisant of how far to the brink its reckless behaviour has taken the Sino-Indian relationship. At the same time, military talks between the two sides have continued and, for New Delhi, the objective remains complete disengagement and full restoration of peace and tranquility along the Line of Actual Control (LAC) in the western sector. Earlier this month, there were reports that at the eighth round of corps commanders meeting, China had proposed moving its troops back to Finger 8, and a mutual return of Indian and Chinese troops to their

original locations on the south bank of Pangong Tso. The aim, it seems, is to reduce the possibility of inadvertent clashes and incidents at a time when harsh weather conditions are exacerbating an already volatile situation.

This three-step disengagement and de-escalation process is to include removal of armoured personnel carriers, withdrawal of troops from specific areas on the north and south banks of the Pangong Lake in eastern Ladakh, and a verification of the disengagement process by both sides.

The fact that this proposal came from the Chinese side should be viewed in the context of Indian Army occupying all the dominating heights on the southern bank of

Pangong Tso and Chushul in August, positioning itself on Gurung Hill, Magar Hill, Mukhpari, Rechin La and Rezang La. This strengthened New Delhi's bargaining position and underscored for Beijing that India remains willing and able to fight its way out of the crisis if needed.

Chinese military superiority is real and growing, but the Indian military has much greater exposure to fighting at high altitudes. Military gains on the battlefield are key to diplomatic outcomes at the negotiating table, despite India's lacklustre record in this regard. In the current crisis, India has been able to alter the tactical calculus of the Chinese military and so disengagement is now much more of a serious consideration. Beijing is signaling that it doesn't want to go any further, at least in the near future. There is a new administration in Washington and the Chinese leadership will be reluctant to start with it on a sour note by initiating a crisis with India. So, all eyes are now on the next round of corps commanders meeting where India's position will be spelt out more clearly.

But the larger challenge remains one of reducing the trust deficit which is widening by the day between the two Asian giants. It is striking that PM Modi has been interacting with key world leaders on a regular basis bilaterally, but one leader is missing in that matrix. Xi Jinping and Modi have been part of a number of multilateral

platforms, but Modi has challenged Chinese actions without naming the country. India's decision to keep itself out of Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) should also be viewed through the strategic lens. New Delhi had announced its decision on RCEP last year when it had misgivings about the trade pact and about the role China would have in it. Those misgivings have become sharper post Covid-19 and border tensions. The use of trade policy for geopolitical ends has been trademark Chinese behaviour and India is trying hard to reduce its vulnerabilities vis-à-vis China. China's rise and its attendant consequences was the central determinant of Indian foreign policy even before the border crisis of this year.

But after the military standoff across LAC, it is clear that Indian policymakers will have to ascertain the China factor and assess its implications for all major policy choices they make. After all, as Jaishankar has underlined, the choices nations make today will have deep "strategic implications" tomorrow. India's policy choices today will have a great bearing on its future global role. And as Chinese behaviour spurs greater clarity in Indian actions and choices, a more confident New Delhi should hopefully be better able to shape its strategic environment in consonance with its priorities.

The BJP focuses on the local

The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP)'s stated aim is to win elections from Parliament to the Panchayat. While a lot of attention is paid to the party's strategy and success in national elections, its organisational machinery that helps convert support to votes, and the careful branding of Narendra Modi as the leader who is committed to India's national interests, there is often inadequate attention to how the party builds its strength from the local to the national. Two recent episodes show the extraordinary importance the BJP gives to the local - confirming the adage that all politics is, eventually, local. In

Jammu and Kashmir, where district elections are scheduled, the BJP has invested tremendous energy and resources in ensuring that it registers a respectable presence. This is important for the party - and the government - to show that its constitutional changes in the Union Territory have popular sanction as well as build its own independent strength in the region. At the other end of the country, in Telangana, for local civic polls in Hyderabad, the BJP has deputed its powerful general secretary Bhupender Yadav - who is in charge of crucial states such as Gujarat and Bihar - to oversee

the party's effort, besides sending ministers to campaign. With four parliamentarians from the state and two state legislators in the assembly, the party sees an opportunity to position itself as the principal opposition to chief minister K Chandrashekhara Rao; Telangana is also a key target for the 2024 polls since it is among the regions the BJP believes it can expand its numerical strength. All of this is happening in the backdrop of party president JP Nadda about to embark on a 100-day tour of all states to strengthen the party. There are three clear lessons from this visible energy that the BJP is investing in even



local polls. One, every region - irrespective of the party's historical weakness or its demography - is on the party's radar; and it is willing to work hard and invest energy in expanding its base. Two, the party recognises - and this may also spring from the focus the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh

has on grassroots work - that the route of capturing power at the state level is often through winning battles on the ground, on issues that are closest to citizens. And finally, it is a lesson for other parties - both national and regional - that politics is a 24/7 job, and every election matters.

POINT OF VIEW

How to find meaning when death is all around us



There's a process by which people make sense of the events of their lives -- both the things they chose to do, and the things that happened by chance, by accident, against their will, out of their control; experiences they knew were momentous while they were happening, and those that seemed insignificant at the time.

In hospice, this process is called "meaning making." As a hospice chaplain for many years, it was my job to facilitate patients' and families' meaning-making work. While meaning-making is usually intense in the months and years before dying and is the last great developmental task of human life, this particularly human ability to make meaning actually emerges in early adulthood. Luckily, it

develops and deepens all through the first years of adulthood and into middle and old age.

Luckily" I said, because while you may not be at the end of your life or on hospice care right now, we are all currently living in a hospice world.

By hospice world I mean simply this: a community in which death is daily before our eyes. A hospice world is a world in which we are all acutely aware of our own and each others' mortality. Covid-19 has, in a matter of months, reshaped so much of lives that it's become very difficult to not keep death daily before our eyes. Or, if not death, then at least pandemic, sickness, and danger. It was always true that death was possible. Most people just weren't necessarily aware of

it. You always could have been hit by a car, or fallen down the basement steps. You always could have died next week, and so could your loved ones. Most of us just didn't think about it. Most of us didn't really believe it. And now, we do.

How this knowledge affects each of us will differ. But this upending of life as we once knew it demands that we find a way through all the changes and losses.

This pandemic has been a loss in so many ways. Yes, loss of life, of course. But also loss of what we thought this year would be: milestone events like weddings and graduations, relationships, jobs, dreams, even a particular sort of loss of freedom or innocence.

These losses, these changes in life that were not chosen or wanted, might consume some people, or might barely bother others right now. But at some point, they will likely demand our attempts to make sense of them. Meaning is already being made of Covid-19. As an obvious example, look at surgical masks. What were once scraps of blue paper, a bit of metal and elastic

are now either symbols of beneficence towards others and belief in science -- or symbols of oppression and loss of liberty.

There's an awful lot of moral power and meaning ascribed to a disposable bit of medical equipment.

So while we are already starting to find a deeper meaning aspect of this pandemic, it always remains true that meaning-making is easiest in hindsight and hardest while you're still living the upheaval.

For those who are exhausted, who are barely coping with the demands of each Covid day, it may be too soon or impossible at the moment to think about making meaning of what's happening.

But for those who are yearning to make sense of their lives right now, there are tools you already have to help you.

Your 'spiritual toolbox'

Every person is walking around with a spiritual toolbox. This toolbox is all the different ways people try to make sense of the things they cannot make sense of. It has the tools each of us use to try to bring order to our world when our world has descended

into confusion or chaos. It's what a chaplain helps a patient tap into. It's what we use to make meaning.

Every person -- whether they are spiritual or religious or not -- has these tools, but not every person's tools are the same. Some people have a bounty of ways to cope, to make meaning, to reconcile with losses. Some have very few.

Religion is often one of the best tools a person has to make sense of the big traumas and small disappointments that have marked their lives. It's not just the wisdom about the nature of the world and suffering that can help at a time like this. It's also scripture, ritual, hymns, stories and memories of holidays with family.

A pandemic, and the hospice world it throws us into, is one in which we are searching to make meaning of rapidly changing events and expectations. We're not always aware of how we're doing it.

Religion isn't the only tool people have to make meaning, however. A rejection of religion can be as powerful a tool as the embrace of it.

The only way Republicans can lead again

President Donald Trump is conducting an all-out assault on our democracy. There is no other way to look at this. The President lost the election and his legal team has failed to produce evidence of voter fraud. So now President Trump is attempting to convince state legislatures to overthrow the results. Voters made their decision, and yet he wants to force a different outcome. His attorney, Rudy Giuliani, is spewing the kinds of conspiracy theories that even conspiracy theorists shy away from. This is dangerous stuff. When some writers, such as Barton Gellman, writing in the Atlantic, predicted this would happen, too many people shrugged off the warning. None of this should come as a surprise. In February, Congressman Adam Schiff, chairman of the House Intelligence Committee, warned the Senate at the end of the President's impeachment trial: "We must say enough-enough! He has betrayed our national security, and he will do so again. He has compromised our elections, and



he will do so again. You will not change him. You cannot constrain him. He is who he is. Truth matters little to him. What's right matters even less, and decency matters not at all." Confronted with all of the testimony and evidence as to how Trump abused presidential power, Senate Republicans didn't take Rep. Schiff up on his warning. With the exception of Sen. Mitt Romney, who voted to convict Trump, the rest of the party stood by the

President. Sen. Susan Collins assured voters that "I believe that the President has learned from this case. The President has been impeached. That's a pretty big lesson." By now it should be clear that the only lesson President Trump learned from the impeachment process was that almost every elected Republican would support him regardless of what he did. He could use public policy for his self-interest, he could intimidate opponents and spread

disinformation, and, yes, he could threaten our democratic institutions. When President Trump took steps that were a dangerous use of presidential power -- spreading false information about Covid-19 and other issues, dangling foreign aid as leverage for his personal interest. (He denies that was his intent.) failing to clearly separate his business concerns and his role as President and making supportive messages to White extremist groups, the GOP did not do a thing. Indeed, even now some elected officials, such as Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, have openly stood by Trump's efforts to attack the election results. Republicans have offered a number of excuses for their silence. According to Sen. McConnell, "We're going to have an orderly transfer from this administration to the next one, what we all say about it is, frankly, irrelevant." The GOP will own this moment for decades to come.

OPINION

How Joe Biden Can Rein in Donald Trump's Reckless Middle East Policy



One evening last November, while reporting on the front lines outside the Libyan capital of Tripoli, I got caught in an Emirati drone bombardment aimed at Libyan pro-government fighters. Alerted by the whirr of the craft overhead, the fighters whisked me inside a concrete villa, and we watched the streaks of the airstrikes from inside. A few days later, a group of foreign and Libyan workers at a biscuit factory east of Tripoli got no such warning. Around midmorning, an Emirati drone fired the first of five missiles through the roof of a storage hangar, destroying some supplies but sparing lives. The panicked workers fled north to an alfalfa field. The missiles followed them.

I arrived on the scene a few hours later to find the smoldering wreckage and impact craters in the field. The corpses had been removed, but the site was strewn with bits of skull and flesh, tufts of hair, and an orphaned sandal. In total, eight civilians died in the bombing, and more than two dozen were wounded.

The remnants of the missiles I saw pointed to the United Arab Emirates as the source—a conclusion that a Human Rights Watch investigation later corroborated. It was one of countless UAE drone strikes on civilian targets that have taken place during the latest phase of Libya's yearslong civil war, adding to similarly devastating attacks in Yemen that the

Emiratis launched in tandem with Saudi Arabia.

Both interventions, ostensibly undertaken against terrorists, Islamists and Iranian-backed militias, were enabled and prolonged by President Donald Trump's feckless deference and signaling to Arab autocrats. Trump might tout his efforts to pull American forces out of the Middle East, but over the course of his presidency he still has wielded American power in the region to detrimental effects: He has blessed the Emirati- and Egyptian-backed war in Libya, vetoed a congressional resolution to end American military aid to the Saudi-Emirati campaign in Yemen, and exhorted Arab states to buy

American arms—all of which has destabilized parts of the region and devastated swathes of its citizens.

On top of all this, Trump's administration announced plans on November 10 for a massive weapons sale to the United Arab Emirates. In return for the Emirates' signing the Abraham Accords, Trump's overhyped UAE-Israel normalization agreement, the president wants to sell Reaper armed drones to Abu Dhabi, along with the advanced F-35 fighter aircraft and precision munitions. The delivery could take years, and the deal is already facing opposition on Capitol Hill: On November 18, a bipartisan group in Congress, concerned about the Emirates' human rights violations in Libya and Yemen, announced they would introduce legislation to block the transfer. Regardless of the outcome of this move, the announcement of the package seems a fitting consummation of Trump's destructive impulses in the region.

As president, Joe Biden will have to grapple with the aftermath of Emirati adventurism and the habits of other authoritarian Arab allies that have been lavished with American military support, not just under Trump but under previous administrations, as well. Already,

there are positive signals that Biden intends to do this by pursuing a policy toward Arab states that is less personalized, less transactional, more values-based and more focused on advancing the welfare of the region's citizens than accommodating the phobias and ambitions of its ruling elites. For example, some of Biden's top advisers have expressed skepticism about the sale of offensive American weapons to the Gulf. The early reactions of some Arab regimes to Biden's election suggest they sense this shift, and they are uneasy.

But even with Biden's initial good intentions, the institutional inertia of American arms transfers and other forms of military engagement with Arab allies will be hard to escape. This will be true especially if the Biden administration tries to reenter the 2015 Iran nuclear deal, in which case he could be tempted to use continued military support to reassure jittery Arab regimes. And, fearing that these regimes could increasingly turn to Russia and China as arms suppliers as he tries to shift America's energy to other parts of the world, Biden could similarly fall back on weapons sales to compete economically and militarily.

What The U.S. Election Meltdown Looks Like to Other Countries

Nearly three weeks after a presidential election plagued by long lines and even longer ballot-counting delays, President Donald Trump still hasn't conceded the race to Joe Biden, his administration is refusing to help with an orderly transition and his supporters are pulling every lever they can to drag out, block or even overturn the results.

Never before has the basic machinery of U.S. democracy looked so dysfunctional. And the rest of the world has been watching almost as closely as Americans themselves.

The United States has set itself up as a global model for democratic elections, impressing many people with the longstanding stability of its

system, but also fostering some annoyance with its high-handed efforts to promote its own style of democracy worldwide. Now, with its system in a public meltdown under the stress of its own presidential election, how do people overseas see what's happening here? And how will it affect America's standing going forward? We asked writers from a range of countries, either watching from overseas or from their jobs in the US, what they thought of this recent election, and how it made their fellow-citizens feel about the United States.

Some described a sense of comeuppance, as the self-appointed democratic beacon turned out to be flawed after all; others were disappointed to watch

their own autocrats or regional strongmen already capitalizing on the US's domestic chaos. European allies, though surprised at the confusion, are largely taking it in stride as they await a better relationship with the Biden administration. China and Russia, officially, couldn't be happier. And the former British ambassador asks what many Americans were asking just a couple of weeks ago: Why can't the United States just hire more ballot counters? Their responses are below.

'Ordinary Iranians now know the number of electoral votes in Wisconsin and Michigan' Negar Mortazavi is a journalist and political commentator based in Washington, D.C. She is a



columnist for The Independent and host of the Iran Podcast.

Because of the crippling sanctions that have devastated the Iranian economy, U.S. foreign policy has an enormous impact on the lives of Iranians; more than it has on Americans themselves. One tweet about Iran from Donald Trump impacts the Iranian market and the value of its currency. For

that reason, Iranians have been following U.S. politics very closely. Ordinary Iranians now know the number of electoral votes in Wisconsin and Michigan, and the latest status of counts in Arizona and Georgia. And this election, like Trump's presidency itself, has been shocking to many Iranians who have followed U.S. politics over the years.

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SOUTH ASIA

India announces major commitments at Afghanistan Conference 2020



The Indian delegation led by External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar announced a host of commitments towards building capacities and capabilities of Afghan nationals as well as its institutions.

India on Tuesday announced major commitments towards reconstruction and rehabilitation at the 2020 Afghanistan Conference that was organised in Geneva November 23 and 24 through video conferencing.

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar led the Indian delegation. He said that India and Afghanistan concluded the agreement to construct the Shahtoot dam, which would provide safe drinking water to 2 million residents of Kabul city. "I am happy to announce today an agreement with Afghanistan for building the Shahtoot dam, which would provide safe drinking water to 2 million residents of

Kabul city. It builds on the 202-km Phul-e-Khumri transmission line of 2009 through which will provide power to the city. India will also launch Phase-IV of High Impact Community Development Projects in Afghanistan, which include around 150 projects worth US\$ 80 million," said Jaishankar.

As neighbours, the Indian minister emphasised the "strategic partnership" and long-term commitment to the development of Afghanistan.

"Our development portfolio of more than US\$ 3 billion for Afghanistan is aimed at building capacities and capabilities of Afghan nationals as well as its institutions with a view to

improve governance and public service. There is no part of Afghanistan today untouched by our 400 plus projects, spread across all the 34 provinces of Afghanistan," he said.

Speaking at 2020 Afghanistan pledging conference on 24 November, Afghanistan President Ashraf Ghani said he would like to "thank India for its commitment of over \$2 billion",

"Large infrastructure projects completed include the construction of 218 km road from Delaram to Zaranj (on Iranian border) which provides alternate connectivity for Afghanistan through Iran; IndiaAfghanistan friendship dam; and the Afghan Parliament building which was inaugurated in 2015, a symbol of Afghan democracy," added Jaishankar.

More than 65,000 Afghan students have studied in India. "Afghanistan's growth has been constrained by its landlocked geography and highlighted India's efforts to provide an alternate connectivity through Chabahar

port and a dedicated Air Freight Corridor between India and Afghanistan," read the Ministry of External Affairs press release after the conference.

"While I speak 15,000 students are presently studying in India. 3,000 scholarships so far have been granted to young Afghan women to pursue higher studies in India. Going beyond basic education, we also provided vocational training to a large number of women in Afghanistan. This number shall increase every year with our long term commitment to help rebuild Afghanistan," said Jaishankar.

During his address, Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani said, "I'd like to thank India and Iran for the Chahbahar corridor in related sea corridor as well as the air corridor."

It may be noted that India's humanitarian assistance of 75,000 tonnes of wheat to Afghanistan during the Covid

pandemic has been transported through Chabahar port.

For India, apart from trade and connectivity, a sustainable, stable future for Afghanistan cannot be achieved unless there is a permanent solution to the ongoing conflict and rights of women and minorities are respected.

Speaking on the issue, Jaishankar said, "India has invested heavily in peace and development in Afghanistan. We strongly believe that the gains of the last two decades must be preserved and the interests of minorities, women and vulnerable sections must be ensured."

Expressing "grave" concern over the increasing level of "violence" in Afghanistan, he said, "While we support all efforts to bring peace and stability in Afghanistan, India calls for an immediate and comprehensive ceasefire. We also believe that the peace process must be Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-controlled."

China turns new civilian settlements near LAC into military infra, satellite images reveal

Beautifully constructed homes, recreational facilities and roads, all disguised as civil infrastructure near the Line of Actual Control (LAC) on the Chinese side is part of the People's Liberation Army's new warfare tactics to enhance its military network.

These so-called civilian dwellings part of integrated model villages are nothing but an extension of cantonments with no population occupying these places close to the borders. A set of seven new high-resolution satellite images, covering the Torsa river valley near the Bhutan-China border, puts on display the possible execution of this new Chinese warfare strategy, which China hopes to deploy all along its western borders.

Images released on Sunday by space firm Maxar Technologies showed Chinese construction at a newly-built Pangda village in the valley. However, the real story of

Chinese deception is not a remote village with less than three dozen residential structures, but what comes with it.

India Today TV has learnt that China has been adopting a policy of setting up dual-use integrated villages close to the borders that can be used as strategic military assets by the Chinese armed forces.

The images reviewed by India Today TV also clearly show newly-built military storage bunkers and under-construction roads at the strategic locations on the other side of the village, revealing the actual use of such facilities in the border area.

The integrated villages are essentially an extension of cantonments, close to the border areas. The aim of these integrated model villages is to ensure the co-existence of the military and civilian population at the frontier areas of the Tibetan Autonomous Region that is

sparsely populated, sources say. These are newly-developed villages meant for settling civilians but that's hardly happened. Earlier, India Today TV had reported the existence of such facilities along the Line of Actual Control region months before the stand-off between the two sides began in May 2020. "Both the army and civilians can use it. The development also strengthens the claim over land in case of an escalation. They are extensions of military cantonments," an official said.

"If these were indeed meant for civilians, people would be residing here. But these integrated villages largely remain unoccupied," said an official in the security establishment.

Usually, these villages also have reconnaissance towers. China has already set up over two dozen of such integrated villages across the LAC, including in the eastern sector opposite Arunachal Pradesh and Sikkim.

Some of the earlier established villages are well-connected by newly-made Chinese four-lane roads. India has also adopted a policy of opening some of the places near the LAC for tourists.

The new Chinese construction area, seen in the images about 9 kms to the east from the site of the 2017 India-Chinese stand-off in the Doklam plateau, has now established how China - in the guise of the setting of civilians villages - is actually enhancing its military establishments close to the borders.

The high-resolution images, captured by Maxar's sub-half meter high-resolution commercial satellite Geoeye 1, focuses on new buildings, under-construction roads and military bunkers in and around Pangda village. The village structures seem to have been built during the past 12 months. But the construction of the village is not the only feature of these images.

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Thailand revives law banning criticism of king in bid to curb protests



(News Agencies)-Thailand has revived a controversial law against criticising the royal family in an attempt to curb months of anti-government protests. Several activists have been summoned to face charges under the lèse-majesté law, which carries a sentence of up to 15 years in prison for each count. It is the first time in over two years that such charges have been filed. Thailand has been rocked by student-led protests for months, with demonstrators demanding changes to the

monarchy. Protesters are also calling for constitutional reforms and the removal of the country's prime minister. On Tuesday, a prominent student activist, 22-year-old Parit Chiwarak, said he had received a summons for lèse-majesté - among other charges - but that he was "not afraid". "The ceiling has been broken. Nothing can contain us anymore," he tweeted, along with a photo of the summons. At least six other key protest leaders, including human rights lawyer Anon Nampa and Panusaya Sithijirawattanakul, are expected to face the same

charges, according to reports. The most feared law in Thailand is back in use, after a three-year break, reportedly ordered by King Vajiralongkorn. Its revival follows increasingly outspoken criticism of the king by protesters, in chants, on stage, and in what for many Thais is shockingly vulgar graffiti. This is something very new in Thailand. Even in previous episodes of political unrest few dared to attack the monarchy. But this generation of activists insists that the spending and power of the king must be challenged. They will now face a law which allows secret trials, and puts huge pressure on defendants to admit guilt to reduce the often draconian prison sentences. But it may prove less effective in suppressing anti-monarchy sentiment than in the past, now that scandalous reports about the royal family are circulated instantly on social media. Its use may even be counterproductive, costing the Thai monarchy sympathy while

it is engaged in a campaign to shore up support for the institution. Thailand's lèse-majesté law, which forbids any insult to the monarchy, is among the strictest in the world. The reintroduction of charges under the lèse-majesté law comes ahead of a planned demonstration on Wednesday at the Crown Property Bureau, an institution that controls the royal fortune on behalf of the monarchy, located in the capital, Bangkok. This latest development follows increasingly outspoken criticism of the king by protesters. King Vajiralongkorn has been criticised for spending much of his time in Germany. Protests have included demands to curb recently expanded powers to the monarchy and have challenged the king's decision to declare Crown wealth as his personal property, making him by far the wealthiest person in Thailand.

It had until now been notionally held in trust for the benefit of the people. There have also been questions over King Vajiralongkorn's decision to take personal command of all military units based in Bangkok - a concentration of military power in royal hands unprecedented in modern Thailand. Last week, at least 41 people were injured after clashes between protesters and police in the Thai capital, Bangkok. Protesters were attempting to reach parliament, where lawmakers were debating possible changes to the constitution. They hurled smoke bombs and bags of paint at police, who retaliated with water cannon and tear-gas solution. Why are there protests in Thailand? Thailand has a long history of political unrest and protest, but a new wave began in February after a court ordered a fledgling pro-democracy opposition party to dissolve.

HEALTH

This DIY body butter is all you need to nourish your dry skin this winter

Because of the dry and cold weather, your skin tends to get really dry and needs more TLC. This body butter will provide all the nourishment you need!

If your skin becomes Sahara desert-like during winter, then you need more than just a body lotion to moisturise it. Under such circumstances, body butter comes in handy. The consistency of body butter is much thicker, richer and concentrated, which goes deep inside the layers of your skin to nourish and moisturise it.

A good body butter can easily help your skin heal and rejuvenate. And while you can definitely buy one from the market, nothing beats the 100% natural and homemade one! It is not only free of chemicals but it also ensures there's no contamination.

SO, HERE'S HOW YOU CAN



EASILY MAKE ONE AT HOME:

All you need is:
 1 cup shea/cocoa butter
 1/2 cup coconut oil
 1/2 cup almond oil
 Essential oils of your choice (optional)

FOLLOW THESE SIMPLE STEPS TO GET YOUR OWN

BODY BUTTER:

Prepare a double boiler to melt the shea/cocoa butter and coconut oil together. After they have melted, remove the bowl from the heat, and let the mixture cool down. Now, add the almond and essential oils, and stir it gently.

Wait for a few minutes or until the oils start to partially solidify. Once it gets solidified, use a hand blender to blend the mixture for a few minutes. After blending it for a few minutes, if you see butter-like consistency, it is ready to use! Transfer the final product into a

clean container for daily use. Shea/cocoa butter can be easily found in online stores, and is not even that expensive. Both cocoa and shea butter are known for their moisturising properties. They are also believed to improve the skin's appearance over time, so investing in these two can go a long way!

Almond and coconut oil make for excellent moisturisers for your skin, and have antibacterial properties. And with a smell so nice, it's a great addition to your body butter.

Since we are not adding any artificial fragrances, adding essential oils can serve the purpose. Not only will it give a fresh aroma to your body butter, but it will also benefit your skin depending on what essential oils you are choosing.

Go ahead and try this body butter this winter, to give your skin what it needs!

Looking to tone those legs in one month? Try doing interval cycling for 30-minute daily

Cycling is an all-time classic, when it comes to losing weight. This time, try it with a twist.

You must be thinking that you know all about cycling right? Well, we are here to tell you about a new cycling technique, yes there's a twist. And yes, you can burn

So, without any further ado, let's make you paddle in a way that you end up burning more than you usually do.

THREE WAYS YOU CAN DO INTERVAL CYCLING:

The first thing that you need to pay attention to is the knob that's there on your cycle. This knob helps you tighten the paddle belt to help you increase the number of calories you burn in less time. So, adjust it accordingly. Now, pick any form of interval cycling that you like:

1. SITTING INTERVAL CYCLING

In this case, you need to sit and cycle it out. If your knob is less tight, then at least cycle for 45 minutes. But, if you have tightened it to the max, then 20 minutes of cycling is a great way to burn all that stubborn fat.

This is how you have to do it - for a minute, you have to paddle at a normal pace, and

for the next two minutes, you have to paddle the cycle as fast as you can. Do this alternatively.

2. STANDING INTERVAL CYCLING

Here, you have to cycle while you're standing. But, here your posture matters a lot. So, this is how you have to do it - stand on the paddles, put your elbows in front of the handle (don't hunch), put your butt out, look forward, and paddle.

You have to paddle at normal speed for a minute, and for the next two-minutes, you have to paddle it out in full swing. Keep repeating for at least 30-minutes.

3. SITTING AND STANDING INTERVAL CYCLING

Now, this is a combination of both forms, but there's a little twist here. So, this is how you have to do it - keep an eye on the timer, and tighten your paddle the way you like. So, for 30 seconds cycle sitting on the saddle, and then stand and paddle for a minute. Then, sit again and cycle for 30-seconds, then stand and repeat it for 30 minutes.

You can devise your own timeline, when

it comes to intervals. To be honest, this is the best way to lose weight.

HERE ARE EIGHT BENEFITS OF INTERVAL CYCLING:

1. Interval cycling helps you with major weight loss, just like every other interval training circuit. You put your body in constant shock by changing the speed and even the position.
 2. If you do sitting interval cycling, then it can help in toning your thighs and butt by reducing cellulite. Plus, it will tighten your muscles.
 3. If you are inclined towards doing standing interval cycling, then your core will also feel the heat, as much as your legs.
 4. Cycling is a great way to boost your stamina.
 5. It will help in improving your joint mobility. and you will face lesser chances of getting injured.
 6. Interval cycling helps in flexing your muscles, and that's why it is one of the best ways to warm-up.
 7. It also helps to improve posture.
 8. It helps to bring down stress levels.
- So missy, we have given you a nudge. Now, it's your time to adopt this routine and see



fat right away, because it's not just cycling - it's interval cycling.

Interval cycling is next in line in our interval weight loss series. Here also, we have devised a few uncommon ways to cycle our way towards weight loss. And that's not all - apart from weight loss, cycling has a lot to do with muscle strengthening and endurance.

ENTERTAINMENT

Kangana Ranaut, sister granted interim protection from arrest in sedition case

The interim protection was granted after Ranaut and her sister filed a petition, seeking to quash the FIR and the October order passed by the magistrate. The petition was heard by a division bench of Justices SS Shinde and MS Karnik.

The Bombay High Court on Tuesday granted interim protection from arrest to actor Kangana Ranaut and her sister Rangoli Chandel in connection to a sedition case. An FIR had been registered against them under sedition and other charges earlier.

The Bombay HC has directed them to appear before Mumbai Police on January 8. The FIR was regifted after orders passed by the Bandra magistrate's court. The order directed the police to carry out an inquiry against Ranaut and her sister, following a



complaint lodged against them for "trying to create hared and communal tension" through posts on social media.

The interim protection was granted after Ranaut and her sister filed a petition, seeking to quash the FIR and the October order passed by the

magistrate. The petition was heard by a division bench of Justices SS Shinde and MS Karnik.

The court, however, reprimanded the sisters for not honouring summons sent to them by cops. They said that the summons must be

honoured.

The lawyer representing Kangana Ranaut and Rangoli Chandel, Rizwan Siddiquee, quickly assured the court that the sisters shall appear before the Bandra police in Mumbai on January 8 from 12 pm to 2 pm for recording their

statements. The Bombay High Court has accepted the lawyer's appeal.

"We are of the prima facie opinion that interim protection till the matter is heard at length deserves to be granted. The police shall not take any coercive action including arrest against the applicants (Ranaut and Chandel)," the court said.

The court also inquired why sedition charges had been invoked in the case. "Why is the sedition section invoked? Why are we treating citizens of our country like this?" Justice Shinde said.

The Bombay HC will now take up the plea for the further hearing on January 11. It may be noted that the police had filed an FIR against Ranaut and her sis under IPC sections 153-A, 124-A, and 34.

Bigg Boss 14 evicted contestant Sara Gурpal takes a dig at show: 'No one listens to the audience'



Punjabi actor-singer Sara Gурpal, who was the first contestant to be evicted from Bigg Boss 14, has taken a jibe at the popular reality show. She said that voting for one's favourite contestant is meaningless as the audience votes are not going to make a difference anyway. Sara wrote on Twitter, "#bigboss Mei vote Kia ya na Kia ho ! Fark thodi pdta hai ! Konsa audience ki koi sunta hai lol (Whether you vote for someone or not in Bigg Boss, it does not matter. It is not like anyone listens to the audience)." The first three evictions on the show - Sara, Shehzad Deol and Nishant Singh Malkhani - were not on the basis

of audience votes. While Sara was voted out by 'seniors' Sidharth Shukla, Hina Khan and Gauahar Khan, Shehzad and Nishant were evicted on the basis of other contestants' votes. In the past, Sara had called her eviction 'unfair' and blamed Sidharth for her exit from Bigg Boss 14. She was eliminated from the race after just one week in the Bigg Boss house. "As soon as I came out of the Bigg Boss house, the kind of response I got from people, they knew that I was quite deserving to be in the house. Everybody saw what happened when they were discussing who should stay and who should not.

Pooja Bedi remembers a time when jokes were not offensive, feels political correctness has made everyone 'intolerant'



As political correctness is forcing people to think twice before making a joke and delicately tip-toe around sensitive subjects, Pooja Bedi reminded everyone of a time when a joke was just that. She said that the need to be politically correct has made everyone 'intolerant' and 'overly sensitive' to every little thing. Pooja shared a quote which read, "It's called a joke. We used to tell them before

people became offended by everything." In the accompanying tweet, she wrote, "Sigh!!!! How many of you feel that 'political correctness' is turning us into an intolerant, stiff, overly sensitive bunch of people who are easily offended by every little thing???" Recently, Pooja defended Milind Soman over his nude beach photo and said that there was 'absolutely nothing obscene' about it. She took to Twitter to juxtapose the picture

of him with those of naked Naga sadhus and said that 'smearing ash' cannot make nudity acceptable. "Absolutely nothing obscene about @milindrunning aesthetic pic. The obscenity lies in the minds of a viewer imagining more! His crime is being good looking, famous & setting bench marks! If nudity is a crime all naga babas should be arrested. Smearing ash can't make it acceptable!"

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Coronavirus Pandemic World On Edge

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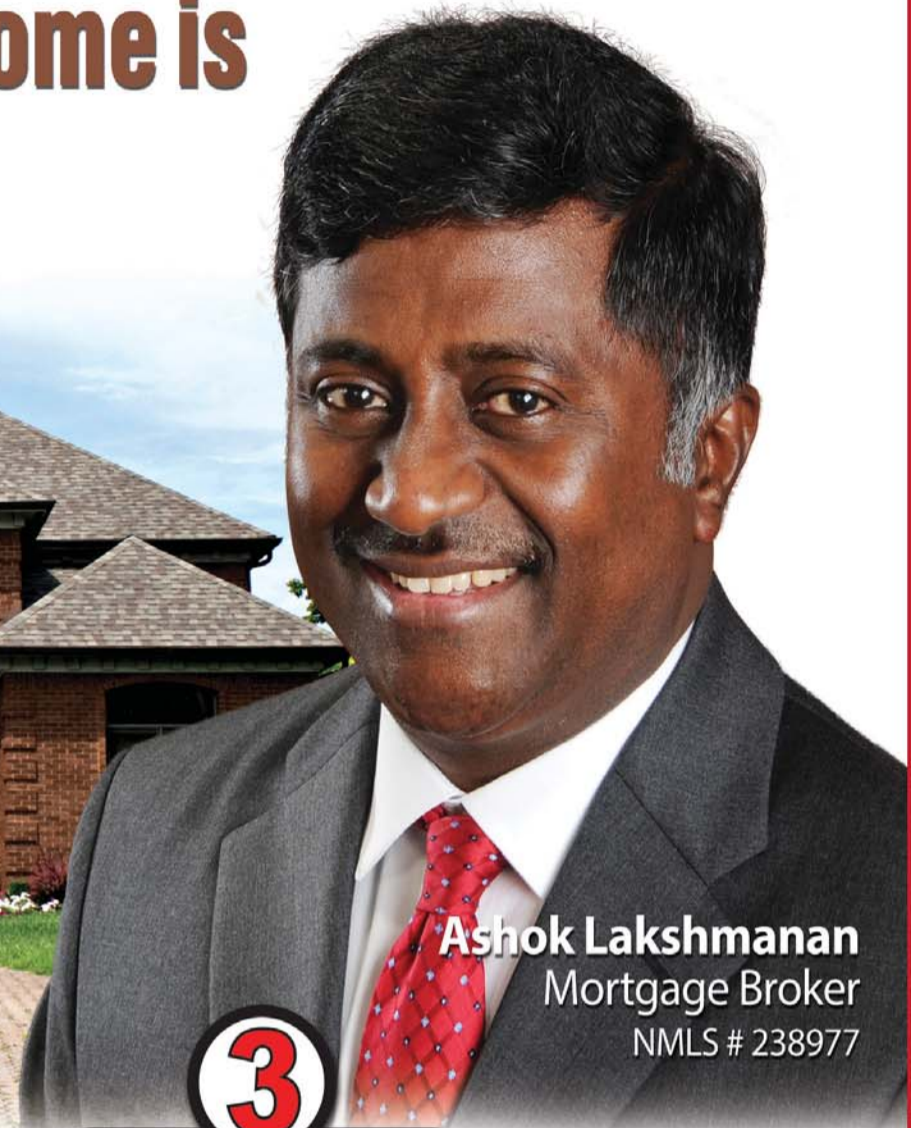
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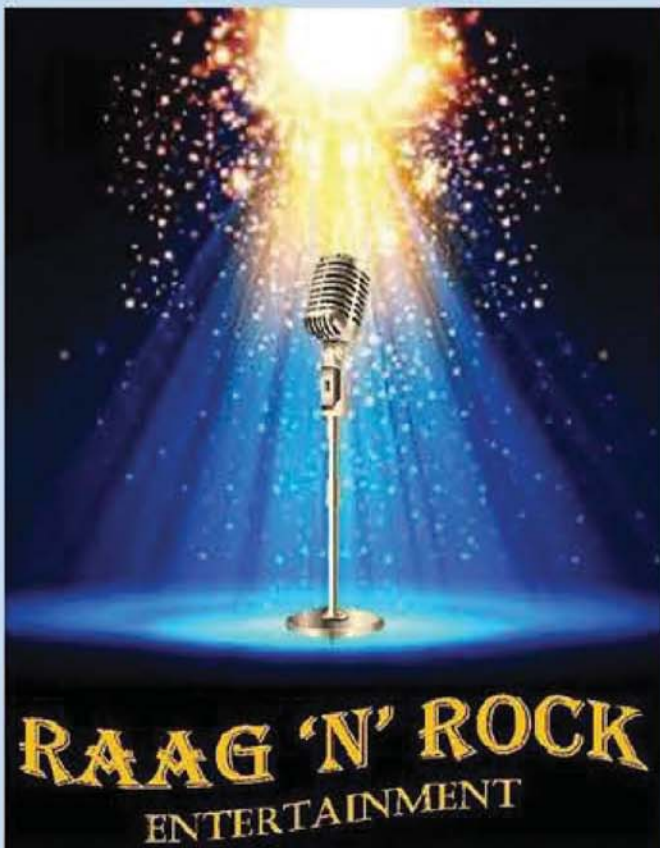
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