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September 22, 2020, 9:25 am IST [**Jitendra K Tuli**](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/author/jitendra-k-tuli/) in [**World/India Politics**](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/world-india-politics/) **|** [**India**](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/india/), [**World**](https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/blogs/world/) **|** TOI

Recently, four matters have made headlines in the Indian News Media – Biden, Kashmir, China and Congress Party. Some articles in Indian newspapers referred to discrete statements made by Biden and some of his associates about Kashmir and CAA. These statements mean nothing nor would they have any impact on the US foreign policy towards India including the issues of Kashmir and CAA. For years, “K” has been a dirty word for Indians and Indians get excited whenever any foreigner mentions Kashmir. No one can change the status of Kashmir.

Why to get rattled with statements from people allegedly to be close to Biden before they get any position in the event Biden becomes President? Neither I nor anyone else reads such statements as these are rarely, if ever, published in the US and have absolutely no effect on anyone here. First, Biden, if elected, may not give such persons any important position. Even if Biden does, they would have to do what Biden orders them to do. I have known Biden since 1974 when he first got elected to the US Senate. I had interacted with Biden many times. He grew up in New Castle, Delaware and won his first political victory there when he got elected to the City Council. New Castle and ten other major Delaware cities have been my clients since 1972. Mr. Biden is a great admirer of India and Indians. He has been and will continue to be India’s friend. A recent article in Dawn, Pakistan also recognized the fact that under Biden, the US foreign policy would not change much. There is no doubt that Trump is better for India and Indians, however, Biden would also be good.

The world has forgotten about Kashmir; Indians have not. Indians are still suffering from an inferiority complex and do not recognize their strength. We should learn to ignore statements and actions by others which have very insignificant, if any, effect on India. Let us assume Biden and all the world leaders support Pakistan on Kashmir and India ignores them, what can or will they do? Absolutely nothing. Will they or can they afford to attack and isolate India or impose sanctions against India? Absolutely not. Can the US, under Biden, ignore China’s rise? Even if Biden is neutral to China, the US military will not be. Due to the geopolitical and economic realities, the US cannot ignore or sideline India. Let’s stop worrying about Kashmir as it is a part of India like any other part. At my persistent advice, finally Modi has stopped getting excited about Kashmir. I was able to persuade PM Modi not to discuss Kashmir and he did not discuss it with Trump at the White House, nor did he dwell on it at the last UNO annual meeting. He even ignored Pakistan’s Comments on Kashmir during the recent SAARC Corona Conference Call. With the abolition of Article 370, which should have never been implemented and should have been abolished a long time back, there is no Kashmir issue left. However, I would urge the Government to release all the political leaders and lift all the restrictions in Kashmir.

No doubt a number of close and not so close supporters of Biden have issued and will continue to issue anti-India statements. No US President, not even Biden, can ignore Indians living in the US Indians have become very influential in the USA and can and do exert a lot of pressure on the politicians including the President. We should be able to counter others’ anti India efforts and influence on Biden.

The situation with China on the border is very serious. In spite of some strong and sometimes conciliatory statements from India, China continues to occupy India’s territory in Doklam and Galwan River Valley and has not taken steps to move from threatening postures. In his recent commentary, Mr. M. Taylor Fravel, a foreign affairs expert stated, “Moreover, on the ground at the site of the confrontation, Indian forces pulled back first. Meanwhile, Chinese forces remain in Doklam, even if Beijing chose not to press ahead with the road extension that sparked the standoff.”

There is a similar situation in Galwan River Valley in Ladakh. It is an acknowledged fact that China killed 25 and captured over two dozen Indian soldiers whom China later released. India claims to have killed 40 Chinese soldiers and captured about the same number. However, there is a confirmation of China releasing Indian soldiers and no confirmation of India releasing any Chinese soldiers. Therefore, serious doubts have been raised about India capturing any Chinese soldiers.

Nepal is moving closer to China and India’s grip on Bhutan and Maldives has been loosened significantly by Chinese actions. Bangladesh and Myanmar are already closer to China. This does not bode well for India. I have talked to a couple of China experts in India. Indian military wants to take a more decisive action against China on the border but is not being allowed to do so. Both Ajit Doval and Jaishankar have not been able to provide good advice on China. Others must be consulted.

Since UPA lost the elections, the Congress Party has been in disarray. The Congress Party has been reduced to number 3 position in a number of States. Then, Mr. Rahul Gandhi resigned from the Party’s presidency and Ms. Sonia Gandhi became the Party’s de facto President. First, in Madhya Pradesh, Jyotindra Scindia and a number of Congress MLAS left Congress Party and the BJP Government replaced the Congress Government there. In Rajasthan, another young leader Sachin Pilot along with a number of MLAS left the Party. For personal interest. Vasundhra Raje, the ex-Chief Minister discouraged BJP from taking Mr. Pilot and Congress MLAS in the Party.

Mr. Pilot and his supporters went back to the Party. Frequent hospitalization of Ms. Gandhi and frequent disappearances of Rahul Gandhi have made things worse for the Party.

Disgusted with the confusion at the top of the Congress Party, twenty-three seminar leaders wrote a strong letter suggesting a change in the top leadership. After sidelining some of the letter writers, Mrs. Gandhi left for the USA for a “Routine Medical Checkup” and Rahul is with her. What kind of a “routine medical checkup” is it which could not be done in India and needed her to come to the USA? The fact is that she has been frequently coming to the USA for her cancer treatment. Before coming to the USA, she was hospitalized twice in a private hospital in Delhi. The monsoon Parliament Session is on, and the Congress Party’s two top most leaders are out of the country. How can the Party act as an effective opposition on important issues like the corona epidemic and the economy which are getting worse in India. A vibrant democracy needs a strong opposition and the Congress is the only party which can do so. Sometime back, I met a couple of senior Congress leaders who are also among the letter writers and urged them to change the Congress leadership if the Congress is to be saved. Their answer was, “We do not have any one else who could lead the Congress”. As the National Congress Working Committee is full of flatterers, it would not bring the needed change. The change has to start from states where Gandhis do not have much influence.

Finally, I must express my anger with the Indian Supreme Court for rendering a guilty verdict against Prashant Bhushan for publicly commenting against the Supreme Court. In a democratic country no one, not even God, should be immune to criticism. The Supreme Court’s verdict is a shame to India’s justice system. For the sake of maintaining the sanctity of the justice system in India, the Supreme Court must reverse its decision.