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DEVELOPMENT IN US – INDIA POLICIES AMONGST GLOBAL MEDICAL AND POLITICAL EMERGENCY

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ABSTRACT

The Article presented herewith refers to the current outbreak of the Corona Virus through the lenses of legislative changes that will be implemented in order to ensure restoring of some form of normalcy in terms of International Relations, especially between the United States of America and India. As the world economy takes a hit, the world hegemon is also on the verge of holding an extremely critical election for their President. The future relations between the US and India are also at stake amongst other critical healthcare implications administered due to the policy changes. A few medications and treatment treatments are being attempted and tried to discover a solution for this pandemic. While governments and wellbeing laborers throughout the world are hooking to check the spread of the infection, it has been understood that reconnaissance of influenced people is of principal significance so as to survey and execute preventive and control measures.

INTRODUCTION – THE BEGINNING OF AN OUTBREAK

China is a global powerhouse, with a total trade of 4.6 trillion dollar contributing to a massive 12.4 percent of global trade, making it a major player in world trade. Apart from being a trade leader, China is also heading towards becoming a leader in meat consumption as people are developing empathy for animals in the western countries and adopting veganism; whereas Chinese consumption has increased three-fold in the last few decades. To satisfy this demand for meat, a huge amount of it is being sold in ‘Wet markets’ in China. It is in these markets where along with the meat of domesticated animals, products of wild animals are also put in a trade.

In late 2019, novel pneumonia-causing virus emerged from one such wet market in Wuhan which is believed to have jumped species from a bat. This virus was named SARS-CoV-2 and the disease caused by it was called COVID-19. It quickly spread across China and did not take much time to subsequently spread all over the world. As of July 15th, 2020, there are over 936 thousand

confirmed cases of COVID -19 in India with over 24,000 reported deaths.¹ While the situation in India is spiraling out of control, there are many countries where COVID -19 is also causing havoc, countries which are considered to be developed and resourceful are succumbing to the virus.

One country which is suffering the most due to COVID - 19 outbreak is the United States of America. Despite spending huge amounts from their Gross Domestic Product on medical aid, millions of people are infected with COVID - 19 and hundreds of thousands have died so far.² The administration has effectively been unable to control the spread of the virus. The inability to impose a complete lockdown over the United States shows the incompetence of the policymakers, making this a new political crisis in America.

The Liberal-Democrats are blaming the Trump Administration for their failure in ensuring healthcare facilities to masses, lack of medical equipment and infective contentment of the virus. The Conservative-Republicans are holding Obama's National Healthcare Programme liable for making people too dependent on federal facilities. Despite the reasoning, battle lines are drawn in the US political arena. Hence making Healthcare the most important point for debate. Damage caused by COVID - 19 might be the deciding factor in the upcoming US presidential election, Trump administration is also well aware of this and will now try to make the lost ground by attacking the country from where the virus originated I.e. China. Donald trump is regularly seen trashing the Chinese government, he even went to the extent of making allegations that the virus was created in a laboratory in Wuhan. Considering the fact that the allegations were made by Donald trump, its authenticity is yet to be verified, but it is significantly clear that Trump is planning to go all out against China.

Thus it can be quiet rightly assumed that the recent protests against police brutality and unjustified killings of people of color are the reason behind the current governments hesitation towards making any changes. These revolutionary demonstrations of systemic oppression can also be the

¹ Worldometer, (July 15, 2020),<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/india/>

² Worldometer (July 15, 2020),<https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/us/>

reason for the number of patients to jump up. With the peak in patient numbers for insight, it is guaranteed that there will be heavy consequences of this Coronavirus Outbreak.

POLICY SHIFT

Naturally, due to the outbreak, the complete attention of American policymakers lies with processing out legislations that help in flattening the curve. However, there are certain long term aspects of politics that will be affected due to the virus.

The frontrunner amongst this will be the amendments for implementing a Universal Healthcare System. The United States of America being the only first-world country without coverage may see high demands for a modification. As millions of American citizens file for new unemployment claims, it is expected that people's health insurance might not be linked to their employment status as there will be insistence for government-provided coverage. The current government of the Republicans is relentlessly against the idea of such a system, as was seen when there was opposition for the Affordable Care Act by the Democratic-led government of Barack Obama.

Therefore there will possibly be a change in the government through the upcoming elections in November 2020. The entire election process might be done along the process of voting by mail, as is done by the State Legislatures of Hawaii, Oregon, Colorado, Utah, and Washington. This process will ensure that there are a large turn out and a wide critical spread. There will also be a shift to virtual political campaigning possibly becoming a method to reach citizens in future elections as well.

US – INDIA RELATIONS

As there might be a temporary suspension of immigrants in the United States of America, due to non-issuance of green cards and H1-B visas, immigrants from India will face a huge impact. It is

believed that the President used the crises to pursue an executive order that he had been favoring for a long time.

This can be seen after there was a request by the American President to relax the ban India had imposed on the export of Hydroxychloroquine, the drug which is recommended for the treatment of COVID-19.³ Indian Prime Minister had agreed to strike a balance between meeting the domestic requirement of the drug and maintaining its relations with the United States of America. Thus the decision to suspend issuing of Green cards and Visas will unmistakably encumber the relations between the two countries.

The symbolic gestures of ‘Namaste Trump’ and ‘Howdy Modi’ can neither be deemed as substantive nor valuable. The re-election of Donald Trump against the opposition of Joe Biden, the former Vice President, will ensure that the relations remain as utilitarian as possible. Thus, the future of American politics can be predicted to isolate the United States of America by restructuring various International trade agreements as protectionism proliferates in the country. On the other hand, if the former chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Joe Biden, who stands in stark contrast to Donald Trump, wins the elections, the Indian-American relations will definitely be consolidated.

The foreign policy agendas for India include – increasing nuclear power, focusing on climate change and control over cybercrimes. These are the same as what Joe Biden had been advocating for since his early campaign. He even worked along with Barack Obama to achieve his vision stated in India in 2010.⁴ Additionally, India is in distressed need to renegotiate its Generalized System of Preferences which the United States of America had terminated in the first half of 2019 with hopes for an adequate trade deal since.

³Anirban Bhaumik, *India to balance domestic need, relations with US to decide on Trump's request for Hydroxychloroquine*, Deccan herald (APR 05 2020, 20:36 IST), <https://www.deccanherald.com/national/india-to-balance-domestic-need-relations-with-us-to-decide-on-trumps-request-for-hydroxychloroquine-821760.html>

⁴ *U.S.-India Relations*, Council on foreign relations, <https://www.cfr.org/timeline/us-india-relations>

Thus the future of a judicious Indian-American relationship pays heavy reliance on the policies that the United States of America decides to act upon in the upcoming year, which furthermore resort to the American electorate of 2020.

CONCLUSION

Critical occasions call for keen, and regularly, radical measures. The COVID-19 pandemic, which has prompted moves being made under the Epidemic Diseases Act, 1897, and the Disaster Management Act, 2005, in India, is one such remarkable and terrible occasion. The whole world has been wrestling with the COVID-19 pandemic for quite a while, and endeavors are on to discover a treatment convention and immunization.

The COVID – 19 spread through not only meat markets but also penetrated into economic ones. This has to lead to a major amount of Multi-National Corporations to re-wire their systems in order to conduct their businesses. Hence there were many rapid changes in the sphere of the employment relationship, creating legal implications. The trade relations between globally spread companies will be affected as there is an anticipation of Indian – Chinese trade volume decreasing. Parties being affected by epidemic-related supply or production disruptions can benefit from a precise assessment of the underlying contractual framework. Therefore the global pandemic is indeed a political emergency in itself and has to be tackled through well thought out policies and legislative action in order to ensure international peace and security. The citizens of both India and United States of America will wait for the next year to unfold with hopes of better and much stronger associations being built. Hence the policies that will be applied in the current situation will indeed establish the future relations of all the countries with the apparent hegemonic state of America.