

From: "Ashley Biden" [P6/b(6)]
Sent on: Friday, May 23, 2014 9:27:26 PM
To: "Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>; "Person, Fran </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=franperson76671426>"; ">"
CC: 261penn@gmail.com; hbiden@senecaga.com; robinware456@gmail.com; jill.tracy2@gmail.com; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]
Subject: Re: Grand Teton National Park - Brinkerhoff Lodge

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Sun Jul 30 10:43:38 EDT 2023

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6),P5

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: "Ashley Biden" [P6/b(6)]
Sent on: Monday, May 19, 2014 10:31:57 PM
To: "Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>; "Person, Fran </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=franperson76671426>; ">
CC: "261penn@gmail.com"; "Hunter Biden (hbiden@senecaga.com) <hbiden@senecaga.com>; "robinware456@gmail.com"; "Jill Biden (Jill.tracy2@gmail.com) <jill.tracy2@gmail.com>
Subject: Re: Grand Teton National Park - Brinkerhoff Lodge

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Reasons for Withholding:

P5,P6,b(6)

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: 261penn@gmail.com
Sent on: Tuesday, May 20, 2014 1:27:13 AM
To: "Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>; "Person, Fran </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=franperson76671426>"; ">"
CC: "Hunter Biden (hbiden@senecaga.com) <hbiden@senecaga.com>; [P6/b(6)];
"robinware456@gmail.com"; "Jill Biden (Jill.tracy2@gmail.com) <jill.tracy2@gmail.com>; "Olivere Hallie [P6/b(6)]";
"Biden Kathleen [P6/b(6)]"; "Krein Howard [P6/b(6)]"
Subject: Re: Grand Teton National Park - Brinkerhoff Lodge

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Sun Jul 30 10:37:37 EDT 2023

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Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P6,P5

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

Sent: Sun, 19 Aug 2012 14:36:36 -0400
From: "Person, Fran" <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
To: robinware456@gmail.com, 261penn@gmail.com, hbiden@rosemontseneca.com, [REDACTED] hurricane5155@gmail.com, jbiden@lionhallgp.com,
[REDACTED]
Subject: Fw: AP Profile Piece: THE VEEP: A REGULAR AND NOT-SO-REGULAR JOE

From: Allen, Liz
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2012 12:42 PM
To: Person, Fran
Subject: Re: AP Profile Piece: THE VEEP: A REGULAR AND NOT-SO-REGULAR JOE

Hey Fran - it will run in newspapers nationwide -- any of AP's clients who choose to pick it up.

From: Person, Fran
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2012 12:34 PM
To: Allen, Liz
Subject: Re: AP Profile Piece: THE VEEP: A REGULAR AND NOT-SO-REGULAR JOE

Liz, where will this appear?

From: Allen, Liz
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2012 12:06 PM
To: Reed, Bruce N.; Hoffman, Alan L.; Ricchetti, Steven; Cerda, Jose; Bianchi, Sarah; Hogan, Cynthia C.; Ryan, Evan; Murray, Shailagh; Barkoff, Kendra; Trotter, Kingsley; Russell, Catherine M.; Kaye, Melanie; Chung, Kathy; Person, Fran; Blinken, Tony
Subject: AP Profile Piece: THE VEEP: A REGULAR AND NOT-SO-REGULAR JOE

From: Finkelstein, Morgan (Intern)
Sent: Sunday, August 19, 2012 11:10 AM
To: Aberger, Marie; Allen, Liz; Anderson, Amanda D.; Barkoff, Kendra; Bartoloni, Kristen; Bates, Andrew J.; Beechem, Stephanie; Beliveau, Emmett; Brundage, Amy; Buffa, Nikki; Burke, Jordan; Carney, Jay; Carroll, Bradley; Childress, Mark; Compton, Matt; Curtis, Colleen; Dean, Laura; Earnest, Joshua R.; Favreau, Jon; Finkelstein, Morgan (Intern); Foster, Heather; Gilson, Shannon; Hankins, Hannah R.; Hartnett, Kathleen R.; Holzer, Benjamin; Hughes, Caroline; Inouye, Shin; Jackson, Bartlett; Jenkins, Brad; Jones, Corey; Kang, Eugene; Keenan, Cody; Kelly, Allison K.; Kolachalam, Namrata; Lee, Jesse C.; Lee, Monica; Lehrich, Matt; Lepow, Brandon D.; Lewis, Kevin S.; Lindsay, Erin; Loewe, Dylan; Mastromonaco, Alyssa; Matusiak, Ari; McCullough, Victoria; Mechaber, Ezra; Miller, Jason; Miranda, Luis; Monje, Carlos A.; Munoz, Cecilia; O'Connor, Kyle; Pagano, Ed; Palmieri, Jennifer; Papas, Nick; Pappas, Louis; Paulsen, Joe; Pfeiffer, Dan; Phillips, Macon; Platkin, Alex; Plouffe, David; Rakestraw, London; Raman, Aneesh; Rangel, Antoinette N.; Ratner, Stephen (Intern); Rodriguez, Julie; Rodriguez, Miguel; Rosholm, Joanna; Ruemmler, Kathryn H.; Ruiz, Ria; Sahgal, Rishi R.; Schmuck, Bobby; Schultz, Eric; Selak, Dawn; Sheehy, Kathleen; Small, Anne; Smith, Jamie; Ricchetti, Steven; Stevens, Clark; Thompson, Kenny; Updegrove, Laura; Vega, Dag; Vietor, Tommy; Whithorne, Bobby; Xu, Kevin
Subject: AP: THE VEEP: A REGULAR AND NOT-SO-REGULAR JOE

http://hosted.ap.org/dynamic/stories/U/US_CAMPAIGN_PROFILE_MITT_ROMNEY?SITE=AP&SECTION=HOME&TEMPLATE=DEFAULT

THE VEEP: A REGULAR AND NOT-SO-REGULAR JOE

BY ADAM GELLER
AP NATIONAL WRITER



AP Photo/Pat Sullivan

After Joe Biden tripped up his boss by voicing support for same-sex marriage while the president remained on the fence, speculation was rampant about whether the remarks were spontaneous or deliberate.

But to those who know Biden, there was no doubt. He was just speaking his mind.

"That's what you get," said John Marttila, a political strategist who worked alongside Biden in his first Senate campaign, and many others since. "You never have to worry, you never have to ask yourself the question, is this politician really telling me what he cares about, what's on his mind? Not with Joe."

Biden long has cast himself as a regular guy, who still relishes wading into a crowd or taking a microphone, searching for a way to connect with middle-class voters who remind him of his own Scranton, Pa. roots. He is the intensely devoted family man, prizing relationships strengthened by tragedy and turmoil that reconfigured a life of sometimes extraordinary luck.

But this is also the Joe Biden who is known for strong opinions grounded in experience and study, as well as the self-regard that makes him a wild card.

Biden took on the vice presidency after a 36-year Senate career he hoped would lead to the Oval Office. Instead, his assignment over the last 3 1/2 years has been to figure out a role in a White House where he is a junior partner despite his seniority, a well-known member of the establishment grafted to a team that promised to change politics as we know it. His job, which comes with few clearly defined responsibilities, has been to provide value to Obama, while staying true to himself.

It has not always gone smoothly, largely because of Biden's well-known tendency to speak out loud and at length. But he has settled into the vice presidency while holding tight to the touchstones of his identity.

"There's no delusions of grandeur. He's not president. ... Before Joe went into that situation, he had to resolve that in himself," said his sister, Valerie Biden Owens, a political confidant since she managed his first campaign for a county seat in Delaware.

Biden has emerged as a very different vice president from predecessor Dick Cheney. He has worked hard to make his case on issues from the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan to the pursuit of health care reform, while accepting his place in a hierarchy that gives him the president's ear, but not his decision-making power.

To understand Biden as vice president, though, requires knowing the journey that shaped him and brought him to this point. It began in a wood-frame house on Scranton's North Washington Avenue, steps from the last stop on the streetcar line. In the Biden house, every Sunday started with Catholic Mass and ended with family, the younger ones listening in as the older men hashed out politics around the kitchen table.

As the administration's frequent ambassador to white, working-class voters, Biden has waxed so often about growing up in 1950s Scranton, the stories have taken on the gloss of fable. In a June speech, he joked that Obama had latched on to the theme, in a way that "makes me sound like I climbed out of a coal mine in Scranton with a lunch bucket."

In fact, Biden, who turns 70 in November, grew up in a solid, middle-class neighborhood. Even so, his parent's decision to move in with his grandfather when Biden was 5 was a step backward. Biden's father had done well as a manager for a company servicing merchant marine ships. Then he lost his savings in a pair of business ventures, including one with a partner who ran off with the money. Scranton offered refuge.

Biden's father found work cleaning boilers and selling pennants, before eventually managing a car dealership.

"My dad, Joseph Robinette Biden Sr., was a man of few words. What I learned from him, I learned from watching," Biden wrote in his 2007 autobiography. "He'd been knocked down

hard as a young man, lost something he knew he could never get back. But he never stopped trying ... Get up! That was his phrase, and it has echoed throughout my life."

Biden and his friends spent their days in Catholic school, returning home to waiting mothers before heading out into the neighborhood's ball fields and woods.

The Biden household was a gathering point, welcoming various uncles and the friends of Biden's grandfather. When Joe Biden's family moved again to the suburbs of Wilmington, Del., the family drove back nearly every weekend.

"I remember distinctly as not having any feeling like he left," says a Biden childhood friend, Tom Bell, now an insurance agent in the Scranton area.

Biden's family and friends recall him as a leader. Bell recounts that after a neighborhood bully picked a fight, friend Charlie Roth called Biden, then 12 or 13 and living near Wilmington. When the Bidens returned the following weekend, Joe beat up the bully on their behalf, Bell says.

Joe Biden went on to the University of Delaware. On spring break of his junior year, he and a group of friends ended up in the Bahamas, where Joe met Neilia Hunter, a senior at Syracuse University. Smitten, he applied to law school at Syracuse so they could be together. The couple married and moved to Wilmington, where Biden accepted a job as a corporate lawyer. But he quickly became disillusioned representing companies and left for a job with the public defender's office, practicing civil law part-time.

His boss took him along to Democratic political meetings and Biden was invited to run for a county council seat, representing a majority Republican district. Biden didn't even know where the council met, but he ran and won in 1970. The following spring, he was asked to help recruit a candidate to run against Cale Boggs, a Republican former governor and congressman seeking his third term in the U.S. Senate.

On a summer morning in 1971, the 28-year-old Biden was shaving in a Delaware motel room when he heard a knock on the door. A pair of state Democratic leaders, one of them a former governor, barreled in. Biden, standing in his underwear with shaving cream cupped in his hand, worried he'd gotten himself into some sort of trouble.

We think you should be our Senate candidate, the men told him. Biden's first thought: Was he even old enough under the Constitution to take the oath of office?

"When you're from a small state, you've got to be extra good because everybody knows you," said Henry Topel, the party chairman who was one of the two men who asked him to run. "I was extremely impressed with Joe. He was a phenomenal orator ... and above all he knew his subject and he certainly knew the road he was on. He was a young shining star."

Early polls showed Biden running far behind.

"I've been following politics for 40 years and there's never been a race in 40 years that was as much of a longshot as this," said Ted Kaufman, a volunteer in that campaign who became Biden's long-time chief of staff before being appointed to serve out his final Senate term. "I told him he couldn't win."

Biden's shoestring campaign, headed by sister Valerie, cranked out weekly brochures on newsprint delivered by volunteers to nearly every Delaware home. Playing off the state's size and the candidate's knack for connecting with voters, the campaign leapfrogged to living room coffee gatherings, often six or seven in a day, attended mostly by housewives. Biden campaigned alongside his wife, sometimes with their three young children in tow.

"He presented himself the way he was. There's no daylight between the private person and the public persona and there hasn't been with Joe," his sister said.

Pitted against a popular incumbent, Biden took to opening his suit jacket to reveal a button on the inside of the lapel that said "I like Cale," putting voters at ease, said Ron Williams, who covered the race as a reporter for the Wilmington News-Journal.

Biden won by a little more than 3,000 votes. He turned 30 little more than a month before being sworn in, making him one of the youngest people ever elected to the Senate.

Weeks later he was in Washington to hire staff, leaving his wife in Delaware to shop for a Christmas tree. The office phone rang and Valerie picked up. "When she hung up the phone, she looked white," Biden wrote.

Neilia Biden was dead, killed in a car accident along with the couple's year-old daughter, Naomi. Biden's two sons were critically injured.

In a speech this past May to families of U.S. soldiers killed in action, Biden recalled how the tragedy plunged him into anger and depression.

"For the first time in my life, I understood how someone could consciously decide to commit suicide," he told the group.

"I remember being in the Rotunda, walking through to get to the plane to get home to get to identify (the bodies) ... I remember looking up and saying 'God ... you can't be good. How can you be good?'"

Biden's sister moved in to care for her nephews. Biden told family and friends he would take a pass on the Senate.

But Majority Leader Mike Mansfield and others pleaded with Biden to give the job six months, with colleagues urging him to immerse himself in his work. Kaufman recalls days

when Biden seemed fine, and then the next "it'd be every bit as bad as the first day. He'd just be coming in like he'd been blown away."

Biden found a comfort zone in Washington by maintaining one outside it, taking Amtrak home to Wilmington each night to be with his sons. In the Senate, he became a student and observer of storied figures like Mansfield and Hubert Humphrey.

"He's a very hierarchical guy," Kaufman said. "His basic approach was I'm junior, they're senior. ... He was very comfortable in giving deference to the senior members."

In 1975, a friend passed him the phone number of Jill Jacobs, an aspiring teacher eight years his junior, and the two began dating. But Biden proposed six times before she agreed. They married in 1977.

By 1980, Biden had built a reputation in the Senate as a comer, with some people encouraging him to think about a future run for the presidency, though he was not yet 40. In his book, Biden writes that he resisted because he could not yet answer a question posed by Marttila about why he wanted to be president.

With Ronald Reagan nearing the end of his second term, Biden decided the time might be right. He traveled the country as a candidate in 1987, still little known outside Delaware. That changed after Reagan nominated conservative judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court to replace retiring moderate Lewis Powell. The nation's attention turned to the Senate Judiciary Committee and its chairman, Biden.

By late summer, Biden was dividing his time and energy between stumping for the presidency and preparing to lead hearings on Bork, whose nomination drew heated opposition from liberals. The two sides of Biden's political life collided as the hearings began, with newspaper reports that, during an Iowa debate, he had plagiarized a speech by British politician Neil Kinnock. Then came allegations that, while at Syracuse, Biden had inserted large parts of a law review article, without attribution, into a paper he wrote.

Biden admitted making mistakes, but insisted it would have no effect on his candidacy. Days later, he withdrew from the race and called Judiciary Committee colleagues into a private meeting.

"He was devastated. It was a hammer blow to the gut," said former Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., who was in the room. "He called us in and he said 'I'm very hurt, I'm embarrassed and I think if I've brought any embarrassment on any of you ... I'd be glad to step down. It was very dramatic. There wasn't anything contrived. It was just silence.'"

The silence was broken by Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., followed by other senators, noting that at one time each of them had made mistakes. They urged Biden to stay on. He did,

presiding over hearings that led to Bork's rejection, but were praised for maintaining a respect that allowed all sides to air their views.

Biden has said he viewed the Bork hearings as the beginning of a vindication. But his record four years later in presiding over the contentious nomination of Clarence Thomas - hearings charged with accusations of racism and sexism - remains the target of fierce criticism. While Biden writes about the Bork hearings at length in his book, he never mentions the Thomas confirmation.

During Biden's short-lived pursuit of the presidency, Marttila recalls, he'd been concerned when a staffer mentioned Biden was popping 10 Tylenols at a time. But the headaches went overlooked in the blur of campaigning. In early 1988, though, Biden collapsed in a Rochester, N.Y., hotel room after a speech. Doctors discovered an aneurysm below the base of his brain.

His survival and recovery left Biden feeling that he'd won a second chance, sharpening his sense of priorities.

Back in the Senate, he pushed to increase funding for prosecution of domestic violence and sexual assault, and assistance to victims, winning passage of legislation in 1994 that became law. He also became an increasingly outspoken leader on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, urging Presidents George H.W. Bush and Bill Clinton to intervene in the wars splitting the former Yugoslavia.

After backing the second President Bush's decision to send troops into Iraq, he became a critic of the war and the administration. But, as Biden did with the Balkans, he accompanied his rhetoric on Iraq with engagement, drawing up a proposal for a "soft partition" of the country into three ethno-religious regions and meeting with Iraqi leaders and military commanders. When Biden traveled to Iraq as vice president late last year before the U.S. pullout, it was his 16th trip to the country.

But after seeing Bush win a second term in 2004, he began to think anew about seeking the presidency.

In a 2008 primary season dominated by Democrats Barack Obama and Hillary Rodham Clinton, Biden got little traction among voters or political donors and dropped out after a poor showing in the Iowa caucuses. But his debate performances won praise, including from his opponents, and he was talked about as a candidate for secretary of state in a Democratic administration.

Instead, when Obama became the nominee and asked Biden to join the ticket, the Delaware veteran agreed on one condition.

"I said I want a commitment from you that in every important decision you'll make, every critical decision, economic and political as well as foreign policy, I'll get to be in the room," Biden said in a late 2008 television interview.

Obama turned to Biden early, asking him to oversee administration of the \$787 billion in economic stimulus money approved by Congress. Though Obama came to Washington opposing the Iraq war Biden initially supported, the vice president's deep knowledge of the country made him a natural point-man in the administration's dealings with Iraqi leaders, as well as defender against critics of the U.S. withdrawal.

Still, the agreement left important questions unsettled, with "a lot of uncertainty" about how Obama intended to use his vice president, Biden's former chief of staff, Ron Klain, said in an interview with The Associated Press in late 2010.

While Obama asked for Biden's opinion, he made key decisions that were at odds with that advice. Biden, for example, advised that the country's financial condition was too shaky to pursue health care reform, but Obama moved ahead.

Yet when Obama signed the Affordable Care Act into law in March 2010, Biden was emphatic in recognizing the achievement and offering congratulations. He was caught on an open microphone proclaiming the legislation a big deal, with an expletive inserted for emphasis.

Biden also was the administration's most strident opponent of proposals to sharply increase the number of U.S. troops in Afghanistan. Obama wound up dispatching 30,000 additional soldiers, but his decision to do so quickly and to set an end-date for most U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan has widely been seen as evidence of Biden's influence.

Biden "played a very important counter-role to the generals," said Jules Witcover, a veteran political journalist who wrote a 2010 biography of Biden.

"Although you could say Biden lost that fight," because the additional troops were deployed, "in the long run he has prevailed, or is in the process of prevailing, with the combat troops coming out of Iraq and the movement toward getting out of Afghanistan," Witcover said.

Biden also has shown a willingness to give his boss credit, even when his advice has been rejected, mostly notably after he urged Obama not to go ahead with the U.S. military raid that killed Osama bin Laden. When the raid succeeded, he praised the president's resolve and decisiveness.

The relationship between Obama and Biden has worked, say those who know them, because Obama is comfortable hearing the vice president's counsel, but also because of Biden's embrace of his role as adviser rather than top decision-maker.

"They've been through a lot together and there's a lot of mutual respect there," Kaufman said. "The secret is Obama's stood by the deal and Biden's stood by the deal."

From: Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent on: Sunday, August 19, 2012 6:36:36 PM
To: robinware456@gmail.com; 261penn@gmail.com; hbiden@rosemontseneca.com; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)];
hurricane5155@gmail.com; jbiden@lionhallgp.com; [P6/b(6)]
Subject: Fw: AP Profile Piece: THE VEEP: A REGULAR AND NOT-SO-REGULAR JOE

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6)

Notes:

redaction of personal email addresses

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: "Fran Person"<[personal email address]>
Sent on: Monday, October 22, 2012 5:34:07 PM
To: "Vice President Biden <robinware456@gmail.com>; "Jill Tracy <jill.tracy2@gmail.com>; "Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>; "261penn@gmail.com"; "Bernal, Anthony R. <anthony_r._bernal@ovp.eop.gov>; "Bernal, Anthony R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=anthonyr.bernal72748266>; ">"
Subject: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: "Fran Person"<[personal email address]>
Sent on: Monday, October 22, 2012 5:39:31 PM
To: "Vice President Biden <robinware456@gmail.com>; "Jill Tracy <jill.tracy2@gmail.com>;
"261penn@gmail.com"; "Hunter Biden <hbiden@senecaga.com>; "Bernal, Anthony R.
<anthony_r._bernal@ovp.eop.gov>; "Bernal, Anthony R. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group
/cn=recipients/cn=anthonyr.bernal72748266>; ">
Subject: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

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PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent on: Friday, May 23, 2014 3:10:12 AM
To: 261penn@gmail.com
CC: hbiden@senecaga.com; [P6/b(6)]; robinware456@gmail.com; jill.tracy2@gmail.com; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]
Subject: Re: Grand Teton National Park - Brinkerhoff Lodge

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Sun Jul 30 10:41:54 EDT 2023

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Reasons for Withholding:

P6,b(6),P5

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent on: Wednesday, October 10, 2012 5:47:35 PM
To: "hbiden@rosemontseneca.com"; "261penn@gmail.com"; [personal email address]; "Reed, Bruce N. <bruce_n_reed@ovp.eop.gov>; "Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>; "robinware456@gmail.com"; "'hurricane5155@gmail.com' (hurricane5155@gmail.com) <hurricane5155@gmail.com>; "Reed, Bruce N. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=bruce_n_reed>; ">" (hurricane5155@gmail.com); "Person, Fran </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=franperson76671426>; ">"
Subject: [personal information]

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET

Date created: Sun Jul 30 09:58:00 EDT 2023

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: Robin Ware <robinware456@gmail.com>
Sent on: Monday, March 26, 2012 9:18:35 PM
To: "Blinken, Antony J. <antony_j._blinken@ovp.eop.gov>; "BEAU <261penn@gmail.com>; "HUNT <hbiden@rosemontseneca.com>; "Blinken, Antony J. </o=eop/ou=exchange administrative group /cn=recipients/cn=antonyj.blinken72161751>; ">
Subject: Re: Beau Biden

THIS RECORD IS A WITHDRAWAL SHEET
Date created: Thu Mar 23 07:30:12 EDT 2023

Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

P5

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0022-F

Additional Information:

Sent: Fri, 18 May 2012 20:50:32 -0400
From: "Person, Fran" <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
To: hurricane5155@gmail.com, 261penn@gmail.com, hbiden@rosemontseneca.com,
ashley.biden@state.de.us, jill.tracy2@gmail.com,
jbiden@lionhallgp.com, sbiden@lionhallgp.com,
robinware456@gmail.com

FOIA-6

Subject: Press Recap
[Clips_5_18_2012.docx](#)

Shailagh Murray and the Press Office put together the attached press packet which recaps some of the VP's Press Clippings from the past trip couple of days. It is great! I will also copy and paste it below in case you can't open the attachment.

Have a great weekend!

Fran

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN
PRESS RECAP

MAY 18, 2012

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- +House Passes Violence Against Women Act That Leaves Out LGBT, Immigrant Protections
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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN PRINT COVERAGE

Politico

BIDEN: 'How about some ice cream?'

By: Byron Tau / May 16, 2012

Vice President Joe BIDEN surprised patrons at an Ohio Dairy Queen with an unannounced visit Wednesday night.

On a two-day campaign swing through the Buckeye state, BIDEN stopped in the Hollywood City Center Dairy Queen in Steubenville, Ohio for a cone.

Locals Chris and Diane Murphy, stopping at the shop after their daughter's softball game, were surprised by the vice president's unexpected arrival.

"My daughter had played a softball game at Beaver Local and we ran into traffic on state Route 7 coming home. We had heard Vice President BIDEN was coming to the city but never expected to see him walk into Dairy Queen," Chris Murphy told reporters traveling with the vice president.

BIDEN spotted the Murphy children and offered to buy them ice cream after some banter.

"Do you play football?" BIDEN asked one of them. "I played when I was in school. Where do you play at?"

"Catholic Central High School," he replied.

"How about some ice cream?" BIDEN then asked.

"If I knew you were coming I would have waited for you to buy me ice cream," another patron shouted.

BIDEN bought several cones and milkshakes before departing a few minutes later.

CNN

BIDEN'S campaign trail goes where Obama's won't
By: Paul Steinhauser / May 16, 2012

Vice President Joe BIDEN kicks off a two-day swing Wednesday through the eastern edge of the must-win battleground state of Ohio, an area that President Barack Obama is unlikely to visit this election year.

And while the vice president apologized to the president last week for seemingly jumping the gun on the issue of same-sex marriage, this trip is an illustration of just how valuable BIDEN is for Obama as he bids for a second term in the White House.

"As much as political insiders joke about Joe BIDEN, he's indispensable to the Obama ticket," says Republican strategist and CNN contributor Alex Castellanos.

According to the Obama re-election campaign, the vice president will travel to Ohio's Mahoning and Ohio valleys "to highlight the impact of President Obama's efforts to strengthen the region's manufacturing and auto industries, as well as bolster middle-class security for Ohio's workers."

The campaign says BIDEN will speak at an advanced manufacturing facility in Youngstown and at a Chevrolet dealership in Martins Ferry.

The general manager of the dealership, Joe Staffilino II, says he's "really surprised" that the vice president is dropping by and that people in the area "are real excited about the visit."

It's not an area friendly to Obama, said Paul Beck, professor of political science at The Ohio State University.

"These are areas of traditional Democratic strength, steel working areas, areas with a lot of working class Democrats from the old days. President Obama has not played well there," Beck

explained.

Obama was soundly defeated by then-Sen. Hillary Clinton in southeast and eastern Ohio in the Democratic presidential primary in March 2008, and while he won the state by five points over Sen. John McCain in the general election that November, he didn't perform as well in the eastern edge of the state.

"Part of the problem is that these tend to be more conservative Democrats. For some of them his race may be an issue, probably not among the younger ones but among some of the older voters. These tend to be depressed areas, with a lot of job loss over the past couple of decades. There are deeply entrenched pockets of unemployment and economic distress," Beck added.

BIDEN grew up in Scranton, in neighboring Pennsylvania, an area that's also witnessed tough times in the past few decades.

"These are places where I think Joe BIDEN has particular appeal, as a kind of traditional Democrat of the old school. He comes from a part of Pennsylvania that's very much like the eastern part of Ohio. I think he can really connect with voters there in a way which President Obama cannot," Beck said.

The president's been to Ohio 21 times since taking office. But only two of those trips took him through the state's eastern edge.

But it's not just Obama -- presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney was edged out by former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania in much of the region in the March GOP primary. Santorum gave his primary night speech in the Ohio River valley city of Steubenville.

Beck predicted that Romney will likely not "be able to connect with (eastern Ohio voters) well either" ahead of the November election.

Which is why BIDEN may come in so handy in blue-collar areas in eastern Ohio, western and central Pennsylvania, and in parts of Michigan.

"His working-class honesty cuts through all the political bull in Washington. He grounds Obama in the real world. In blue-collar swing states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan, Joe BIDEN is a tremendous asset to Obama who, at times, makes voters feel like he is president of the elite, for the elite, and by the elite," added Castellanos, who was a top media adviser for Romney's 2008 nomination bid, but who stayed neutral in this year's battle for the GOP nomination.

Democratic strategist and CNN contributor Paul Begala agrees.

"Unlike Mitt Romney, Joe BIDEN can talk to middle-class people without an interpreter. Even though he's traveled the globe and is one of the most powerful people in the world, he's still Joe -- a middle-class guy from Scranton.

"BIDEN'S ability to connect with working families is one of the Obama campaign's greatest assets. I bet they'll be seeing a lot of him in the next six months," said Begala, who was a top adviser in the Clinton White House and who now is a senior adviser to Priorities USA, the pro-Obama super PAC.

But some Republicans disagree about BIDEN'S value to the Democratic ticket. "It speaks to President Obama's vulnerability that the campaign has to rely on Vice President BIDEN to campaign in key states like Ohio because Obama can't identify with voters. Between his infamous gaffes and his liberal positions on the free market and our nation's debt, having BIDEN on the stump carries its own set of risks," Republican National Committee press secretary Kirsten Kukowski told CNN.

BIDEN'S been in the spotlight recently for his comments a week and a half ago on NBC's "Meet the Press," that he was "absolutely comfortable" with legal same-sex marriages, a position that the president had yet to take. Obama was forced to speed up his timetable on the issue and come out with his own comments approving the unions three days later.

Some political pundits said that BIDEN was a liability to the president, while others pointed to the argument that running mates rarely matter in the race for the White House.

"Sure, people vote for the top of the ticket, but this election will likely turn on who can build an economy for the middle class," Begala said. "If that's the question, BIDEN is a big part of the answer."

"If I were BIDEN, I would keep Obama on my ticket," Castellanos said.

Politico

Joe BIDEN'S map

By: CHARLES MAHTESIAN / May 16, 2012

Previewing Vice President Joe BIDEN'S two-day Ohio swing, CNN's Political Ticker takes note of BIDEN'S map — and how he's able to connect with white, working-class voters in a way that President Barack Obama hasn't been able to.

For all the chatter about his gaffe-prone ways, BIDEN'S old-school campaign trail style and Rust Belt roots make him an asset with blue-collar voters in places like Ohio and Pennsylvania.

From Paul Steinhauser's report:

Vice President Joe BIDEN kicks off a two-day swing Wednesday through the eastern edge of the must-win battleground state of Ohio, an area that President Barack Obama is unlikely to visit this election year.

And while the vice president apologized to the president last week for seemingly jumping the gun on the issue of same-sex marriage, this trip is an illustration of just how valuable BIDEN is for Obama as he bids for a second term in the White House....

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Huffington Post

Joe BIDEN'S Good Moves

By: Robert Hoopes, President, VOX Global / May 17, 2012

Vice President Joe BIDEN is spending some time in the Ohio Valley and in the process reminding voters, the Romney campaign and folks in the West Wing that he will be a formidable force in this year's presidential campaign. BIDEN connects with key voters who are critical to winning this year's election.

In Youngstown, Ohio, the vice president delivered a widely covered speech that, as much as any event in this campaign to date, set up the choice in November. Elections are about choices and BIDEN artfully drew the line for these key voters when he told them:

More than any other candidate on the ticket in November (we will see who Mitt Romney picks as his running mate), BIDEN'S down-to-earth, regular guy persona stands out and resonates with voters. And it stands in sharp contrast to Romney's personal and professional narrative. Ironically, Romney has been remarkably silent on his personal narrative, faith and private life, choosing instead to put his "Mr. Fix It" financial persona front and center for voters. The idea of the head of Bain Capital as the head of government won't sit well with these swing voters. Harry Truman was "Mr. Fix It"; Mitt Romney is "Mr. Pull it Apart, Sell the Pieces and Make Money at the Expense of the Worker."

Ironically for Romney, working class Americans are not opposed to wealthy presidents. To the contrary. The two wealthiest men to serve in the White House were our first and third presidents, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Among the modern presidency, Presidents Johnson, Hoover, Roosevelt, Clinton and Kennedy comprise the sixth through tenth wealthiest presidents. Among this list is only a single Republican. Democrats and swing voters do vote for the 1 percent. But the "Romney rich" just doesn't feel right to so many voters, and BIDEN has tapped into that source of discomfort: "They don't get us! They don't get who we are".

Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Roosevelt had a common touch with the common man (though the common woman has now also become critical). Romney's touch is rehearsed and awkward, and for most voters, the only time they will touch a \$2,000 suit is when they slap Mitt Romney on the back. Romney's list of phony common touch assertions range from immigration gaffes, betting Governor Perry \$10,000, and claiming he knows what it's like to be out of work. Check the top 10 list from Rolling Stone here.

As BIDEN demonstrated in Ohio, his touch is genuine and natural.

To prove his point, BIDEN hit a DQ for some ice cream for him and his staff after a spaghetti dinner Wednesday night. Think Romney ever took the Bain team to DQ after raiding and dismantling many of their corporate acquisitions? No; they likely went to Morton's and ate with the 1 percent.

NATIONAL OTHER PRINT COVERAGE

The New Yorker

L.B.J.'s BIDEN Moment

By: George Packer / May 15, 2012

In one of those coincidences that get you thinking in historical analogies, President Obama announced his support for same-sex marriage just a few days after the publication of Robert Caro's fourth volume on the life of Lyndon B. Johnson, "The Passage of Power." Obama arrived at his position in very much the way that John F. Kennedy decided to put the force of the White House behind civil rights: slowly, reluctantly, and with a big assist from his overlooked, often ridiculed Vice-President.

I spent the summer of 1980 as an intern at a legal-aid office in southern Alabama, and in the houses of poor black people I got used to seeing a sign on the wall that said, "The three who set us free," beneath pictures of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. It always struck me as unfair that Johnson had been erased from history, not just in those homes in Alabama, but in the judgment of liberal-minded Americans all over the country. After all, it was President Johnson who got civil rights and voting rights passed, along with the entire program of social-justice legislation known as the Great Society.

For their part, President Kennedy and his brother, the attorney general, spent their first two and a half years in office doing everything possible to avoid taking a position on the central moral issue of their time. The Freedom Rides, sit-ins, James Meredith, Albany, Georgia, Birmingham, and Bull Connor—time after time, the Kennedys watched Americans risking and giving their lives for basic rights and refused to take a clear side. Instead, the President urged patience and talked about enforcing laws and court orders, as if it were a purely legal question. In May, 1963, in the midst of police violence and massive arrests of schoolchildren in Birmingham, Kennedy was asked by a reporter whether it would be useful to speak to the country on the issue.

"Well, it might. If I thought it would I would give one," was his non-committal answer. The next day, Erwin Griswold, a member of Kennedy's civil-rights commission, said, "It seems clear to me that he hasn't even started to use the powers that are available to him." According to Richard Reeves's "President Kennedy: Profile of Power," Kennedy privately fumed, "That son-of-a-bitch! Let him try." Compared with his attitude toward the unfolding Buddhist crisis in Saigon that same month, "The President seemed more detached about the events in Birmingham," Reeves wrote. " 'Life is unfair,' he had said many times. His sense of irony and his wit kept him out of corners where he might have to choose between right and wrong."

A month later, on June 10th, after another crisis—Governor George Wallace blocking the door to the University of Alabama—Kennedy finally gave the speech, on national television, from the Oval Office. It was one of the best and most important of his Presidency. "This is not a sectional issue," he told the country.

Nor is this a partisan issue... This is not even a legal or legislative issue alone... We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

From then on, there was little doubt that the President of the United States stood with the marchers, and not the police—although Kennedy was unable to get his civil-rights bill through Congress and left it to his successor to succeed where he had not.

History remembers that much, even if most Americans forget. But what the great Robert Caro has revealed is the role L.B.J. played in civil rights during the Kennedy years. Ignored and humiliated by both brothers, convinced that his political life—that is, his whole life—was over, Johnson only showed signs of his old vitality when it came to civil rights. Kennedy hardly bothered to ask for the advice of the one American politician who had managed to get a civil-rights bill passed in the twentieth century (as Senate majority leader, in 1957, the climax of Caro's previous book, "Master of the Senate"). But given the chance, on June 3, 1963, Johnson weighed in with the full passion and shrewdness of which he was capable.

First, tactically, he urged Kennedy to wait on a civil-rights bill, since the Southerners who controlled the key Senate committees would block every other Kennedy bill in order to defeat it. He explained how Kennedy could hold up other bills that every senator wanted—appropriations bills for dams and other public works—as he slowly built enough support for civil rights to defeat a filibuster. Johnson had to give Kennedy's alter-ego, Ted Sorensen, a primer in the workings of the Senate, one that the Kennedy White House appeared to need badly. And in terms of the principle of civil rights, Johnson was clear. "I think that I know one thing," he told Sorensen, according to Caro, "that the Negroes are tired of this patient stuff and tired of this piecemeal stuff and what they

want more than anything else is not an executive order or legislation, they want a moral commitment that he's behind them."

Sorensen assured the Vice-President that he would pass on his suggestions. A week later, Kennedy gave his civil-rights speech and used the same word that Johnson had used—"moral." How much direct influence Johnson might have had on the speech isn't clear, since, having allowed the Vice-President literally fifteen minutes of advice, Kennedy and his brother quickly returned to shutting out and undermining Johnson, and L.B.J. fell back into a deep depression. But one thing is clear: Johnson got there ahead of Kennedy. And he already had a strategy for how to get a bill through a seemingly intractable Congress—a strategy that Kennedy would ignore, leaving it to Johnson to follow his own advice in 1964.

For better and worse, the President Barack Obama most readily calls to mind is Kennedy. He has J.F.K.'s intellect, his detachment, his cool under pressure, his carefulness, his aversion to either-or thinking, his equivocations, his good looks. Like so many Americans, Obama has always characterized Kennedy in heroic terms, and in the 2008 campaign he seemed disinclined to acknowledge the contributions of Lyndon Johnson to American justice. His campaign got into a silly argument when Hillary Clinton alluded to Johnson's key role in passing civil rights, as if this obvious point were a slight against Martin Luther King, Jr. And at the convention in Denver, the nominee gave his acceptance speech on the forty-fifth anniversary of the March on Washington, an event that Obama rightly saluted—while neglecting to mention that the previous day, August 27th, had been the centennial of the birth of the greatest civil-rights President in the twentieth century.

If Obama identifies with Kennedy, it's worth wondering if BIDEN feels at all close to the ghost of L.B.J. Both men rose to power in the Senate by learning to master its byzantine ways. Both were defeated for the Presidential nomination by much younger, more glamorous senators whom they regarded as less than their equals, at least as colleagues in the Senate. Both suffered unflattering leaks and periodic scorn from members of the White House staff once they became Vice-President. Neither was considered a great friend of equal rights by those on the front lines of the issue of their day.

There are big differences, too. Obama seems to hold BIDEN in far higher regard than Kennedy did Johnson, in Caro's portrait. Johnson's Vice-Presidency nearly destroyed him; BIDEN'S has, for the most part, elevated him. And while Kennedy took very few risks in domestic policy until that speech on June 10, 1963, Obama gambled—and might have gambled away—his first term with a historic health-care bill that consumed his first year in office.

But it was Johnson who pushed hard on civil rights where Kennedy, assuming he'd get to it after his reelection, hesitated. And it was BIDEN who, inadvertently, forced Obama to stop evolving and declare himself on an issue that the President clearly hoped would leave him alone until after November. Though same-sex marriage isn't a cause on the same scale of historic injustice as the color line in America, it is the issue that forces today's politicians to take a clear and politically difficult moral stand. It's an issue for politicians whose egos are not under tight rational control—who are, come heaven or hell, passionate.

Politico

Anti-violence bill clears House

By: Seung Min Kim / May 16, 2012

Defying a veto threat from the White House, the House approved its version of the Violence Against Women Act amid furious backlash from Democrats and women's groups that it wouldn't do enough to protect abused victims.

Wednesday's vote to renew the 1994 anti-violence law was 222-205. Twenty-three Republicans voted against the bill, while six Democrats voted for it. Vice President Joe BIDEN, who wrote the

law as a senator, said after the vote the measure would water down key protections for victims.

"I urge Congress to come together to pass a bipartisan measure that protects all victims," BIDEN said in a statement. "VAWA has been improved each time it's been reauthorized, and this time should be no different."

But Republicans lashed out at Democrats for politicizing the debate over reauthorizing the law — which is normally widely bipartisan — and Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) blamed Senate Democrats for attempting to use VAWA as election-year campaign fodder.

"This is a victim-centered bill," Rep. Sandy Adams (R-Fla.) told reporters Wednesday morning. "We want to make sure we are not politicizing this issue but just reauthorizing. If you look at the bill [and] what's in it, you will see that it is centered around our victims."

Adams, herself a victim of domestic violence, accused Democrats of concocting a "phony war on women" and said, "If you vote against this bill today, you will vote to deny help to millions of victims."

The Violence Against Women Act was enacted in 1994 and renewed twice since. This year, Senate Democrats added a host of protections that would cover undocumented immigrants, same-sex partners and Native American women, and the bill passed the chamber 68-31 in late April. Democrats and the Obama administration want the House to pick up the Senate's version of the bill.

Congressional Democrats argued that the Republicans' Violence Against Women Act — which doesn't include the Senate's additions — would also weaken existing protections for domestic violence victims.

"As a member of this body and a survivor of sexual assault ... I can tell you it's traumatic to be here today and to find my colleagues not taking the recommended updates that people who work with domestic violence victims have put in front of them as best practices," said Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wis.).

Pennsylvania Rep. Patrick Meehan, one of the 23 Republicans to vote against the bill, said he opposed it because it wouldn't do enough to combat assaults on college campus, among other concerns.

House Republicans made several changes Tuesday night to try and address concerns from women's groups — particularly on the immigrant and the Native American provisions. But that wasn't enough to appease its opponents.

"It doesn't come within a country mile of being enough," said Terry O'Neill, the president of the National Organization for Women, who said the House Republican's version of the bill was "completely, 1,000 percent unacceptable."

Huffington Post

House Passes Violence Against Women Act That Leaves Out LGBT, Immigrant Protections

By: Jennifer Bendery and Laura Bassett / May 16, 2012

WASHINGTON -- House Republicans on Wednesday passed their bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, despite protests from the White House, most Democrats and even some Republicans for not doing enough to protect LGBT, Native American and undocumented immigrant women.

The bill passed 221-205 on a largely partisan vote. Six Democrats voted for it and 23 Republicans

opposed it. Just two GOP congresswomen voted against it: Reps. Judy Biggert (Ill.) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Fla.).

The House measure, like the Senate-passed bill, would reauthorize VAWA for another five years. But the Senate version is more comprehensive and House Democrats had been pressing for a vote on that bill instead, to no avail. VAWA is typically reauthorized with broad support and little debate, but in the context of a presidential election year and with the so-called "war on women" taking place, even an issue relating to violence against women has become a charged, partisan fight.

The White House threatened to veto the bill earlier this week, on the grounds that it "rolls back existing law and removes long-standing protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault." And just after the House vote, Vice President Joe BIDEN, an original sponsor of VAWA in 1994, issued a statement trashing the bill.

"The House has passed a version of the Violence Against Women Act that will roll back critical provisions to help victims of abuse. I urge Congress to come together to pass a bipartisan measure that protects all victims. VAWA has been improved each time it's been reauthorized, and this time should be no different," BIDEN said.

During the House debate, Democrats charged that the GOP bill would actually leave victims of domestic violence worse off than they are under current law. Unlike the Senate bill, the House proposal discourages undocumented immigrant women from reporting abuse without the threat of being deported. It also makes it harder for Native American women to seek justice against their abusers, and it leaves out protections for the LGBT community altogether.

Republicans "rarely miss an opportunity to exclude LGBT Americans from important rights and benefits," Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.) said. "They're saying if you're a woman in a relationship with another woman, then you don't deserve the same protections from domestic abuse or sexual assault."

"It's a shame that this so-called violence against women bill could actually cause violence to women," Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.) said. "This bill is outright dangerous."

Republicans maintained that their bill cracks down on fraud by making the grant process more accountable and that it honors criminal laws governing Native American reservations. Both the House and Senate bill authorize spending of about \$660 million annually for grants to women's shelters and police training relating to domestic violence and sexual assault.

"Republican men and women both abhor violence against women," Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) said. "I would say that we are more concerned against violence against women ... we want to see the money spent better."

"If you vote against this bill today, you will vote to deny help to millions of victims ... in the name of political gamesmanship," said Rep. Sandy Adams (R-Fla.), the bill's sponsor.

But not all Republicans bought into that mindset. Biggert told The Huffington Post ahead of the vote that she planned to oppose the bill because "there were things that were left out" and because it wasn't put together in a bipartisan way.

"I've always worked on this, every time we've reauthorized it," said Biggert, a 14-year lawmaker. "We could have done so much better by doing a bipartisan bill. It's always been bipartisan."

Biggert said GOP leaders asked her to support the bill in an effort to have all of the Republican women backing it, but she said she declined because it left out protections for women in her district.

"I just said, 'I need to do the right thing.' They said they understood. It's who I represent," she said. "I think that the congresswomen had decided that they were going to do this ... as a women's bill. I'm sort of the odd man out."

The bill's passage came despite opposition from more than 320 advocacy groups, including faith-based groups, women's organizations, civil rights groups and domestic violence workers groups. During the debate, Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) pressed Adams to name groups that supported her bill.

"Well, Mr. Conyers, I can say I do," Adams said.

"I'm glad to know that," Conyers replied. "I think that just about tells everybody where the logic and the support for this bill is. There is none."

That isn't entirely correct, though: The National Coalition of Men endorsed the bill on Tuesday.

CNN

House passes GOP version of Violence Against Women Act renewal

By: Kate Bolduan / May 16, 2012

The House of Representatives passed the Republican version of the Violence Against Women Act on Wednesday, despite strong opposition from Democrats.

The GOP version, passed 222-205, offers a stark contrast from the bill passed by the Senate in late April, which will lead to further political fighting as both chambers attempt to work out a compromise over the law's reauthorization.

Wednesday's vote fell largely along party lines, though 23 Republicans voted against their own party and opposed the bill. Meanwhile, six Democrats defected and voted in favor of the Republican version.

The Violence Against Women Act was first enacted in 1994. It has been reauthorized twice since then with bipartisan support and very little controversy.

That's not the case this time around.

The Senate approved a bill last month with bipartisan support, voting 68-31 with every Republican woman supporting the measure. That version expands coverage to offer services to more illegal immigrants who are victims of domestic abuse. It also specifies that the law include gay, lesbian and transgender victims.

Human Rights Watch released a report Wednesday showing immigrant farmworkers are especially at risk for domestic abuse and argued provisions in the Senate bill -- not the House version -- "would go some way toward fixing the problem and should be enacted."

House Republicans oppose those changes, saying they are unnecessary because the law already covers all victims, and instead favor a narrower version of renewing the law.

Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 House Democrat, opposed the GOP bill and has been calling for a vote on the Senate measure.

"All victims of domestic violence, irrespective of gender, ought to be protected," Hoyer said. "We believe the protection ought to be comprehensive, and we don't believe the Republicans' bill does that."

He joined a number of House Democrats who urged their colleagues to vote against the bill prior to the floor vote on Wednesday.

The White House late Tuesday threatened to veto the House GOP bill, in part because it "fails to include language that would prohibit discrimination against LGBT victims." The veto threat also says the GOP proposals "senselessly remove existing legal protections" and "jeopardize victims by placing them directly in harm's way."

"Today we are now debating something else that I never thought that we would be debating, which is whether or not all victims should be protected or just some," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, in a press conference Wednesday. "And we stand strongly together in saying that every single victim of domestic violence should have the law on their side."

Vice President Joe BIDEN reacted to Wednesday's vote by saying the House-passed version of the bill "will roll back critical provisions to help victims of abuse."

House Republican leaders, meanwhile, accused Democrats of creating a phony fight for political gain.

"This is another one of the Democrat gimmicks that goes on around here," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said at a recent news conference. "This is an important issue, but for our friends to be playing political games with this, frankly, is very inappropriate."

Sandy Adams, a first-term representative from Florida who rode the Republican wave in the 2010 midterm elections, agreed.

"I want to reauthorize it; I do not want to politicize it. The victims deserve better than that. Americans deserve better than that."

After the vote, Adams said, "Make no mistake about it; this is a victim-centered bill that is all inclusive. Just like past reauthorizations, the House-passed legislation is focused on all victims, without regard for race, ethnicity, sexual preference, or nationality."

House Republicans presented Adams as their new messenger this week in their fight to combat "The War on Women," one of the harshest election-year attack lines congressional Democrats have launched at Republicans. They accuse the GOP of waging this war on issues ranging from contraception to preventive health care coverage.

"I'm pretty sure I'm not at war with myself," said Adams.

She has maintained a relatively low profile during her time in Congress. But she stepped into the spotlight in a big way -- becoming the GOP face of the latest battle on Capitol Hill over the Violence Against Women Act, bringing her own story of domestic abuse with her.

"At an early age, I quit high school at 17 and joined the Air Force. Married by 18," Adams said. "During the marriage, I had a little girl, and I realized really soon that my husband had a penchant for drinking, and when he drank, he turned very mean, very violent."

She took her daughter and left. She later found work as a law enforcement officer before winning a seat in the Florida state House and eventually running for the U.S. House.

"I have experienced it both on a personal level and a law enforcement level," Adams said. "I know how this law has helped so many people in our country."

Her personal story may have helped Republicans push their version of the 18-year-old law and also help deflect the continued Democratic criticism that Republicans are insensitive toward

women.

While Adams condemns politics playing a role in this latest congressional standoff, being at the center of it doesn't help someone like her, who is facing some tough politics herself -- she is up against a much higher-profile fellow Republican, Rep. John Mica, in an upcoming primary in Florida.

Now that the House has passed the Republican version of the bill, it will need to reconcile differences with the Senate over its bill.

Both sides agree on the end goal: to renew the law. But in an election year, the lingering question is: How long will Congress drag out this fight?

Associated Press

House version of violence against women bill draws veto threat

By: Laurie Kellman / May 16, 2012

House Republicans set up a showdown Wednesday with the Senate and President Barack Obama over legislation to protect women from domestic violence, a fight that's become as much about female voters this election year as cracking down on abuse.

The House voted 222-205 to reauthorize the 1994 Violence Against Women Act for five years, as the Senate already had done. But big differences remain: Obama, other Democrats and a long list of advocacy groups say the House bill doesn't go far enough to protect abused immigrants, Native Americans or gays. Republicans say their bill does more to protect taxpayers from fraud and maintains the constitutionality of law enforcement procedures on Indian land.

It's unclear whether the differences will be reconciled before the November elections, or whether the bills will be used as campaign weapons.

But a pair of domestic violence survivors who fell on opposite sides of the debate reminded their House colleagues that for them and other abused women it's about far more than politics.

LOCAL PRINT COVERAGE

Youngstown Vindicator

BIDEN meets, thanks Salem firefighters

By: Larry Shields / May 17, 2012

Vice President Joe BIDEN got a little choked up when relating three personal episodes, two lifesaving, in which firefighters played a role in his life.

During an informal 35-minute visit with Salem firefighters on Wednesday, BIDEN recounted a car crash that took the life of his wife and 1-year-old daughter weeks after he was first elected to the U.S. Senate, crediting firefighters with saving his two sons with the "jaws of life."

He also recalled an aneurysm he suffered in 1988 and, unable to take a medical helicopter for fear of disturbing it, local firefighters ground-transported him to Walter Reed Hospital. He also mentioned a house fire in Delaware, crediting firefighters with saving the structure.

BIDEN appeared in Salem after a campaign speech at a Youngstown factory.

His motorcade drove through downtown Salem.

BIDEN was accompanied by former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland who is considering a run in 2014 against the man who beat him in 2010 - Republican Gov. John Kasich.

BIDEN and Strickland shook hands with all of the firefighters with BIDEN giving each a vice presidential challenge coin with his handshake before speaking to the group.

The visit was interrupted twice when on-duty personnel responded to calls.

"I just came in to say 'hi and to say thank you.' You guys have been to hell and back" with local

budget cuts and increased demands, BIDEN said. He voiced his support for hiring more firefighters and supplying them with more equipment and praised them for filling myriad roles as first responders.

"Thank God you guys are so crazy, thank God it's in your DNA," BIDEN said. "You underestimate your impact."

The visit was arranged by the International Association of Firefighters, which strictly limited it to Local 283 firefighters only.

Former Local 283 President Ken Vernon said, "They were coming here for 283 and that was that. The Secret Service told us who could be here" and specified "no wives or family."

BIDEN himself said he wanted to meet just with the firefighters, Fire Chief Jeff Hughes said.

Mayor John Berlin could not see BIDEN but requested a gold city lapel pin and business card he gave to a Secret Service agent be presented to BIDEN.

"He's the second-most powerful man in the world," Berlin said.

"We may differ on the issues but this is our government in action. In our world you have to put these things aside when he comes to your town."

Capt. Shawn Mesler said Strickland was aware of and personally thanked firefighters for their battle during the fire district days.

After the meeting, BIDEN greeted children on the South Ellsworth Avenue driveway, standing for photos, holding babies, shaking hands and signing autographs.

Eighteen-year-old Salem High School senior Meg Bell scored a triple when she took some upclose photos of BIDEN, had her picture taken with him and got his autograph on her cell phone - "Meg, Joe BIDEN, 5-16-12."

Bell, who attended on the spur of the moment with her mother, Julie Bell, said, "I'm speechless pretty much. I'm a fan of Obama ... and BIDEN, of course. I've never met anyone famous before.

"He was so personable, nothing fake about him, he was shaking hands with all of us older kids,"

Bell said, adding the cover of her cell phone will be removed for a keepsake.

"I honestly thought it was nicer than I thought it would be," she said.

Her mother was glad both of her kids have seen sitting vice presidents in person. Her son, Josh, saw Dan Quayle in 1992 when her son was 5, she said.

Salem seventh-grader Joey Barcey, 14, shook hands with BIDEN and "got some pictures of him."

"It was pretty nice. He treats kids with respect. I'm glad I met him and am honored," Barcey said.

After BIDEN departed, Hughes, who acknowledged he was a little nervous at first, said, "Was that fun or what?"

He was surprised when BIDEN entered the building.

"I expected to see people come in ahead of him ... instead he just blew in and said, 'How ya doing?'"

Vernon was also surprised, thinking the atmosphere would have been more formal.

Lt. Rod Hughes had seen President Reagan when he was in the Navy and Obama before he became president. BIDEN was the third top-ranking statesmen he'd seen in person.

"He's a personable individual," Hughes said.

Inspector Aaron Loper said it was a rare opportunity to speak candidly with BIDEN.

BIDEN also mentioned the Obama administration's failed American Jobs Act, which included money to rehire 450,000 firefighters, police officers and teachers by raising taxes on people who earn at least \$1 million per year.

"We said there's an easy way to pay for it and we thought everybody'd go along," BIDEN said.

The Salem Fire Department was awarded a FEMA grant last year of more than \$300,000 to maintain staffing levels through 2013, according to the Obama campaign. The department was awarded more than \$46,000 this year to replace a worn-out air compressor.

Youngstown Vindicator
BIDEN makes city stops
By: Dave Gossett / May 17, 2012

Vice President Joe BIDEN took time out Wednesday from a two-day campaign swing in Eastern Ohio to enjoy a chicken parmesan dinner at Naples Spaghetti House and buy ice cream for his

staff.

He also had time to shake hands and pose for photographs when he visited the Joe Staffilino Sr. home in the city's West End.

BIDEN arrived late Wednesday afternoon and met the Staffilino family and former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland at Naples, where he spent nearly two hours greeting dinner customers.

"I have heard a lot about this restaurant from Ted Strickland. I love Italian food and I'm hungry,"

BIDEN told co-owners Susan, Tim and Lisa Delatore.

"We are honored to have you here," replied Susan Delatore.

The Staffilino family at the restaurant included Joe Staffilino Sr., president of Staffilino Chevrolet in Martins Ferry; Donna Marie Staffilino, wife of Joe Sr.; Joe Staffilino Jr., general manager of Staffilino Chevrolet; Angela Lee Kessler Staffilino, wife of Joe Jr.; Anthony Staffilino, Joe Jr.'s son; and Cassie Wamsley, Joe Jr.'s stepdaughter.

BIDEN was set to be at the Staffilino Chevrolet dealership in Martins Ferry at 10:15 a.m. today, where he was set to deliver remarks on the Obama's administration work on the auto industry rescue bailout.

Earlier Wednesday, BIDEN campaigned at a Youngstown factory where he called Republican challenger Mitt Romney a corporate raider.

The BIDEN campaign caravan traveled to Joe Staffilino Sr.'s residence, where the vice president spent approximately 35 minutes before emerging to greet neighbors and pose for photographs in their front yard across the street.

His last stop was at the Hollywood City Center Dairy Queen, where BIDEN bought ice cream cones and milk shakes for campaign staff members and two local residents who weren't expecting to meet the vice president.

Chris and Dianne Murphy had stopped at the Hollywood City Center Dairy Queen for late-evening ice cream cones to celebrate their daughter Bailie's softball game victory earlier in the afternoon.

That's when BIDEN, accompanied by local reporters and photographers, members of the national press corps, campaign staff and Secret Service agents walked through the front door.

"I was pretty surprised to see him walk in like that. My daughter had played a softball game at Beaver Local and we ran into traffic on state Route 7 coming home. We had heard Vice President BIDEN was coming to the city, but never expected to see him in the Dairy Queen," said Chris Murphy.

BIDEN enjoyed a chocolate-coated vanilla swirl ice cream cone and started asking people around him if they wanted ice cream.

He soon spotted Christopher and Bailie Murphy.

"Do you play football?" BIDEN asked the younger Christopher.

"Yes sir," Christopher replied.

"I played when I was in school. Where do you play at?" BIDEN continued.

"Catholic Central High School," replied Murphy.

"How about some ice cream?" BIDEN asked Christopher and his sister, Bailie.

"If I knew you were coming, I would have waited for you to buy me ice cream," called out an unidentified woman in the Dairy Queen.

BIDEN bought ice cream cones and milk shakes for several staff members and Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla before leaving the business shortly before closing time.

"It was a little nerve-wracking when all those people started coming in. And then we saw Vice President BIDEN and it was even more nerve wracking. But he was very nice and we got all the orders taken care of," said Dairy Queen clerk Josie Goodwin.

TELEVISION COVERAGE

MSNBC

Morning Joe Package on VP Joe BIDEN w/ Joe Scarborough, Mika Brzezinski, Willie Geist, Jim Cramer, Mike Barnacle

May 17, 2012

MIKA: back with us on set we have jim cramer and mike barnacle.

JOE: you know, i would say the populist stuff doesn't work because it always seems so phony. but BIDEN, BIDEN is telling the truth. it works for BIDEN, because he feels it. working class guy. he feels it and, by the way, you look at all of these millionaires that run our country and then you look at his -- you know, his taxes every year, he's -- you know, he hasn't cashed in.

BARNACLE: he feels it, he understands it, he lives it, he's vice president of the united states, he has secret service protection but he's still joe BIDEN. part of him is still joe BIDEN from scranton, pennsylvania. we keep hearing ripples that there is a little animosity or anger towards the vice president on the gay stuff

MIKA: oh, no, i can't believe it. not for a second.

BARNACLE: for forcing the president's hand. but he is a valuable asset to this president.

MIKA: he's the best thing they got when it comes to politics. i'm sorry, he knows exactly what he's doing.

>> he gets it. and mika, boy, he went after them.

MIKA: let's show more of that fiery speech at a youngstown manufacturing plant yesterday. the vice president addressed the challenges facing the middle class while taking aim at mitt romney for his tenure at the investment firm bain capital.

BIDEN: this election is going to be a choice between two fundamentally different philosophies, and that choice is about whether or not we're going to rebuild the middle class or continue to help those at the very top and hope everything works out well. romney made sure the guys on top got to play by a separate set of rules. he ran up massive debts in the middle class laws. and, folks, he thinks that experience is going to help our economy? let's take a look. look, with these guys past is prologue, man. so i want you to think about what he'll do as president.

BIDEN: he's a patriot. he's a generous man. he gives to his church. he has a beautiful family. but he doesn't get it. he doesn't get what's at the core of all this. it's about people's dignity.

JOE: you know, i say populism doesn't work. it works. there are two things, he doesn't get it, which republicans always trail democrats in that. does such and such understand your problems, your family's problems. but there's another thing, jim. and this is really a message and it's the first time i've really heard anybody deliver it that well. if every democrat could deliver it that well, then the last four or five years could be used for their advantage, even next year. and that is, he thinks his rich friends should play by a different set of rules. because the american dream -- i was talking about my dad. my dad worked hard, he was unemployed for a year and a half. there was never any resentment, but he expected everybody, whether it was the kennedys or the people next door to play by the same damn set of rules that he had to play by. that's a pretty powerful message.

CRAMER: i thought it was. i remember riding down on the train when he was still a senator. he always took the train. he said to me i'm the poorest guy in the senate. 100 senators and i have the least amount of money. but has equal power. it reminds me exactly of what he's saying. now, the 1% in this country, i've said this on "mad money," it's not a problem to say it, doesn't play by the same rules. the reason why, they pay far less tax. now, the 15% tax that romney pays, it should be an issue again because i was a hedge fund manager. i didn't pay this. i just thoughtt was wrong to be able to convert your ordinary income into capital gains is strictly something you can do if you're real rich. no one else can do it because they can't get away with it. just wrong.

JOE: We have a friend that kept talking to us about, oh, you should do this, you should do that. talking about buy a small plane a couple years ago. and then took out a balance sheet and he explained with all the tax breaks and everything else that if you paid a certain amount, at the end

through 100% depreciation and tax deductions and your business, he showed in a very like complicated way how after four or five years it was free. and you know what, he was right! but my dad needed to buy a buick in 1973 or somebody in youngstown, ohio, today trying to get by, the rules aren't skewed that way for them. there's one rule after another rule after another rule that seems to skew for the rich.

CRAMER: the rich have power to be able to influence the laws. the rich are without a doubt the most clever about the tax code. remember the law says very clear. as long as you don't evade taxes, it's your perfect right to avoid taxes. that's always been the case. but who has enough money to be able to hire a lawyer to look through the code and avoid taxes. only rich people.

JOE: people talk about taxing the rich. don't tax the businessperson that makes \$250,000 to \$400,000, don't raise their taxes because they can't afford the accountants and the tax lawyers to make sure that their small business continues to grow and continues to hire people.

MIKA: The romney campaign, by the way, responded to what the vice president was saying and the attacks on the former governor's career at bain capital saying, quote, 'president obama can't come close to matching the many years of experience that mitt romney has as a private businessman, so he has chosen to attack the free market. millions across this country are struggling and deserve a leader who understands how the economy works.' and that would be the political counter message, which is. mitt romney understands the economy?

JOE: Again, though, he does it for some reason that message works with barack obama. like a guy who is a law professor and everything. so if he says that about barack obama, okay, you're right, you're right. but when joe BIDEN says -- and it shouldn't be the case because you look at barack obama and his grandparents raised him in hawaii, very middle class upbringing. but for some reason BIDEN, like when BIDEN says my parents believed i could be president of the united states or i could be a millionaire, you know he's telling the truth. so that brush back about being anti-capitalism doesn't work against BIDEN as well.

BARNACLE: No. The vice president of the united states, Joe BIDEN, has a picture in his head. he can see the house on top of the hill where the rich people live in the town that he grew up in, and he knows instinctively that the people who live at the bottom of the hill, the BIDENs, the Scarboroughs when we were younger know they don't represent the people on the bottom of the hill. but there's a connection and it's called trust between the rich people at the top of the hill and the people at the bottom of the hill. the people at the bottom of the hill believe they can get up there to the top of the hill but once that line of trust is broken like with the banks, with the breaks that the rich get, once that line of trust is broken, then you've got a problem and that's where Joe BIDEN can really say it.

JOE: Which again, is the reason why Joe BIDEN'S message works. And there's not that resentment. i told the story after my dad died when we were in mississippi, we'd drive past country club drive and look at all the big houses and look at the golf course. if i stepped foot on it, they'd probably shoot me in the back of the head. they probably still would. but my parents said look at those houses, look at those big houses. you keep working hard, you do well in school, you'll be able to live in one of those houses. and i promise you, being a doctor or a lawyer in 1971-72 when my dad was unemployed and we were driving by that, that was about as far removed from my existence as being, you know, premier of china. but my parents were like work hard, do it, you can live there.

GEIST: and when joe BIDEN gets it going in a setting like that, and you talk about political athletes, purely political, he's throwing his arms around guys, he's giving them the business, he's whispering.

MIKA: it's genuine, though.

GEIST: no, i'm saying he really pulls it off.

MIKA: he's a connector.

GEIST: if we agree that a small group of swing voters maybe in ohio, maybe in florida will decide who the next president of the united states is, that's pretty effective right there.

MSNBC

Rachel Maddow on VAWA

May 16, 2012

MADDOW: it is a special visa program under the violence against women act. republicans in Washington are right to roll that back. the violence against women act was first passed almost 20 years ago. when he was in the senate, vice president joe BIDEN wrote the original bill. it passed with bipartisan support. the act was reauthorized in the year 2000, reauthorized again in 2005. it has never been a particularly controversial thing, until now. republicans in the senate initially voted it down this year on a party line vote. they gave it zero votes in committee. it finally did pass the full senate on a 68-31 vote. all 31 no votes there were all male republican senators. all the republican women in the senate voted for it, but 31 men voted no. but now it's over in the house. and house republicans are not for it. they introduced a republican counterproposal that undoes big portions of the violence against women act. their changes, for example, would take away the anonymity from their special visa program for beaten women, thereby advancing the important public policy goal of alerting the abusive husbands of mail order brides if the woman they're beating is trying to get away there them. why has the violence against women act turned into this? why have the politics around this issue turned so much this year? after being such a such a non-controversial thing for decades. it's because the right wing of the right wing decided this year they're going to make an issue out of it. this is a letter signed by the family research council, by the eagle forum, by liberty council, which is affiliated with the jerry folwell university, also the traditional values coalition. this is them writing to congress to say, don't reauthorize if violence against women act. one of the signatories to this letter is a former vice chair of the North Carolina republican party, who himself has a felony domestic violence conviction on his record. he got a suspended sentence of 18 months in prison after admitting to beating his wife into the hospital, breaking her nose, breaking her toes, breaking a piece of furniture over her back. police found his wife in the couple's home on Christmas day, bleeding from the face and suffering from other injuries. he pled guilty to felony aggravated assault in that case. he is now one of the signatories to the vote against the violence against women act letter, right? it's a letter signed by him and by all those groups that have the word "values" in their names. one of the other signatories in this coalition that seems to have persuaded republicans to be against the violence against women act this year is a group called s.a.v.e., a group based in Rockville, Maryland. they have been lobbying house republicans to oppose the violence against women act this year. they've been lobbying specifically to roll back some of the protections for immigrant women. the treasurer of that group, s.a.v.e., that's lobbying to get rid of the advisory rule that would help mail order brides, one of the treasurers of that group is the founder of this thing that everybody thought was porn on my website all day today. the russian mail order bride company. which again promises that these women will follow their husband's lead and stick with the marriage, even when times get tough. and just think how much tougher you can make those times if she knows that not sticking with the marriage means she gets deported back to russia. so, yeah, the whole republicans have a war on women thing, this is the sort of thing that has given rise to that sentiment, that republicans have a war on women. this is how you earn a political epithet like that. for what it's earth, democrats have been fighting like heck on this issue. president Obama has personally brought this issue up multiple times in recent weeks. the president all but promising to veto the republican's rollback of the violence against women a act, which passed the house today. vice president BIDEN has brought the issue up multiple times. he, of course, wrote the first violence against women act. one of the president's top advisers, Valerie Jarrett, has an op-ed out on issue today. Nancy Pelosi has been front paging this issue in her position as the democrat's leader in the house. and today at a press conference on

capitol hill, a Wisconsin democratic congresswoman named Gwen Moore went all out, not just on the legislation, but on what in her personal experience has convinced her that the violence against women act is so important.

[CLIP]

MOORE: you know, one experience that i had to occurred to me, i thought of this morning was a time when i took a ride with a guy i thought was a friend to go get some fried chicken. and he decided to take a detour behind some buildings to rape me and choke me almost to death. i was sort of seeing that little light that you often hear about. as a woman of color, i am particularly aggrieved that this bill ignores the special circumstances of women who are minorities. women who are in the shadows. stop playing games with the lives of women! this is yet another -- they don't want to hear us talk about it being a war on women, but this is a direct assault on women's lives. three women a day die from victimization. and i would implore my colleagues to stop playing games.

[END CLIP]

MADDOW: the house voted on and passed the republican rollback of the violence against women act today. passed it on a nearly party line vote. so that was today in this crazy war on women idea that has no basis in reality. you want to know what republicans are going to do tomorrow to earn that epithet all over again? ...

VICE PRESIDENT BIDEN PRESS RECAP

MAY 18, 2012

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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN PRINT COVERAGE

Politico

BIDEN: 'How about some ice cream?'

By: Byron Tau / May 16, 2012

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** surprised patrons at an Ohio Dairy Queen with an unannounced visit Wednesday night.

On a two-day campaign swing through the Buckeye state, **BIDEN** stopped in the Hollywood City Center Dairy Queen in Steubenville, Ohio for a cone.

Locals Chris and Diane Murphy, stopping at the shop after their daughter's softball game, were surprised by the vice president's unexpected arrival.

"My daughter had played a softball game at Beaver Local and we ran into traffic on state Route 7 coming home. We had heard Vice President **BIDEN** was coming to the city but never expected to see him walk into Dairy Queen," Chris Murphy told reporters traveling with the vice president.

BIDEN spotted the Murphy children and offered to buy them ice cream after some banter.

"Do you play football?" **BIDEN** asked one of them. "I played when I was in school. Where do you play at?"

"Catholic Central High School," he replied.

"How about some ice cream?" **BIDEN** then asked.

"If I knew you were coming I would have waited for you to buy me ice cream," another patron shouted.

BIDEN bought several cones and milkshakes before departing a few minutes later.

CNN

BIDEN'S campaign trail goes where Obama's won't

By: Paul Steinhauser / May 16, 2012

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** kicks off a two-day swing Wednesday through the eastern edge of the must-win battleground state of Ohio, an area that President Barack Obama is unlikely to visit this election year.

And while the vice president apologized to the president last week for seemingly jumping the gun on the issue of same-sex marriage, this trip is an illustration of just how valuable **BIDEN** is for Obama as he bids for a second term in the White House.

"As much as political insiders joke about Joe **BIDEN**, he's indispensable to the Obama ticket," says Republican strategist and CNN contributor Alex Castellanos.

According to the Obama re-election campaign, the vice president will travel to Ohio's Mahoning and Ohio valleys "to highlight the impact of President Obama's efforts to strengthen the region's manufacturing and auto industries, as well as bolster middle-class security for Ohio's workers."

The campaign says **BIDEN** will speak at an advanced manufacturing facility in Youngstown and at a Chevrolet dealership in Martins Ferry.

The general manger of the dealership, Joe Staffilino II, says he's "really surprised" that the vice president is dropping by and that people in the area "are real excited about the visit."

It's not an area friendly to Obama, said Paul Beck, professor of political science at The Ohio State University.

"These are areas of traditional Democratic strength, steel working areas, areas with a lot of working class Democrats from the old days. President Obama has not played well there," Beck explained.

Obama was soundly defeated by then-Sen. Hillary Clinton in southeast and eastern Ohio in the Democratic presidential primary in March 2008, and

while he won the state by five points over Sen. John McCain in the general election that November, he didn't perform as well in the eastern edge of the state.

"Part of the problem is that these tend to be more conservative Democrats. For some of them his race may be an issue, probably not among the younger ones but among some of the older voters. These tend to be depressed areas, with a lot of job loss over the past couple of decades. There are deeply entrenched pockets of unemployment and economic distress," Beck added.

BIDEN grew up in Scranton, in neighboring Pennsylvania, an area that's also witnessed tough times in the past few decades.

"These are places where I think Joe **BIDEN** has particular appeal, as a kind of traditional Democrat of the old school. He comes from a part of Pennsylvania that's very much like the eastern part of Ohio. I think he can really connect with voters there in a way which President Obama cannot," Beck said.

The president's been to Ohio 21 times since taking office. But only two of those trips took him through the state's eastern edge.

But it's not just Obama -- presumptive Republican presidential nominee Mitt Romney was edged out by former Sen. Rick Santorum of Pennsylvania in much of the region in the March GOP primary. Santorum gave his primary night speech in the Ohio River valley city of Steubenville.

Beck predicted that Romney will likely not "be able to connect with (eastern Ohio voters) well either" ahead of the November election.

Which is why **BIDEN** may come in so handy in blue-collar areas in eastern Ohio, western and central Pennsylvania, and in parts of Michigan.

"His working-class honesty cuts through all the political bull in Washington. He grounds Obama in the real world. In blue-collar swing states like Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Michigan, Joe **BIDEN** is a tremendous asset to Obama who, at times, makes voters feel like he is president of the elite, for the elite, and by the elite," added Castellanos, who was a top media adviser for

Romney's 2008 nomination bid, but who stayed neutral in this year's battle for the GOP nomination.

Democratic strategist and CNN contributor Paul Begala agrees.

"Unlike Mitt Romney, Joe **BIDEN** can talk to middle-class people without an interpreter. Even though he's traveled the globe and is one of the most powerful people in the world, he's still Joe -- a middle-class guy from Scranton.

"**BIDEN'S** ability to connect with working families is one of the Obama campaign's greatest assets. I bet they'll be seeing a lot of him in the next six months," said Begala, who was a top adviser in the Clinton White House and who now is a senior adviser to Priorities USA, the pro-Obama super PAC.

But some Republicans disagree about **BIDEN'S** value to the Democratic ticket. "It speaks to President Obama's vulnerability that the campaign has to rely on Vice President **BIDEN** to campaign in key states like Ohio because Obama can't identify with voters. Between his infamous gaffes and his liberal positions on the free market and our nation's debt, having **BIDEN** on the stump carries its own set of risks," Republican National Committee press secretary Kirsten Kukowski told CNN.

BIDEN'S been in the spotlight recently for his comments a week and a half ago on NBC's "Meet the Press," that he was "absolutely comfortable" with legal same-sex marriages, a position that the president had yet to take. Obama was forced to speed up his timetable on the issue and come out with his own comments approving the unions three days later.

Some political pundits said that **BIDEN** was a liability to the president, while others pointed to the argument that running mates rarely matter in the race for the White House.

"Sure, people vote for the top of the ticket, but this election will likely turn on who can build an economy for the middle class," Begala said. "If that's the question, **BIDEN** is a big part of the answer."

"If I were **BIDEN**, I would keep Obama on my ticket," Castellanos said.

Politico

Joe **BIDEN'S** map

By: CHARLES MAHTESIAN / May 16, 2012

Previewing Vice President Joe **BIDEN'S** two-day Ohio swing, CNN's Political Ticker takes note of **BIDEN'S** map — and how he's able to connect with white, working-class voters in a way that President Barack Obama hasn't been able to.

For all the chatter about his gaffe-prone ways, **BIDEN'S** old-school campaign trail style and Rust Belt roots make him a asset with blue-collar voters in places like Ohio and Pennsylvania.

From Paul Steinhauser's report:

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** kicks off a two-day swing Wednesday through the eastern edge of the must-win battleground state of Ohio, an area that President Barack Obama is unlikely to visit this election year.

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younger ones but among some of the older voters. These tend to be depressed areas, with a lot of job loss over the past couple of decades. There are deeply entrenched pockets of unemployment and economic distress," Beck added.

Huffington Post

Joe BIDEN'S Good Moves

By: Robert Hoopes, President, VOX Global / May 17, 2012

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is spending some time in the Ohio Valley and in the process reminding voters, the Romney campaign and folks in the West Wing that he will be a formidable force in this year's presidential campaign. **BIDEN** connects with key voters who are critical to winning this year's election.

In Youngstown, Ohio, the vice president delivered a widely covered speech that, as much as any event in this campaign to date, set up the choice in November. Elections are about choices and **BIDEN** artfully drew the line for these key voters when he told them:

More than any other candidate on the ticket in November (we will see who Mitt Romney picks as his running mate), **BIDEN'S** down-to-earth, regular guy persona stands out and resonates with voters. And it stands in sharp contrast to Romney's personal and professional narrative. Ironically, Romney has been remarkably silent on his personal narrative, faith and private life, choosing instead to put his "Mr. Fix It" financial persona front and center for voters. The idea of the head of Bain Capital as the head of government won't sit well with these swing voters. Harry Truman was "Mr. Fix It"; Mitt Romney is "Mr. Pull it Apart, Sell the Pieces and Make Money at the Expense of the Worker."

Ironically for Romney, working class Americans are not opposed to wealthy presidents. To the contrary. The two wealthiest men to serve in the White House were our first and third presidents, George Washington and Thomas Jefferson. Among the modern presidency, Presidents Johnson, Hoover, Roosevelt, Clinton and Kennedy comprise the sixth through tenth wealthiest presidents. Among this list is only a single Republican. Democrats and swing voters do vote for the 1 percent. But the "Romney rich" just doesn't feel right to so many voters, and **BIDEN** has tapped into that source of discomfort: "They don't get us! They don't get who we are".

Presidents Kennedy, Johnson and Roosevelt had a common touch with the common man (though the common woman has now also become critical). Romney's touch is rehearsed and awkward, and for most voters, the only

time they will touch a \$2,000 suit is when they slap Mitt Romney on the back. Romney's list of phony common touch assertions range from immigration gaffes, betting Governor Perry \$10,000, and claiming he knows what it's like to be out of work. Check the top 10 list from Rolling Stone here.

As **BIDEN** demonstrated in Ohio, his touch is genuine and natural.

To prove his point, **BIDEN** hit a DQ for some ice cream for him and his staff after a spaghetti dinner Wednesday night. Think Romney ever took the Bain team to DQ after raiding and dismantling many of their corporate acquisitions? No; they likely went to Morton's and ate with the 1 percent.

NATIONAL OTHER PRINT COVERAGE

The New Yorker

L.B.J.'s BIDEN Moment

By: George Packer / May 15, 2012

In one of those coincidences that get you thinking in historical analogies, President Obama announced his support for same-sex marriage just a few days after the publication of Robert Caro's fourth volume on the life of Lyndon B. Johnson, "The Passage of Power." Obama arrived at his position in very much the way that John F. Kennedy decided to put the force of the White House behind civil rights: slowly, reluctantly, and with a big assist from his overlooked, often ridiculed Vice-President.

I spent the summer of 1980 as an intern at a legal-aid office in southern Alabama, and in the houses of poor black people I got used to seeing a sign on the wall that said, "The three who set us free," beneath pictures of John and Robert Kennedy and Martin Luther King, Jr. It always struck me as unfair that Johnson had been erased from history, not just in those homes in Alabama, but in the judgment of liberal-minded Americans all over the country. After all, it was President Johnson who got civil rights and voting rights passed, along with the entire program of social-justice legislation known as the Great Society.

For their part, President Kennedy and his brother, the attorney general, spent their first two and a half years in office doing everything possible to avoid taking a position on the central moral issue of their time. The Freedom Rides, sit-ins, James Meredith, Albany, Georgia, Birmingham, and Bull Connor—time after time, the Kennedys watched Americans risking and giving their lives for basic rights and refused to take a clear side. Instead, the President urged patience and talked about enforcing laws and court orders, as if it were a purely legal question. In May, 1963, in the midst of police violence and massive arrests of schoolchildren in Birmingham, Kennedy was asked by a reporter whether it would be useful to speak to the country on the issue.

"Well, it might. If I thought it would I would give one," was his non-committal answer. The next day, Erwin Griswold, a member of Kennedy's civil-rights commission, said, "It seems clear to me that he hasn't even started to use

the powers that are available to him.” According to Richard Reeves’s “President Kennedy: Profile of Power,” Kennedy privately fumed, “That son-of-a-bitch! Let him try.” Compared with his attitude toward the unfolding Buddhist crisis in Saigon that same month, “The President seemed more detached about the events in Birmingham,” Reeves wrote. “ ‘Life is unfair,’ he had said many times. His sense of irony and his wit kept him out of corners where he might have to choose between right and wrong.”

A month later, on June 10th, after another crisis—Governor George Wallace blocking the door to the University of Alabama—Kennedy finally gave the speech, on national television, from the Oval Office. It was one of the best and most important of his Presidency. “This is not a sectional issue,” he told the country.

Nor is this a partisan issue...This is not even a legal or legislative issue alone...We are confronted primarily with a moral issue. It is as old as the Scriptures and is as clear as the American Constitution.

From then on, there was little doubt that the President of the United States stood with the marchers, and not the police—although Kennedy was unable to get his civil-rights bill through Congress and left it to his successor to succeed where he had not.

History remembers that much, even if most Americans forget. But what the great Robert Caro has revealed is the role L.B.J. played in civil rights during the Kennedy years. Ignored and humiliated by both brothers, convinced that his political life—that is, his whole life—was over, Johnson only showed signs of his old vitality when it came to civil rights. Kennedy hardly bothered to ask for the advice of the one American politician who had managed to get a civil-rights bill passed in the twentieth century (as Senate majority leader, in 1957, the climax of Caro’s previous book, “Master of the Senate”). But given the chance, on June 3, 1963, Johnson weighed in with the full passion and shrewdness of which he was capable.

First, tactically, he urged Kennedy to wait on a civil-rights bill, since the Southerners who controlled the key Senate committees would block every other Kennedy bill in order to defeat it. He explained how Kennedy could hold up other bills that every senator wanted—appropriations bills for dams and other public works—as he slowly built enough support for civil rights to defeat a filibuster. Johnson had to give Kennedy’s alter-ego, Ted Sorensen, a primer in the workings of the Senate, one that the Kennedy

White House appeared to need badly. And in terms of the principle of civil rights, Johnson was clear. "I think that I know one thing," he told Sorensen, according to Caro, "that the Negroes are tired of this patient stuff and tired of this piecemeal stuff and what they want more than anything else is not an executive order or legislation, they want a moral commitment that he's behind them."

Sorensen assured the Vice-President that he would pass on his suggestions. A week later, Kennedy gave his civil-rights speech and used the same word that Johnson had used—"moral." How much direct influence Johnson might have had on the speech isn't clear, since, having allowed the Vice-President literally fifteen minutes of advice, Kennedy and his brother quickly returned to shutting out and undermining Johnson, and L.B.J. fell back into a deep depression. But one thing is clear: Johnson got there ahead of Kennedy. And he already had a strategy for how to get a bill through a seemingly intractable Congress—a strategy that Kennedy would ignore, leaving it to Johnson to follow his own advice in 1964.

For better and worse, the President Barack Obama most readily calls to mind is Kennedy. He has J.F.K.'s intellect, his detachment, his cool under pressure, his carefulness, his aversion to either-or thinking, his equivocations, his good looks. Like so many Americans, Obama has always characterized Kennedy in heroic terms, and in the 2008 campaign he seemed disinclined to acknowledge the contributions of Lyndon Johnson to American justice. His campaign got into a silly argument when Hillary Clinton alluded to Johnson's key role in passing civil rights, as if this obvious point were a slight against Martin Luther King, Jr. And at the convention in Denver, the nominee gave his acceptance speech on the forty-fifth anniversary of the March on Washington, an event that Obama rightly saluted—while neglecting to mention that the previous day, August 27th, had been the centennial of the birth of the greatest civil-rights President in the twentieth century.

If Obama identifies with Kennedy, it's worth wondering if **BIDEN** feels at all close to the ghost of L.B.J. Both men rose to power in the Senate by learning to master its byzantine ways. Both were defeated for the Presidential nomination by much younger, more glamorous senators whom they regarded as less than their equals, at least as colleagues in the Senate. Both suffered unflattering leaks and periodic scorn from members of the White House staff once they became Vice-President. Neither was

considered a great friend of equal rights by those on the front lines of the issue of their day.

There are big differences, too. Obama seems to hold **BIDEN** in far higher regard than Kennedy did Johnson, in Caro's portrait. Johnson's Vice-Presidency nearly destroyed him; **BIDEN'S** has, for the most part, elevated him. And while Kennedy took very few risks in domestic policy until that speech on June 10, 1963, Obama gambled—and might have gambled away—his first term with a historic health-care bill that consumed his first year in office.

But it was Johnson who pushed hard on civil rights where Kennedy, assuming he'd get to it after his reelection, hesitated. And it was **BIDEN** who, inadvertently, forced Obama to stop evolving and declare himself on an issue that the President clearly hoped would leave him alone until after November. Though same-sex marriage isn't a cause on the same scale of historic injustice as the color line in America, it is the issue that forces today's politicians to take a clear and politically difficult moral stand. It's an issue for politicians whose egos are not under tight rational control—who are, come heaven or hell, passionate.

Politico

Anti-violence bill clears House

By: Seung Min Kim / May 16, 2012

Defying a veto threat from the White House, the House approved its version of the Violence Against Women Act amid furious backlash from Democrats and women's groups that it wouldn't do enough to protect abused victims.

Wednesday's vote to renew the 1994 anti-violence law was 222-205. Twenty-three Republicans voted against the bill, while six Democrats voted for it. Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, who wrote the law as a senator, said after the vote the measure would water down key protections for victims.

"I urge Congress to come together to pass a bipartisan measure that protects all victims," **BIDEN** said in a statement. "VAWA has been improved each time it's been reauthorized, and this time should be no different."

But Republicans lashed out at Democrats for politicizing the debate over reauthorizing the law — which is normally widely bipartisan — and Speaker John Boehner (R-Ohio) blamed Senate Democrats for attempting to use VAWA as election-year campaign fodder.

"This is a victim-centered bill," Rep. Sandy Adams (R-Fla.) told reporters Wednesday morning. "We want to make sure we are not politicizing this issue but just reauthorizing. If you look at the bill [and] what's in it, you will see that it is centered around our victims."

Adams, herself a victim of domestic violence, accused Democrats of concocting a "phony war on women" and said, "If you vote against this bill today, you will vote to deny help to millions of victims."

The Violence Against Women Act was enacted in 1994 and renewed twice since. This year, Senate Democrats added a host of protections that would cover undocumented immigrants, same-sex partners and Native American women, and the bill passed the chamber 68-31 in late April. Democrats and the Obama administration want the House to pick up the Senate's version of the bill.

Congressional Democrats argued that the Republicans' Violence Against Women Act — which doesn't include the Senate's additions — would also weaken existing protections for domestic violence victims.

“As a member of this body and a survivor of sexual assault ... I can tell you it's traumatic to be here today and to find my colleagues not taking the recommended updates that people who work with domestic violence victims have put in front of them as best practices,” said Rep. Gwen Moore (D-Wis.).

Pennsylvania Rep. Patrick Meehan, one of the 23 Republicans to vote against the bill, said he opposed it because it wouldn't do enough to combat assaults on college campus, among other concerns.

House Republicans made several changes Tuesday night to try and address concerns from women's groups — particularly on the immigrant and the Native American provisions. But that wasn't enough to appease its opponents.

“It doesn't come within a country mile of being enough,” said Terry O'Neill, the president of the National Organization for Women, who said the House Republican's version of the bill was “completely, 1,000 percent unacceptable.”

Huffington Post

House Passes Violence Against Women Act That Leaves Out LGBT, Immigrant Protections

By: Jennifer Bendery and Laura Bassett / May 16, 2012

WASHINGTON -- House Republicans on Wednesday passed their bill to reauthorize the Violence Against Women Act, despite protests from the White House, most Democrats and even some Republicans for not doing enough to protect LGBT, Native American and undocumented immigrant women.

The bill passed 221-205 on a largely partisan vote. Six Democrats voted for it and 23 Republicans opposed it. Just two GOP congresswomen voted against it: Reps. Judy Biggert (Ill.) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (Fla.).

The House measure, like the Senate-passed bill, would reauthorize VAWA for another five years. But the Senate version is more comprehensive and House Democrats had been pressing for a vote on that bill instead, to no avail. VAWA is typically reauthorized with broad support and little debate, but in the context of a presidential election year and with the so-called "war on women" taking place, even an issue relating to violence against women has become a charged, partisan fight.

The White House threatened to veto the bill earlier this week, on the grounds that it "rolls back existing law and removes long-standing protections for victims of domestic violence and sexual assault." And just after the House vote, Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, an original sponsor of VAWA in 1994, issued a statement trashing the bill.

"The House has passed a version of the Violence Against Women Act that will roll back critical provisions to help victims of abuse. I urge Congress to come together to pass a bipartisan measure that protects all victims. VAWA has been improved each time it's been reauthorized, and this time should be no different," **BIDEN** said.

During the House debate, Democrats charged that the GOP bill would actually leave victims of domestic violence worse off than they are under current law. Unlike the Senate bill, the House proposal discourages undocumented immigrant women from reporting abuse without the threat of being deported. It also makes it harder for Native American women to seek

justice against their abusers, and it leaves out protections for the LGBT community altogether.

Republicans "rarely miss an opportunity to exclude LGBT Americans from important rights and benefits," Rep. Lynn Woolsey (D-Calif.) said. "They're saying if you're a woman in a relationship with another woman, then you don't deserve the same protections from domestic abuse or sexual assault."

"It's a shame that this so-called violence against women bill could actually cause violence to women," Rep. Susan Davis (D-Calif.) said. "This bill is outright dangerous."

Republicans maintained that their bill cracks down on fraud by making the grant process more accountable and that it honors criminal laws governing Native American reservations. Both the House and Senate bill authorize spending of about \$660 million annually for grants to women's shelters and police training relating to domestic violence and sexual assault.

"Republican men and women both abhor violence against women," Rep. Virginia Foxx (R-N.C.) said. "I would say that we are more concerned against violence against women ... we want to see the money spent better."

"If you vote against this bill today, you will vote to deny help to millions of victims ... in the name of political gamesmanship," said Rep. Sandy Adams (R-Fla.), the bill's sponsor.

But not all Republicans bought into that mindset. Biggert told The Huffington Post ahead of the vote that she planned to oppose the bill because "there were things that were left out" and because it wasn't put together in a bipartisan way.

"I've always worked on this, every time we've reauthorized it," said Biggert, a 14-year lawmaker. "We could have done so much better by doing a bipartisan bill. It's always been bipartisan."

Biggert said GOP leaders asked her to support the bill in an effort to have all of the Republican women backing it, but she said she declined because it left out protections for women in her district.

"I just said, 'I need to do the right thing.' They said they understood. It's who I represent," she said. "I think that the congresswomen had decided that they were going to do this ... as a women's bill. I'm sort of the odd man out."

The bill's passage came despite opposition from more than 320 advocacy groups, including faith-based groups, women's organizations, civil rights groups and domestic violence workers groups. During the debate, Rep. John Conyers (D-Mich.) pressed Adams to name groups that supported her bill.

"Well, Mr. Conyers, I can say I do," Adams said.

"I'm glad to know that," Conyers replied. "I think that just about tells everybody where the logic and the support for this bill is. There is none."

That isn't entirely correct, though: The National Coalition of Men endorsed the bill on Tuesday.

CNN

House passes GOP version of Violence Against Women Act renewal

By: Kate Bolduan / May 16, 2012

The House of Representatives passed the Republican version of the Violence Against Women Act on Wednesday, despite strong opposition from Democrats.

The GOP version, passed 222-205, offers a stark contrast from the bill passed by the Senate in late April, which will lead to further political fighting as both chambers attempt to work out a compromise over the law's reauthorization.

Wednesday's vote fell largely along party lines, though 23 Republicans voted against their own party and opposed the bill. Meanwhile, six Democrats defected and voted in favor of the Republican version.

The Violence Against Women Act was first enacted in 1994. It has been reauthorized twice since then with bipartisan support and very little controversy.

That's not the case this time around.

The Senate approved a bill last month with bipartisan support, voting 68-31 with every Republican woman supporting the measure. That version expands coverage to offer services to more illegal immigrants who are victims of domestic abuse. It also specifies that the law include gay, lesbian and transgender victims.

Human Rights Watch released a report Wednesday showing immigrant farmworkers are especially at risk for domestic abuse and argued provisions in the Senate bill -- not the House version -- "would go some way toward fixing the problem and should be enacted."

House Republicans oppose those changes, saying they are unnecessary because the law already covers all victims, and instead favor a narrower version of renewing the law.

Rep. Steny Hoyer of Maryland, the No. 2 House Democrat, opposed the GOP bill and has been calling for a vote on the Senate measure.

"All victims of domestic violence, irrespective of gender, ought to be protected," Hoyer said. "We believe the protection ought to be comprehensive, and we don't believe the Republicans' bill does that."

He joined a number of House Democrats who urged their colleagues to vote against the bill prior to the floor vote on Wednesday.

The White House late Tuesday threatened to veto the House GOP bill, in part because it "fails to include language that would prohibit discrimination against LGBT victims." The veto threat also says the GOP proposals "senselessly remove existing legal protections" and "jeopardize victims by placing them directly in harm's way."

"Today we are now debating something else that I never thought that we would be debating, which is whether or not all victims should be protected or just some," said Sen. Debbie Stabenow, D-Michigan, in a press conference Wednesday. "And we stand strongly together in saying that every single victim of domestic violence should have the law on their side."

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** reacted to Wednesday's vote by saying the House-passed version of the bill "will roll back critical provisions to help victims of abuse."

House Republican leaders, meanwhile, accused Democrats of creating a phony fight for political gain.

"This is another one of the Democrat gimmicks that goes on around here," House Speaker John Boehner, R-Ohio, said at a recent news conference. "This is an important issue, but for our friends to be playing political games with this, frankly, is very inappropriate."

Sandy Adams, a first-term representative from Florida who rode the Republican wave in the 2010 midterm elections, agreed.

"I want to reauthorize it; I do not want to politicize it. The victims deserve better than that. Americans deserve better than that."

After the vote, Adams said, "Make no mistake about it; this is a victim-centered bill that is all inclusive. Just like past reauthorizations, the House-passed legislation is focused on all victims, without regard for race, ethnicity, sexual preference, or nationality.

House Republicans presented Adams as their new messenger this week in their fight to combat "The War on Women," one of the harshest election-year attack lines congressional Democrats have launched at Republicans. They accuse the GOP of waging this war on issues ranging from contraception to preventive health care coverage.

"I'm pretty sure I'm not at war with myself," said Adams.

She has maintained a relatively low profile during her time in Congress. But she stepped into the spotlight in a big way -- becoming the GOP face of the latest battle on Capitol Hill over the Violence Against Women Act, bringing her own story of domestic abuse with her.

"At an early age, I quit high school at 17 and joined the Air Force. Married by 18," Adams said. "During the marriage, I had a little girl, and I realized really soon that my husband had a penchant for drinking, and when he drank, he turned very mean, very violent."

She took her daughter and left. She later found work as a law enforcement officer before winning a seat in the Florida state House and eventually running for the U.S. House.

"I have experienced it both on a personal level and a law enforcement level," Adams said. "I know how this law has helped so many people in our country."

Her personal story may have helped Republicans push their version of the 18-year-old law and also help deflect the continued Democratic criticism that Republicans are insensitive toward women.

While Adams condemns politics playing a role in this latest congressional standoff, being at the center of it doesn't help someone like her, who is facing some tough politics herself -- she is up against a much higher-profile fellow Republican, Rep. John Mica, in an upcoming primary in Florida.

Now that the House has passed the Republican version of the bill, it will need to reconcile differences with the Senate over its bill.

Both sides agree on the end goal: to renew the law. But in an election year, the lingering question is: How long will Congress drag out this fight?

Associated Press

House version of violence against women bill draws veto threat

By: Laurie Kellman / May 16, 2012

House Republicans set up a showdown Wednesday with the Senate and President Barack Obama over legislation to protect women from domestic violence, a fight that's become as much about female voters this election year as cracking down on abuse.

The House voted 222-205 to reauthorize the 1994 Violence Against Women Act for five years, as the Senate already had done. But big differences remain: Obama, other Democrats and a long list of advocacy groups say the House bill doesn't go far enough to protect abused immigrants, Native Americans or gays. Republicans say their bill does more to protect taxpayers from fraud and maintains the constitutionality of law enforcement procedures on Indian land.

It's unclear whether the differences will be reconciled before the November elections, or whether the bills will be used as campaign weapons.

But a pair of domestic violence survivors who fell on opposite sides of the debate reminded their House colleagues that for them and other abused women it's about far more than politics.

LOCAL PRINT COVERAGE

Youngstown Vindicator

BIDEN meets, thanks Salem firefighters

By: Larry Shields / May 17, 2012

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** got a little choked up when relating three personal episodes, two lifesaving, in which firefighters played a role in his life.

During an informal 35-minute visit with Salem firefighters on Wednesday, **BIDEN** recounted a car crash that took the life of his wife and 1-year-old daughter weeks after he was first elected to the U.S. Senate, crediting firefighters with saving his two sons with the "jaws of life."

He also recalled an aneurysm he suffered in 1988 and, unable to take a medical helicopter for fear of disturbing it, local firefighters ground-transported him to Walter Reed Hospital. He also mentioned a house fire in Delaware, crediting firefighters with saving the structure.

BIDEN appeared in Salem after a campaign speech at a Youngstown factory.

His motorcade drove through downtown Salem.

BIDEN was accompanied by former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland who is considering a run in 2014 against the man who beat him in 2010 - Republican Gov. John Kasich.

BIDEN and Strickland shook hands with all of the firefighters with **BIDEN** giving each a vice presidential challenge coin with his handshake before speaking to the group.

The visit was interrupted twice when on-duty personnel responded to calls.

"I just came in to say 'hi and to say thank you.' You guys have been to hell and back" with local budget cuts and increased demands, **BIDEN** said. He voiced his support for hiring more firefighters and supplying them with more equipment and praised them for filling myriad roles as first responders.

"Thank God you guys are so crazy, thank God it's in your DNA," **BIDEN** said. "You underestimate your impact."

The visit was arranged by the International Association of Firefighters, which strictly limited it to Local 283 firefighters only.

Former Local 283 President Ken Vernon said, "They were coming here for 283 and that was that. The Secret Service told us who could be here" and specified "no wives or family."

BIDEN himself said he wanted to meet just with the firefighters, Fire Chief Jeff Hughes said.

Mayor John Berlin could not see **BIDEN** but requested a gold city lapel pin and business card he gave to a Secret Service agent be presented to **BIDEN**.

"He's the second-most powerful man in the world," Berlin said.

"We may differ on the issues but this is our government in action. In our world you have to put these things aside when he comes to your town."

Capt. Shawn Mesler said Strickland was aware of and personally thanked firefighters for their battle during the fire district days.

After the meeting, **BIDEN** greeted children on the South Ellsworth Avenue driveway, standing for photos, holding babies, shaking hands and signing autographs.

Eighteen-year-old Salem High School senior Meg Bell scored a triple when she took some upclose photos of **BIDEN**, had her picture taken with him and got his autograph on her cell phone - "Meg, Joe **BIDEN**, 5-16-12."

Bell, who attended on the spur of the moment with her mother, Julie Bell, said, "I'm speechless pretty much. I'm a fan of Obama ... and **BIDEN**, of course. I've never met anyone famous before.

"He was so personable, nothing fake about him, he was shaking hands with all of us older kids," Bell said, adding the cover of her cell phone will be removed for a keepsake.

"I honestly thought it was nicer than I thought it would be," she said.

Her mother was glad both of her kids have seen sitting vice presidents in person. Her son, Josh, saw Dan Quayle in 1992 when her son was 5, she said.

Salem seventh-grader Joey Barcey, 14, shook hands with **BIDEN** and "got some pictures of him."

"It was pretty nice. He treats kids with respect. I'm glad I met him and am honored," Barcey said.

After **BIDEN** departed, Hughes, who acknowledged he was a little nervous at first, said, "Was that fun or what?"

He was surprised when **BIDEN** entered the building.

"I expected to see people come in ahead of him ... instead he just blew in and said, 'How ya doing?'"

Vernon was also surprised, thinking the atmosphere would have been more formal.

Lt. Rod Hughes had seen President Reagan when he was in the Navy and Obama before he became president. **BIDEN** was the third top-ranking statesmen he'd seen in person.

"He's a personable individual," Hughes said.

Inspector Aaron Loper said it was a rare opportunity to speak candidly with **BIDEN**.

BIDEN also mentioned the Obama administration's failed American Jobs Act, which included money to rehire 450,000 firefighters, police officers and teachers by raising taxes on people who earn at least \$1 million per year.

"We said there's an easy way to pay for it and we thought everybody'd go along," **BIDEN** said.

The Salem Fire Department was awarded a FEMA grant last year of more than \$300,000 to maintain staffing levels through 2013, according to the Obama campaign. The department was awarded more than \$46,000 this year to replace a worn-out air compressor.

Youngstown Vindicator

BIDEN makes city stops

By: Dave Gossett / May 17, 2012

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** took time out Wednesday from a two-day campaign swing in Eastern Ohio to enjoy a chicken parmesan dinner at Naples Spaghetti House and buy ice cream for his staff.

He also had time to shake hands and pose for photographs when he visited the Joe Staffilino Sr. home in the city's West End.

BIDEN arrived late Wednesday afternoon and met the Staffilino family and former Ohio Gov. Ted Strickland at Naples, where he spent nearly two hours greeting dinner customers.

"I have heard a lot about this restaurant from Ted Strickland. I love Italian food and I'm hungry," **BIDEN** told co-owners Susan, Tim and Lisa Delatore.

"We are honored to have you here," replied Susan Delatore.

The Staffilino family at the restaurant included Joe Staffilino Sr., president of Staffilino Chevrolet in Martins Ferry; Donna Marie Staffilino, wife of Joe Sr.; Joe Staffilino Jr., general manager of Staffilino Chevrolet; Angela Lee Kessler Staffilino, wife of Joe Jr.; Anthony Staffilino, Joe Jr.'s son; and Cassie Wamsley, Joe Jr.'s stepdaughter.

BIDEN was set to be at the Staffilino Chevrolet dealership in Martins Ferry at 10:15 a.m. today, where he was set to deliver remarks on the Obama's administration work on the auto industry rescue bailout.

Earlier Wednesday, **BIDEN** campaigned at a Youngstown factory where he called Republican challenger Mitt Romney a corporate raider.

The **BIDEN** campaign caravan traveled to Joe Staffilino Sr.'s residence, where the vice president spent approximately 35 minutes before emerging to greet neighbors and pose for photographs in their front yard across the street.

His last stop was at the Hollywood City Center Dairy Queen, where **BIDEN** bought ice cream cones and milk shakes for campaign staff members and two local residents who weren't expecting to meet the vice president.

Chris and Dianne Murphy had stopped at the Hollywood City Center Dairy Queen for late-evening ice cream cones to celebrate their daughter Bailie's softball game victory earlier in the afternoon.

That's when **BIDEN**, accompanied by local reporters and photographers, members of the national press corps, campaign staff and Secret Service agents walked through the front door.

"I was pretty surprised to see him walk in like that. My daughter had played a softball game at Beaver Local and we ran into traffic on state Route 7 coming home. We had heard Vice President **BIDEN** was coming to the city, but never expected to see him in the Dairy Queen," said Chris Murphy.

BIDEN enjoyed a chocolate-coated vanilla swirl ice cream cone and started asking people around him if they wanted ice cream.

He soon spotted Christopher and Bailie Murphy.

"Do you play football?" **BIDEN** asked the younger Christopher.

"Yes sir," Christopher replied.

"I played when I was in school. Where do you play at?" **BIDEN** continued.

"Catholic Central High School," replied Murphy.

"How about some ice cream?" **BIDEN** asked Christopher and his sister, Bailie.

"If I knew you were coming, I would have waited for you to buy me ice cream," called out an unidentified woman in the Dairy Queen.

BIDEN bought ice cream cones and milk shakes for several staff members and Jefferson County Sheriff Fred Abdalla before leaving the business shortly before closing time.

"It was a little nerve-wracking when all those people started coming in. And then we saw Vice President **BIDEN** and it was even more nerve wracking. But he was very nice and we got all the orders taken care of," said Dairy Queen clerk Josie Goodwin.

TELEVISION COVERAGE

MSNBC

**Morning Joe Package on VP Joe BIDEN w/ Joe Scarborough, Mika Brzezinski, Willie Geist, Jim Cramer, Mike Barnacle
May 17, 2012**

MIKA: back with us on set we have jim cramer and mike barnacle.

JOE: you know, i would say the populist stuff doesn't work because it always seems so phony. but **BIDEN, BIDEN** is telling the truth. it works for **BIDEN**, because he feels it. working class guy. he feels it and, by the way, you look at all of these millionaires that run our country and then you look at his -- you know, his taxes every year, he's -- you know, he hasn't cashed in.

BARNACLE: he feels it, he understands it, he lives it, he's vice president of the united states, he has secret service protection but he's still joe **BIDEN**. part of him is still joe **BIDEN** from scranton, pennsylvania. we keep hearing ripples that there is a little animosity or anger towards the vice president on the gay stuff

MIKA: oh, no, i can't believe it. not for a second.

BARNACLE: for forcing the president's hand. but he is a valuable asset to this president.

MIKA: he's the best thing they got when it comes to politics. i'm sorry, he knows exactly what he's doing.

>> he gets it. and mika, boy, he went after them.

MIKA: let's show more of that fiery speech at a youngstown manufacturing plant yesterday. the vice president addressed the challenges facing the middle class while taking aim at mitt romney for his tenure at the investment firm bain capital.

BIDEN: this election is going to be a choice between two fundamentally different philosophies, and that choice is about whether or not we're going to rebuild the middle class or continue to help those at the very top and hope everything works out well. romney made sure the guys on top got to play by a separate set of rules. he ran up massive debts in the middle class laws. and, folks, he thinks that experience is going to help our economy? let's take a look. look, with these guys past is prologue, man. so i want you to think about what he'll do as president.

BIDEN: he's a patriot. he's a generous man. he gives to his church. he has a beautiful family. but he doesn't get it. he doesn't get what's at the core of all this. it's about people's dignity.

JOE: you know, i say populism doesn't work. it works. there are two things, he doesn't get it, which republicans always trail democrats in that. does such and such understand your problems, your family's problems. but there's another thing, jim. and this is really a message and it's the first time i've really heard anybody deliver it that well. if every democrat could deliver it that well, then the last four or five years could be used for their advantage, even next year. and that is, he thinks his rich friends should play by a different set of rules. because the american dream -- i was talking about my dad. my dad worked hard, he was unemployed for a year and a half. there was never any resentment, but he expected everybody, whether it was the kennedys or the people next door to play by the same damn set of rules that he had to play by. that's a pretty powerful message.

CRAMER: i thought it was. i remember riding down on the train when he was still a senator. he always took the train. he said to me i'm the poorest guy in the senate. 100 senators and i have the least amount of money. but has equal power. it reminds me exactly of what he's saying. now, the 1% in this country, i've said this on "mad money," it's not a problem to say it, doesn't play by the same rules. the reason why, they pay far less tax. now, the 15% tax that romney pays, it should be an issue again because i was a hedge fund manager. i didn't pay this. i just thoughtt was wrong to be able to convert your ordinary income into capital gains is strictly something you can do if you're real rich. no one else can do it because they can't get away with it. just wrong.

JOE: We have a friend that kept talking to us about, oh, you should do this, you should do that. talking about buy a small plane a couple years ago.

and then took out a balance sheet and he explained with all the tax breaks and everything else that if you paid a certain amount, at the end through 100% depreciation and tax deductions and your business, he showed in a very like complicated way how after four or five years it was free. and you know what, he was right! but my dad needed to buy a buick in 1973 or somebody in youngstown, ohio, today trying to get by, the rules aren't skewed that way for them. there's one rule after another rule after another rule that seems to skew for the rich.

CRAMER: the rich have power to be able to influence the laws. the rich are without a doubt the most clever about the tax code. remember the law says very clear. as long as you don't evade taxes, it's your perfect right to avoid taxes. that's always been the case. but who has enough money to be able to hire a lawyer to look through the code and avoid taxes. only rich people.

JOE: people talk about taxing the rich. don't tax the businessperson that makes \$250,000 to \$400,000, don't raise their taxes because they can't afford the accountants and the tax lawyers to make sure that their small business continues to grow and continues to hire people.

MIKA: The romney campaign, by the way, responded to what the vice president was saying and the attacks on the former governor's career at bain capital saying, quote, 'president obama can't come close to matching the many years of experience that mitt romney has as a private businessman, so he has chosen to attack the free market. millions across this country are struggling and deserve a leader who understands how the economy works.' and that would be the political counter message, which is. mitt romney understands the economy?

JOE: Again, though, he does it for some reason that message works with barack obama. like a guy who is a law professor and everything. so if he says that about barack obama, okay, you're right, you're right. but when joe **BIDEN** says -- and it shouldn't be the case because you look at barack obama and his grandparents raised him in hawaii, very middle class upbringing. but for some reason **BIDEN**, like when **BIDEN** says my parents believed i could be president of the united states or i could be a millionaire, you know he's telling the truth. so that brush back about being anti-capitalism doesn't work against **BIDEN** as well.

BARNACLE: No. The vice president of the united states, Joe **BIDEN**, has a picture in his head. he can see the house on top of the hill where the rich people live in the town that he grew up in, and he knows instinctively that the people who live at the bottom of the hill, the **BIDENS**, the Scarboroughs when we were younger know they don't represent the people on the bottom of the hill. but there's a connection and it's called trust between the rich people at the top of the hill and the people at the bottom of the hill. the people at the bottom of the hill believe they can get up there to the top of the hill but once that line of trust is broken like with the banks, with the breaks that the rich get, once that line of trust is broken, then you've got a problem and that's where Joe **BIDEN** can really say it.

JOE: Which again, is the reason why Joe **BIDEN'S** message works. And there's not that resentment. i told the story after my dad died when we were in mississippi, we'd drive past country club drive and look at all the big houses and look at the golf course. if i stepped foot on it, they'd probably shoot me in the back of the head. they probably still would. but my parents said look at those houses, look at those big houses. you keep working hard, you do well in school, you'll be able to live in one of those houses. and i promise you, being a doctor or a lawyer in 1971-72 when my dad was unemployed and we were driving by that, that was about as far removed from my existence as being, you know, premier of china. but my parents were like work hard, do it, you can live there.

GEIST: and when joe **BIDEN** gets it going in a setting like that, and you talk about political athletes, purely political, he's throwing his arms around guys, he's giving them the business, he's whispering.

MIKA: it's genuine, though.

GEIST: no, i'm saying he really pulls it off.

MIKA: he's a connecter.

GEIST: if we agree that a small group of swing voters maybe in ohio, maybe in florida will decide who the next president of the united states is, that's pretty effective right there.

MSNBC

Rachel Maddow on VAWA

May 16, 2012

MADDOW: it is a special visa program under the violence against women act. republicans in Washington are right to roll that back. the violence against women act was first passed almost 20 years ago. when he was in the senate, vice president joe **BIDEN** wrote the original bill. it passed with bipartisan support. the act was reauthorized in the year 2000, reauthorized again in 2005. it has never been a particularly controversial thing, until now. republicans in the senate initially voted it down this year on a party line vote. they gave it zero votes in committee. it finally did pass the full senate on a 68-31 vote. all 31 no votes there were all male republican senators. all the republican women in the senate voted for it, but 31 men voted no. but now it's over in the house. and house republicans are not for it. they introduced a republican counterproposal that undoes big portions of the violence against women act. their changes, for example, would take away the anonymity from their special visa program for beaten women, thereby advancing the important public policy goal of alerting the abusive husbands of mail order brides if the woman they're beating is trying to get away there them. why has the violence against women act turned into this? why have the politics around this issue turned so much this year? after being such a such a non-controversial thing for decades. it's because the right wing of the right wing decided this year they're going to make an issue out of it. this is a letter signed by the family research council, by the eagle forum, by liberty council, which is affiliated with the jerry folwell university, also the traditional values coalition. this is them writing to congress to say, don't reauthorize if violence against women act. one of the signatories to this letter is a former vice chair of the North Carolina republican party, who himself has a felony domestic violence conviction on his record. he got a suspended sentence of 18 months in prison after admitting to beating his wife into the hospital, breaking her nose, breaking her toes, breaking a piece of furniture over her back. police found his wife in the couple's home on Christmas day, bleeding from the face and suffering from other injuries. he pled guilty to felony aggravated assault in that case. he is now one of the signatories to the vote against the violence against women act letter,

right? it's a letter signed by him and by all those groups that have the word "values" in their names. one of the other signatories in this coalition that seems to have persuaded republicans to be against the violence against women act this year is a group called s.a.v.e., a group based in Rockville, Maryland. they have been lobbying house republicans to oppose the violence against women act this year. they've been lobbying specifically to roll back some of the protections for immigrant women. the treasurer of that group, s.a.v.e., that's lobbying to get rid of the advisory rule that would help mail order brides, one of the treasurers of that group is the founder of this thing that everybody thought was porn on my website all day today. the russian mail order bride company. which again promises that these women will follow their husband's lead and stick with the marriage, even when times get tough. and just think how much tougher you can make those times if she knows that not sticking with the marriage means she gets deported back to russia. so, yeah, the whole republicans have a war on women thing, this is the sort of thing that has given rise to that sentiment, that republicans have a war on women. this is how you earn a political epithet like that. for what it's earth, democrats have been fighting like heck on this issue. president Obama has personally brought this issue up multiple times in recent weeks. the president all but promising to veto the republican's rollback of the violence against women a act, which passed the house today. vice president **BIDEN** has brought the issue up multiple times. he, of course, wrote the first violence against women act. one of the president's top advisers, Valerie Jarrett, has an op-ed out on issue today. Nancy Pelosi has been front paging this issue in her position as the democrat's leader in the house. and today at a press conference on capitol hill, a Wisconsin democratic congresswoman named Gwen Moore went all out, not just on the legislation, but on what in her personal experience has convinced her that the violence against women act is so important.

[CLIP]

MOORE: you know, one experience that i had to occurred to me, i thought of this morning was a time when i took a ride with a guy i thought was a friend to go get some fried chicken. and he decided to take a detour behind some buildings to rape me and choke me almost to death. i was sort of seeing that little light that you often hear about. as a woman of color, i am particularly aggrieved that this bill ignores the special circumstances of women who are minorities. women who are in the shadows. stop playing games with the lives of women! this is yet another -- they don't want to hear us talk about it being a war on women, but this is a direct assault on

women's lives. three women a day die from victimization. and i would implore my colleagues to stop playing games.

[END CLIP]

MADDOW: the house voted on and passed the republican rollback of the violence against women act today. passed it on a nearly party line vote. so that was today in this crazy war on women idea that has no basis in reality. you want to know what republicans are going to do tomorrow to earn that epithet all over again? ...

From: Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent on: Saturday, May 19, 2012 12:50:32 AM
To: hurricane5155@gmail.com; 261penn@gmail.com; hbiden@rosemontseneca.com; [P6/b(6)];
ashley.biden@state.de.us; [P6/b(6)]; jill.tracy2@gmail.com; [P6/b(6)]; jbiden@lionhallgp.com;
sbiden@lionhallgp.com; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)];
robinware456@gmail.com
Subject: Press Recap

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Date created: Sun Jul 30 09:26:48 EDT 2023

Releasability: Withheld In Part

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P6

Notes:

redaction of personal email addresses

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent on: Monday, May 19, 2014 10:19:56 PM
To: "261penn@gmail.com"; "Hunter Biden (hbiden@senecaga.com) <hbiden@senecaga.com>; [P6/b(6)]
CC: "robinware456@gmail.com"; "Jill Biden (Jill.tracy2@gmail.com) <jill.tracy2@gmail.com>
Subject: RE: Grand Teton National Park - Brinkerhoff Lodge

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Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

b(6),P5,P6

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

From: Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent on: Thursday, December 19, 2013 8:17:21 PM
To: [personal email address]; [personal email address]; 261penn@gmail.com; hbiden@senecaga.com;
jill.tracy2@gmail.com; robinware456@gmail.com
Subject: [personal information]

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Releasability: Withheld In Full

Reasons for Withholding:

PRM

Notes:

Case ID: LA 2023-0042-F-1

Additional Information:

Sent: Wed, 31 Jul 2013 10:21:29 -0400
From: "Person, Fran" <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
To: [REDACTED]

"hurricane5155@gmail.com" (hurricane5155@gmail.com) <hurricane5155@gmail.com>, robinware456@gmail.com, "BEAU (261penn@gmail.com)" <261penn@gmail.com>, "Hunter Biden (hbiden@senecaga.com)" <hbiden@senecaga.com>, "Jill Biden (Jill.tracy2@gmail.com)" <jill.tracy2@gmail.com>, [REDACTED]

FOIA-6

Subject: FW: OVP Press Recap: India/Singapore July 2013
[OVP Press Recap India and Singapore July 2013.docx](#)

Attached is the Press Packet put together by our press shop for the recent foreign trip to India and Singapore.

Fran

From: Trotter, Kingsley
Sent: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 10:11 AM
To: DL-OVP-ALL
Subject: OVP Press Recap: India/Singapore July 2013

Hi all,

Attached is a press recap from the Vice President's trip to India and Singapore last week. It's a good one – tons of great pictures/articles/social media for those who are interested. Thanks!

Kingsley



Vice President Biden

Press Recap

India, Singapore, Hawaii

Foreign Trip

July 2013

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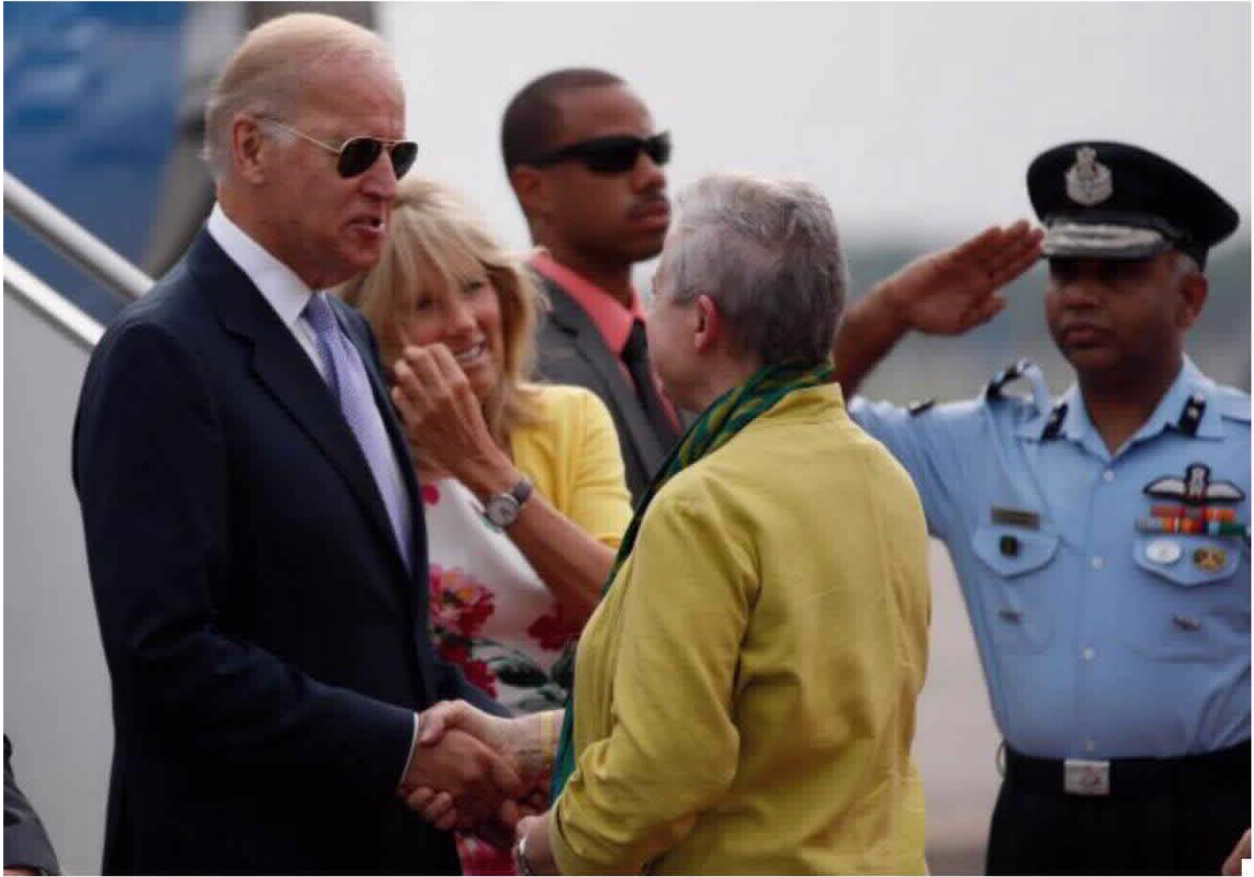
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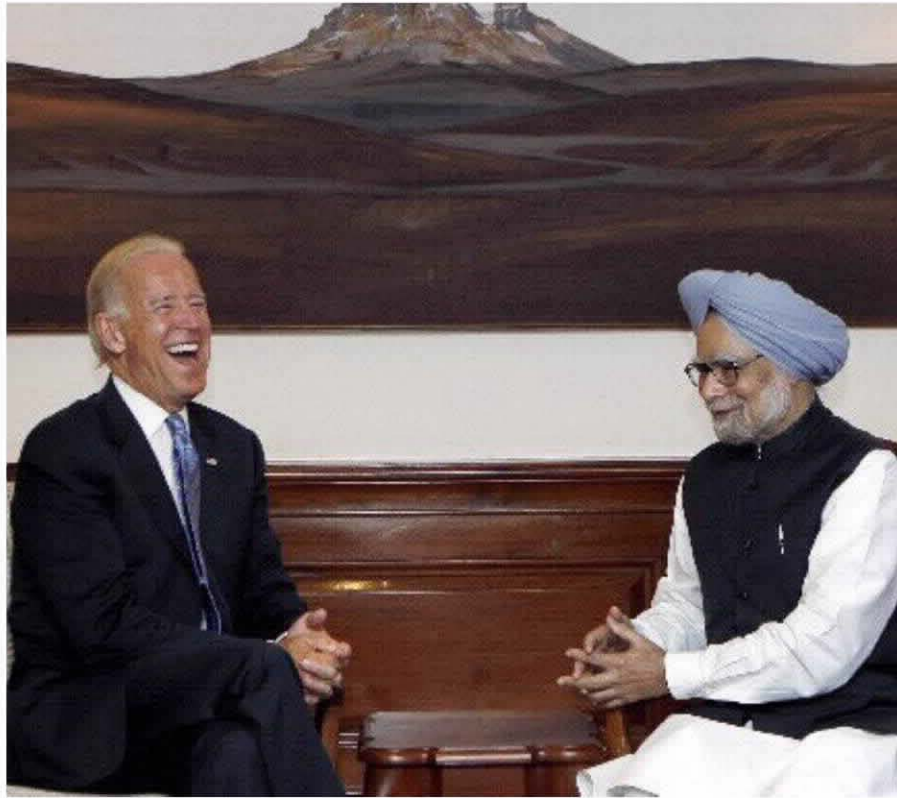


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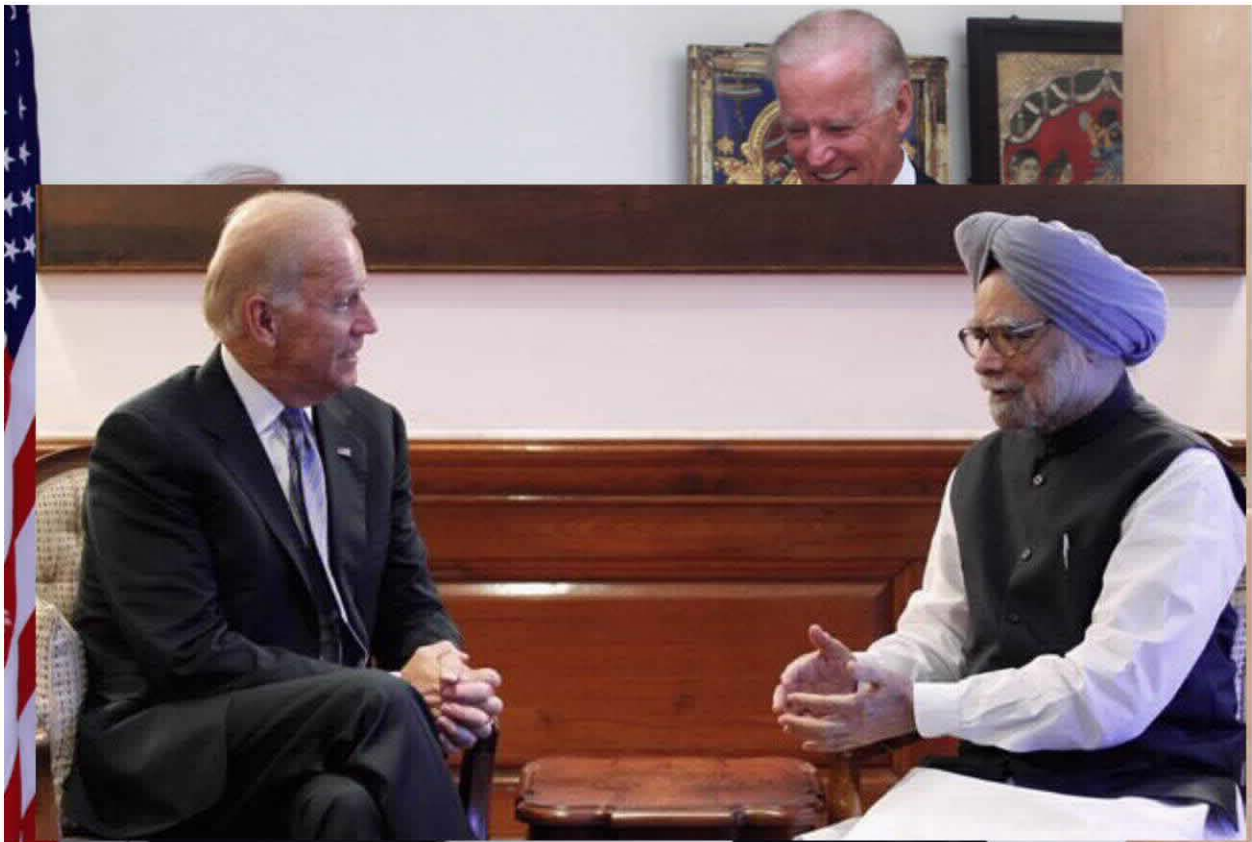
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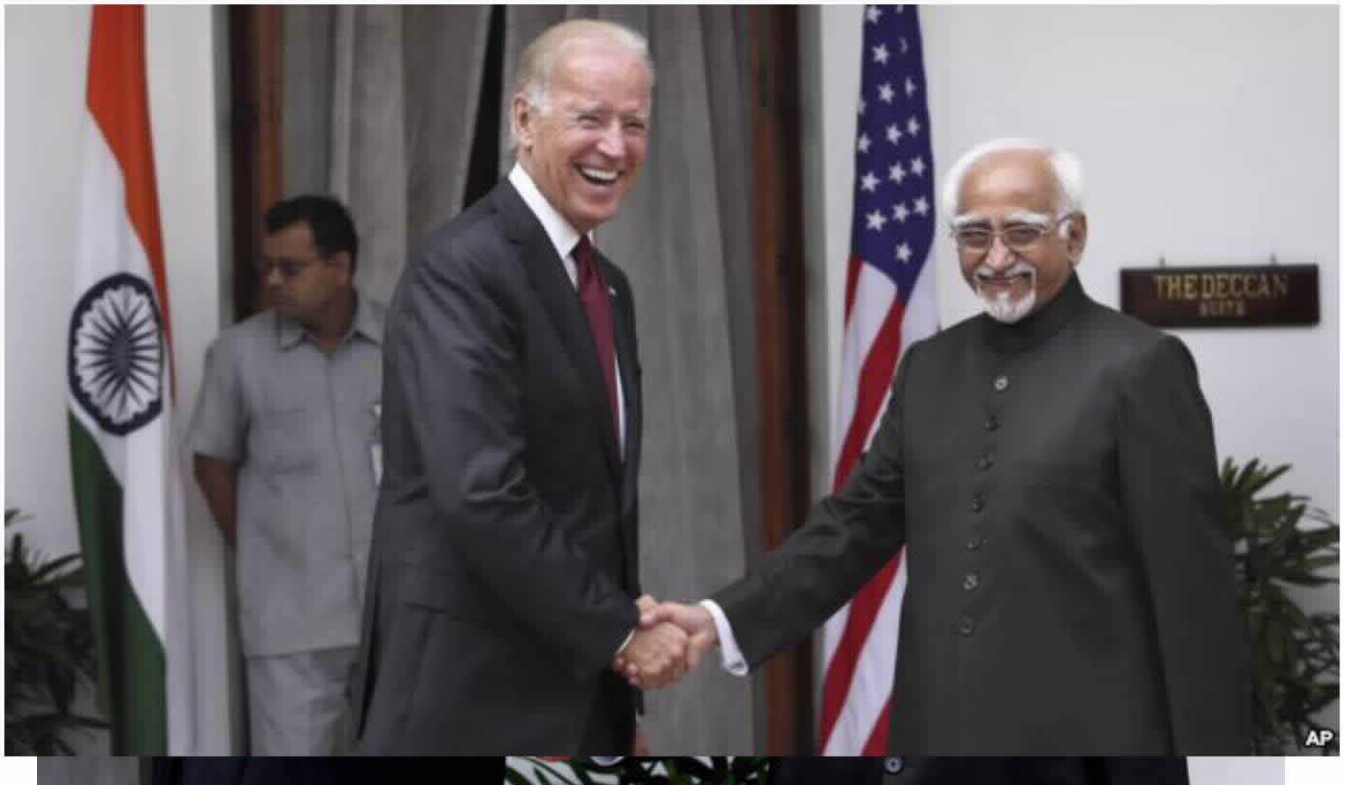
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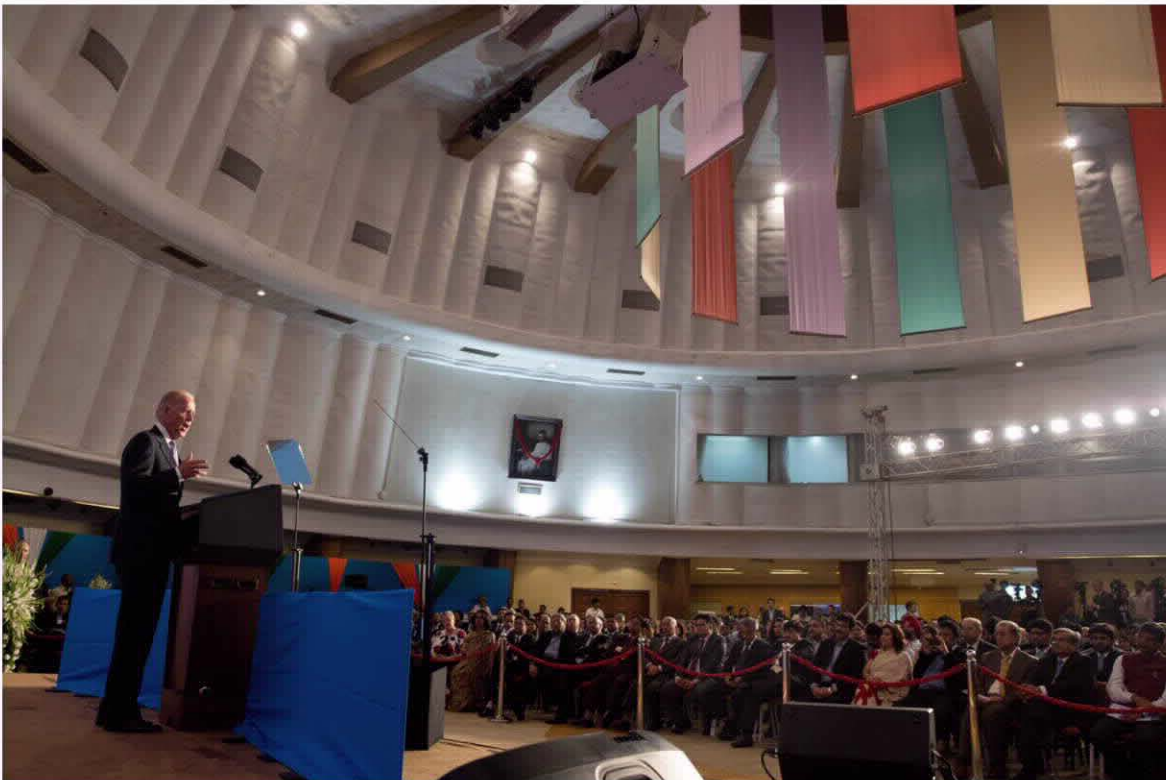
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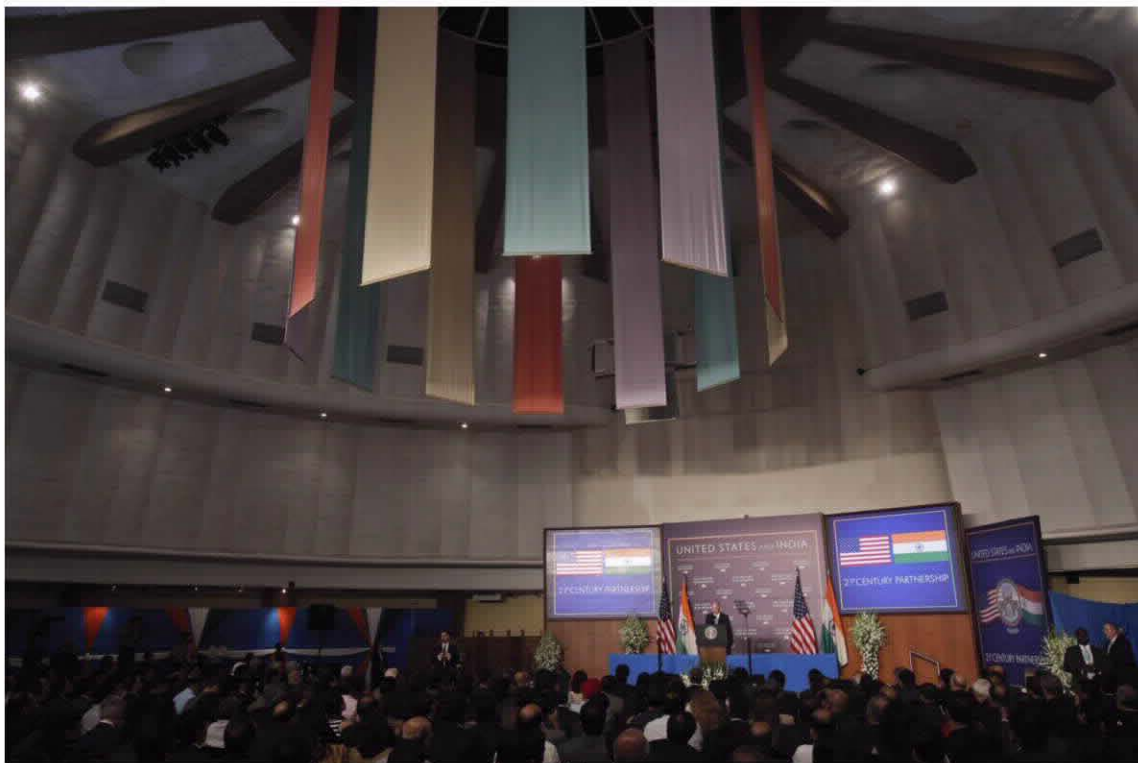
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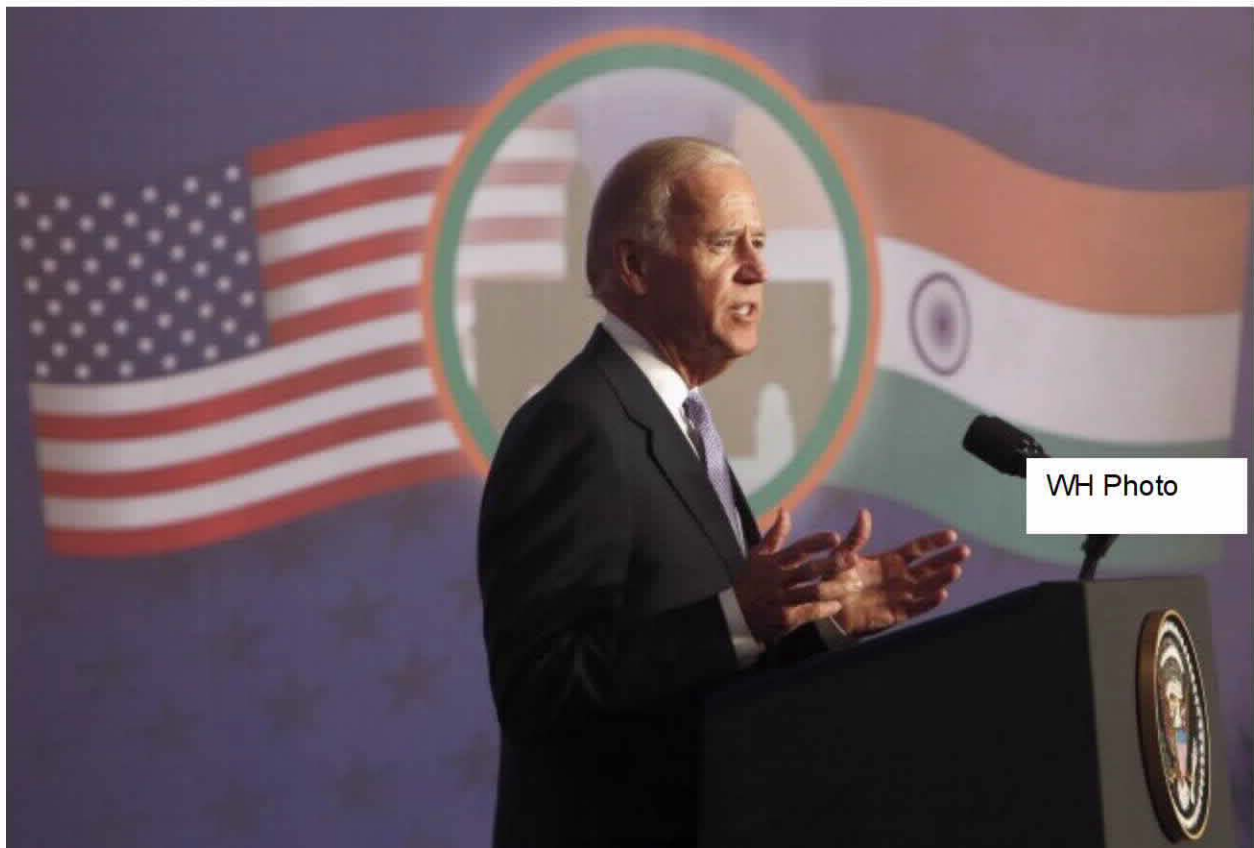
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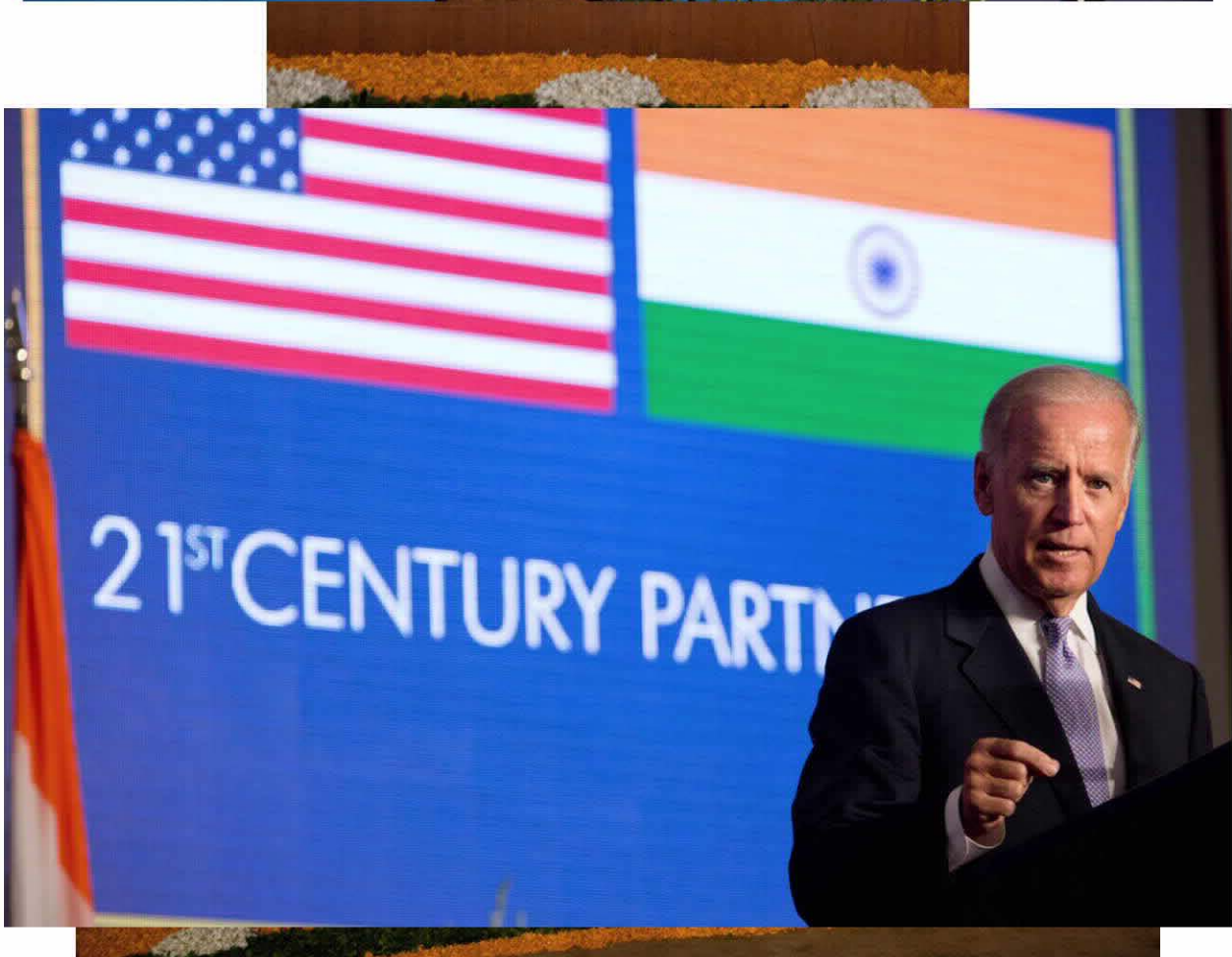
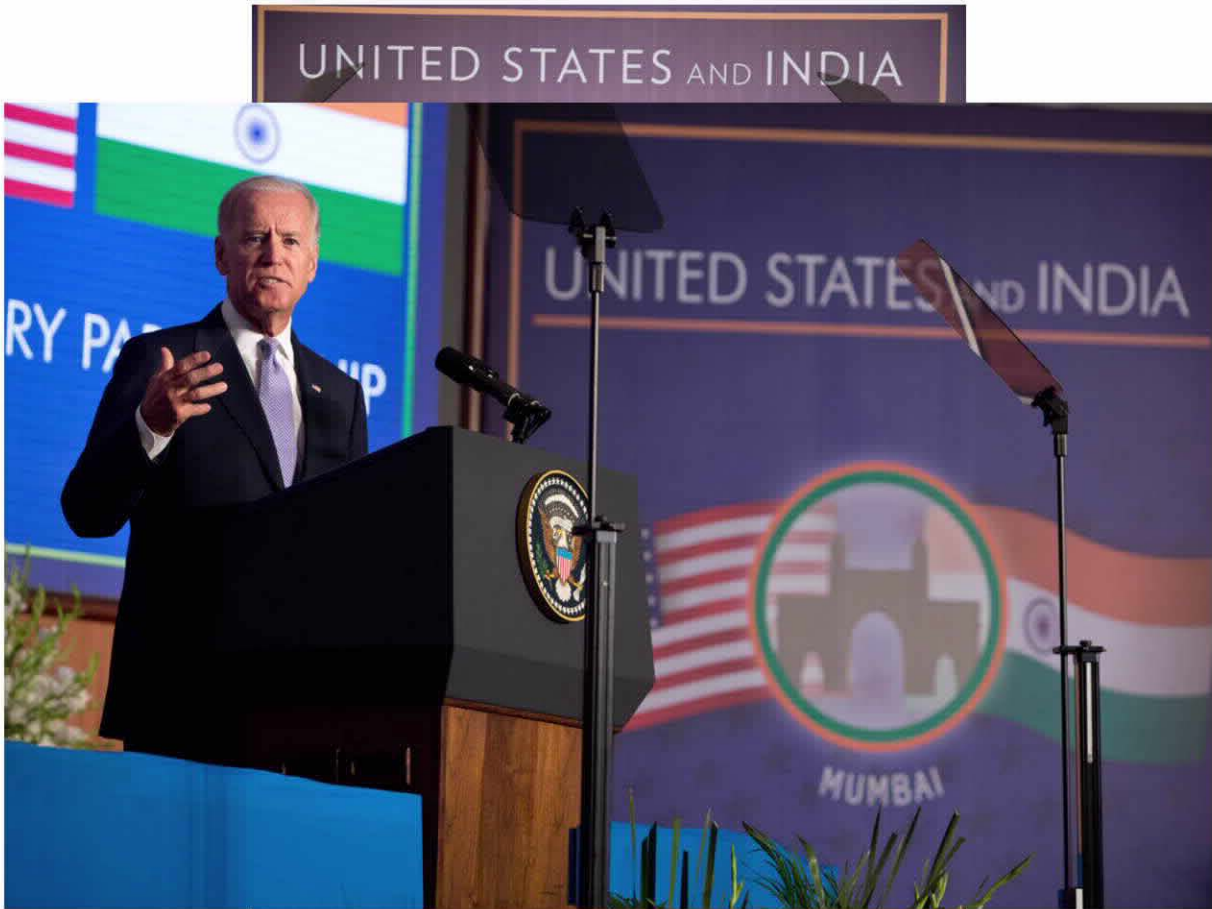


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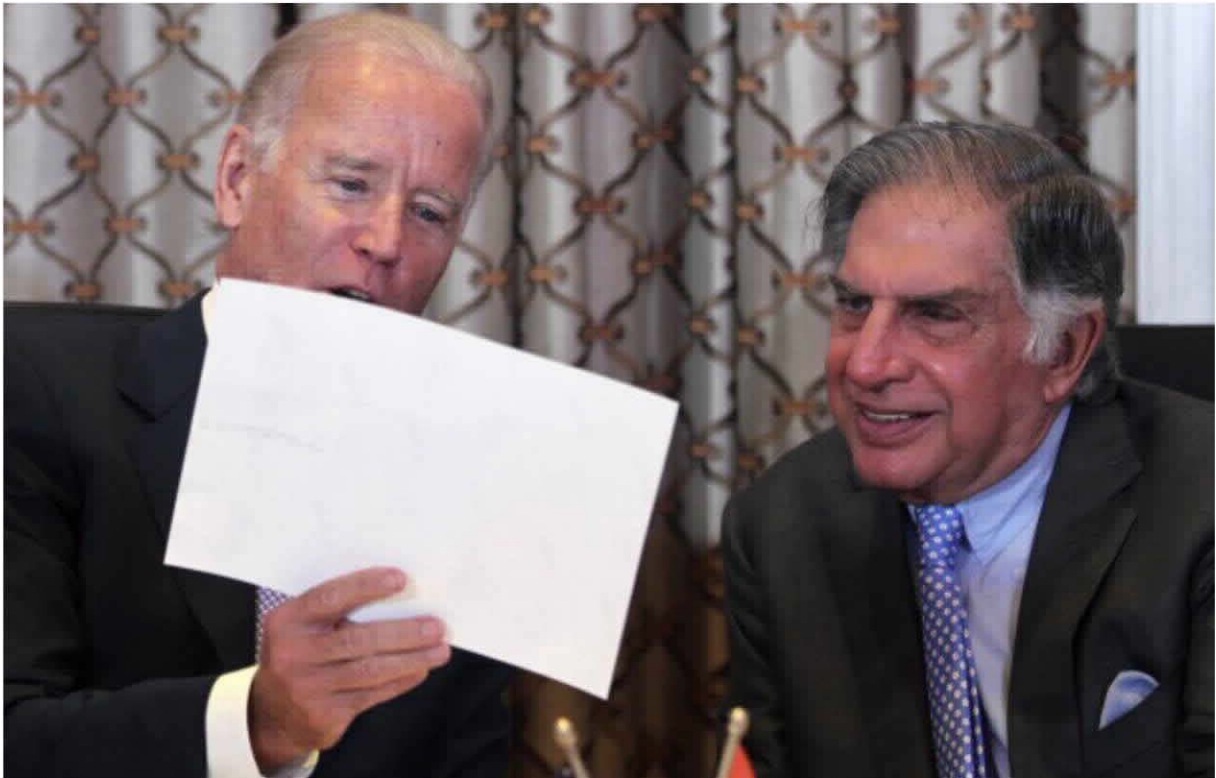
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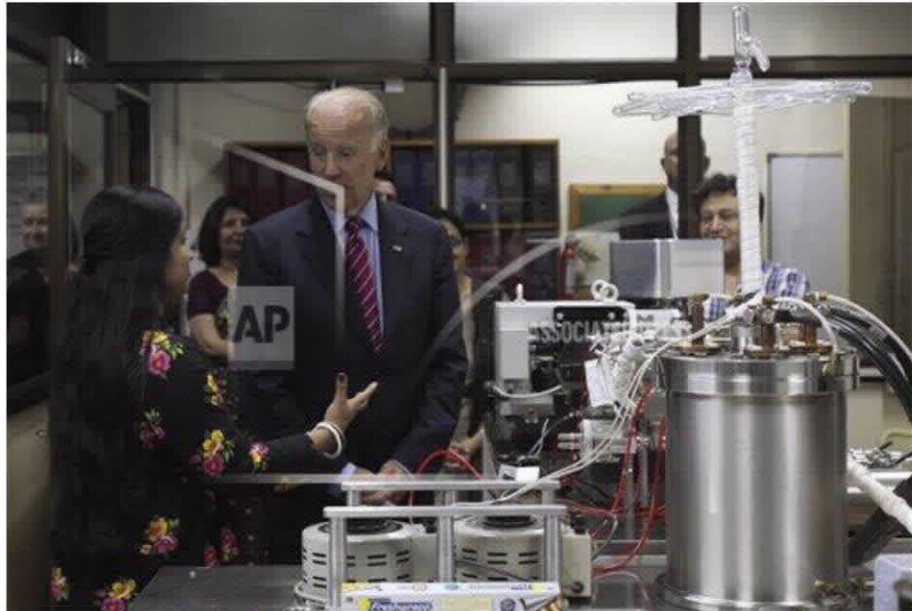


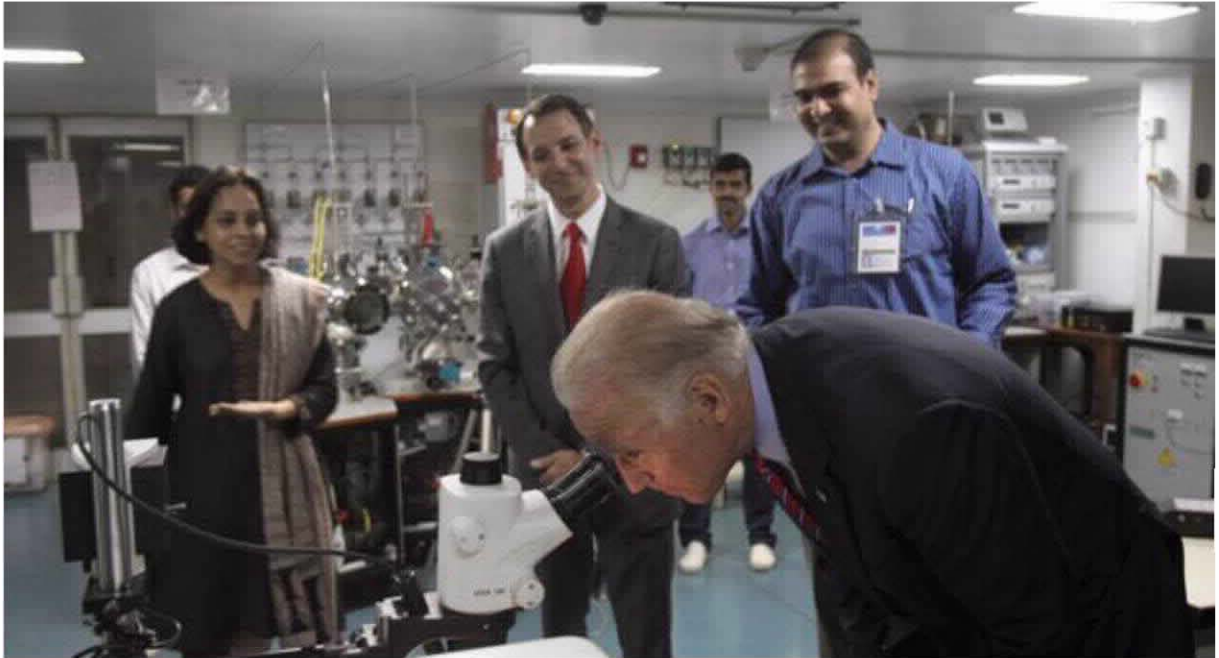
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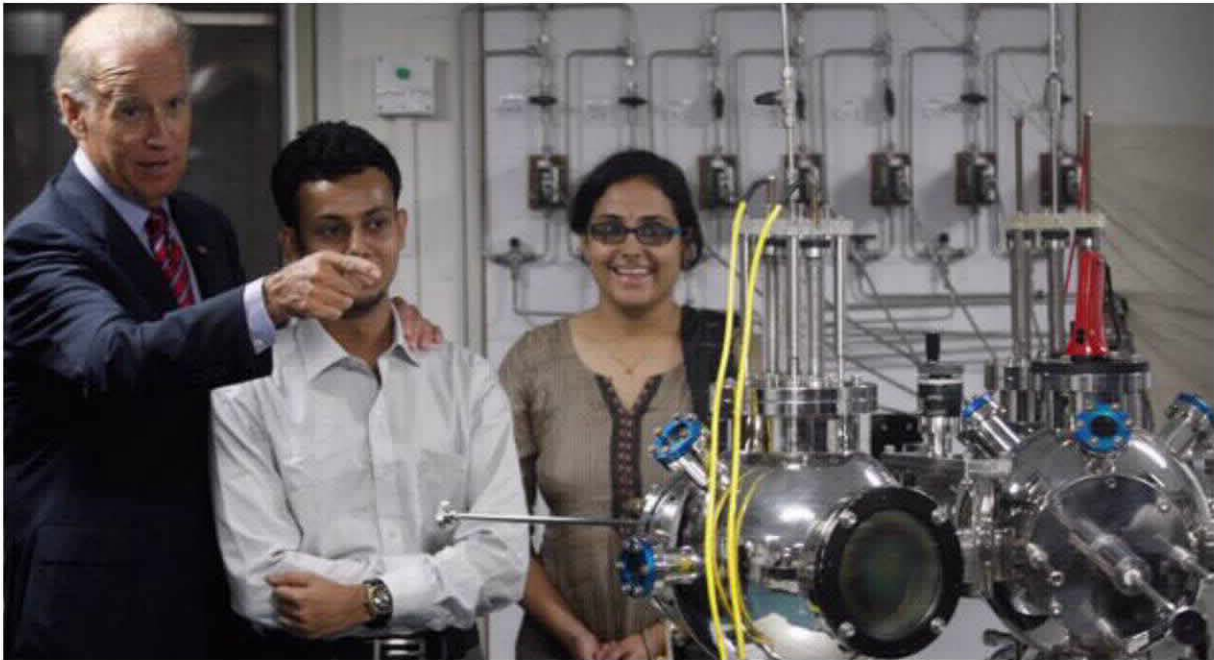
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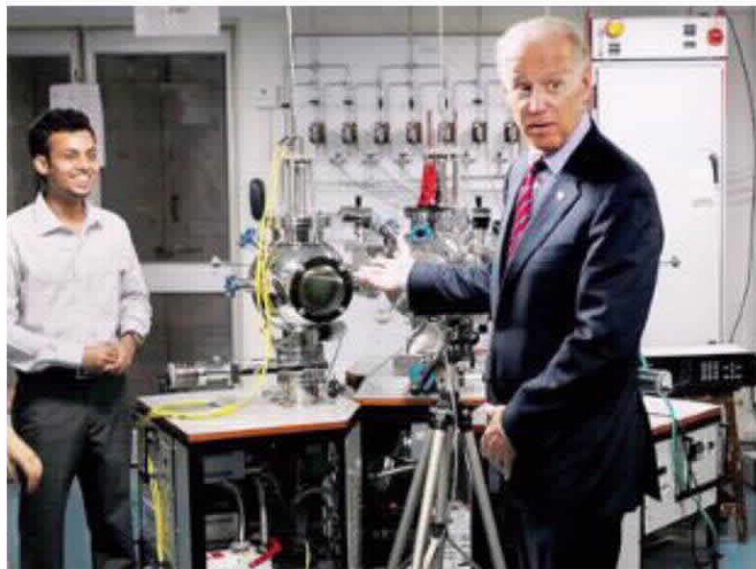




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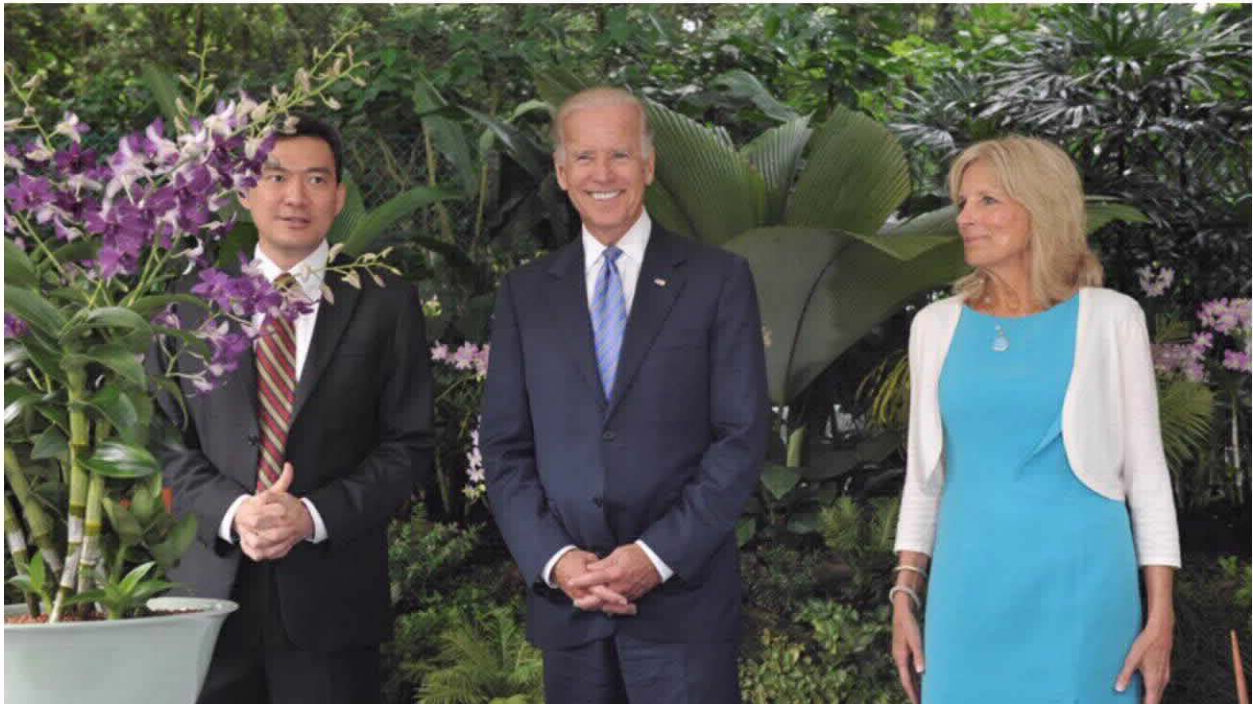




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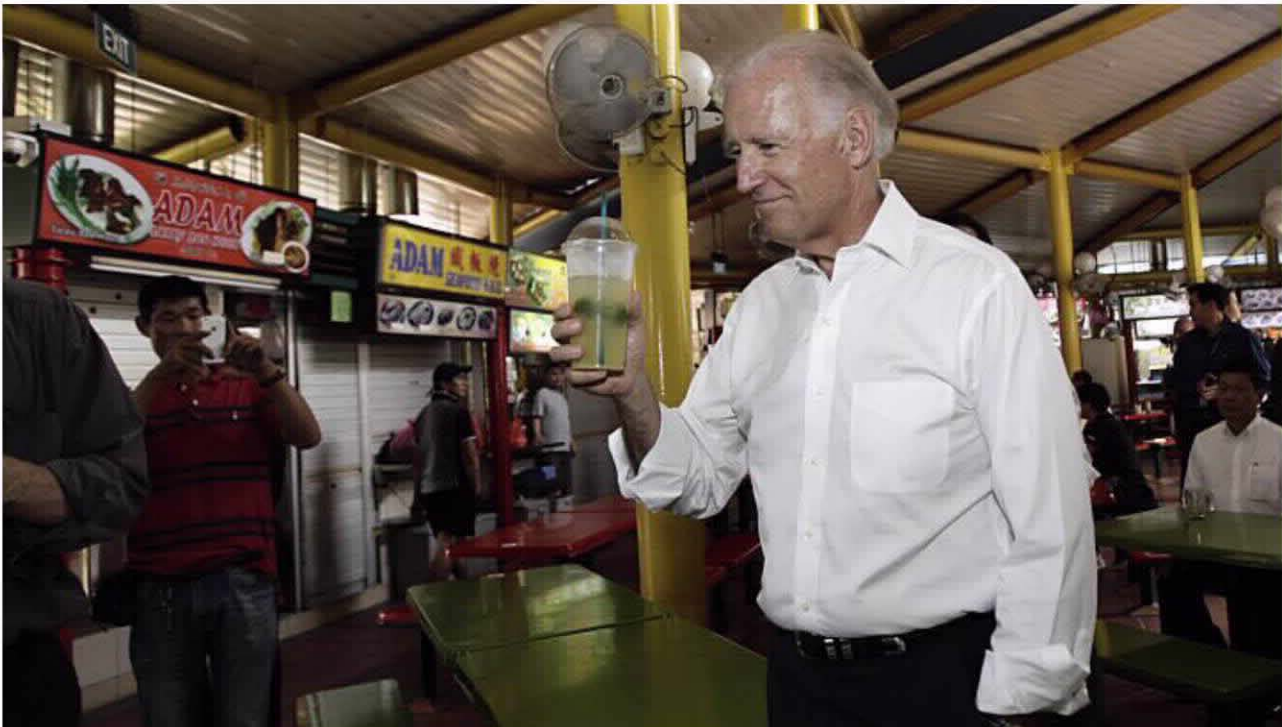




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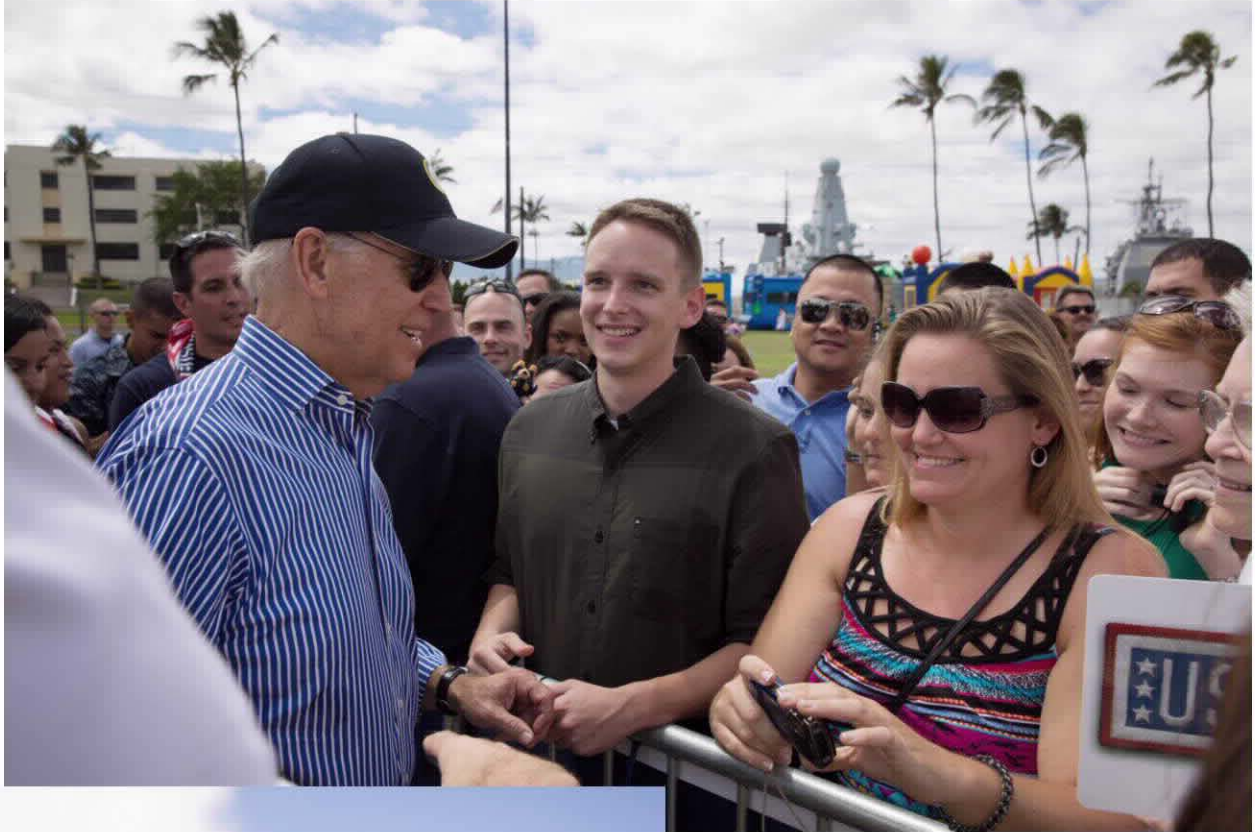
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DECCAN Chronicle

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75th Anniversary of Deccan Chronicle

INTERNATIONAL Kelly Roland rescued after boat was lost

SPORTS No doubles for Ashwin, as IBL drops event

WEATHER Max: 26°C, Min: 21°C, RH: 70%

ASTROLOGUE Vijaya: Dakshinayana, Tithi: Ashvini Krishna

RAMJAN TIMINGS Today: 6:30 pm, Tomorrow: 4:41 am

NATION: 24th July 2013, 8th 7th Edition, Page 5

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The Queen's Press Secretary Alina Anderson with Sadar Azim, a spokesman, places an official document to announce the birth of a baby boy...

It's a boy! Kate, Wills bundle of joy arrives

London, July 22: Prince William's wife Kate gave birth to a baby boy on Monday, providing British royal family with a future king in an event that had been anticipated around the world.

Congress aims for 150 seats, BJP's ambition 190

A tactical war has broken out between the Congress and the BJP over the forthcoming 2014 general election. While the Congress is mulling its strategy to get a grand total of 130 seats, the BJP is working seriously to achieve a target of a minimum 190 seats.

I don't want Modi as my PM, says Amartya Sen

New Delhi: For Nobel laureate Amartya Sen, Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi is not a prime ministerial candidate as he does not enjoy secular credentials.

Will roll out GST: CM to industrialists

Bengaluru, July 22: Chief Minister Siddaramaiah sought to reassure Karnataka's industrialists and businessmen that their interests would be taken care of, announcing that his government would reduce the Goods and Services Tax (GST) and investment projects worth Rs.600 crore to improve Bengaluru's infrastructure.

Delhi Police chargesheet dead Cronje

New Delhi, July 22: More than a decade after the late South African cricket captain Hansie Cronje's name emerged in the 2000 match-fixing scandal, the Delhi Police filed a chargesheet at a court here in Delhi on Monday.

'D' link to minister: Mumbai BJP chief

Mumbai BJP president Anish Shelar on Monday alleged that the security agencies had intercepted fugitive gangster Dossud Bherania's phone calls that suggest he is linked to "a minister" from Mr Shelar's district.

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OTHER STORIES: Biden for strong ties

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2G: Anil summoned as prosecution witness on July 26

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WEATHER
Max: 29°C
Min: 23°C
Rf: 10%
Rainfall: 34.2 mm
Forecast: Thunderstorm with rain



COUNTER POINT
Yes, say 'Dad!' to insurance but all the papers are not signed on report 21 hours before the security check!

ASTROGUIDE
Karkidakam: 7, 11, 18
Thiruvannam: 52 varshika
40 varshika
Rahu kalam:
03:00 - 04:30 pm
Gulika kalam:
12:00 - 01:30 pm
Yamakandakalam:
09:00 - 10:30 am
PRAYER (SABHA BHASABU)
Fajar: 4:51 am
Zohar: 12:33 pm
Asar: 3:56 pm
Maghrib: 6:52 pm
Isha: 8:07 pm
SUNSET TODAY 4:59 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW 5:13 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW 12:14 PM
MOONSET TOMORROW 8:32 AM

I don't want Modi as my PM, says Amartya Sen
New Delhi: Coming out strongly against Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi, Nobel laureate Amartya Sen on Monday said he does not want him to become India's prime minister as he does not have secular credentials. The prominent economist also criticised Modi's model of governance saying he did not approve of it. (ANI, IANS) (ANI, IANS)



HEARTY WELCOME
U.S. Vice President Joe Biden, left, accompanied by his wife Jill, second from left, shakes hands with U.S. Ambassador in India Nancy J. Powell upon his arrival at the airport in New Delhi on Monday. Biden arrived on a four-day visit aimed at boosting trade and strengthening strategic relations as Washington pursues its new Asia-Pacific policy. —PTI

Man kills wife, 2 kids for the sake of remarriage

DC CORRESPONDENT MALAPPRAM, JULY 22
A man, who fused his wife standing in the way of his lust for a second woman in marriage, murdered his wife and two daughters at Alakkal under Areekode police station limits in the district early on Monday. Local people woke up to the stinging sight of a two-wheeler by the side of a pond fed by the rains, finding the impression that the woman and daughters, accompanying Mahadevan Sharan, killed on the road.



The scooter that ran into the waterlogged area from Kottikkad.

PVT MEDICAL COLLEGES SHED CROSS-SUBSIDY
VINOD NEDUMUDIY DC KOCHI, JULY 22
The formula that two self-financing colleges are equal to non-government colleges, coined by Mr. A.K. Antony as chief minister while launching the self-financing education in the state, is set to collapse completely in the medical education sector. The Kerala Private Medical College Management Association has decided to exit the cross-subsidy pattern that they have been following for years together. — See also P2

SEERS OPEN FIRE ON EACH OTHER IN AYOONYA, 1 DEAD
AMITA VERMA | DC LUCKNOW, JULY 22
Firing between two groups of seers at the famous Hanuman Garhi temple complex in Ayodhya left one person dead and two others critically wounded. The deceased has been identified as Mahant labourer from Barabanki. Mahant Anil Das, Chela Indran Das and a passer-by were wounded in the firing that took place on Sunday evening. According to the police, Ching Wei proved to be the culprit, going to Mahant Indran Das and Mahant Barabanki Das, both belonging to different sects of the Hanuman Garhi temple, had been involved for a long time in disputes over the ownership of properties and wealth being collected at the temple from devotees. Mahant Indran Das is considered a powerful priest of Ayodhya due to his proximity to the Sangamwali Party while the other group, led by Mahant Barabanki Das, enjoys a good following among saamis and seers of Hanuman Garhi. Mahant Indran Das is national president of the Sangamwali Sam Sevak, an outfit of the ruling SP. No arrests have yet been made.

Centre empowers Sebi

It can search, seize, attach properties and arrest defaulters
New Delhi, July 22: In a major upgrade of powers given to Sebi, the government has allowed it to probe and seize, attachment of properties, arrest and detention of defaulters and pass disengagement directions to remove the wrongful gains made in contravention of law. At the same time, the government has also allowed Sebi to seek information from other regulators within India and abroad with retrospective effect. For over 15 years now in another retrospective change, which forms part of the Securities Laws Amendment Ordinance promulgated by the President of India last week, the subvitals and companies being probed by Sebi can settle their pending investigations. Such settlements can be undertaken in cases that are currently pending for more than six years. To tackle the growing increase of postal schemes being floated as Collective Investment Schemes (CIS), the rules have also been amended to classify any money collection of 100 crore or more as CIS operation. Sebi has been given powers to crack down on illegal investments schemes floated by individuals as well as against companies only as of now. However, all government notified schemes would be out of the Collective Investment Scheme framework. The changes are part of as many as 21 amendments made by the government to three main Acts governing Sebi since its operation — the Securities and Exchange Board of India (Sebi) Act, the Securities Contracts Regulation Act (SCRA) and the Depositories Act. — through a 16-page Ordinance. —PTI

EARNERS UP TO ₹5L NEED TO FILE RETURN

BOON FOR STATE
New Delhi, July 22: For the past two years, salaried persons earning up to ₹5 lakh annually will have to file income tax returns, CBDT said on Monday. The Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) had notified salaried employees having total income of ₹5 lakh including income from other sources up to ₹1,00,000 from the requirement of filing income tax return for assessment year 2013-14 and 2012-13, respectively. — Full report on P2

MILMA READY TO DROP 'FRESH AND PURE' TAG

Kochi, July 22: Milma on Monday submitted before Kerala high court that the federation had decided to remove the tagline 'fresh and pure' from its milk packs. A division bench comprising Justice S. Sri Jagat and Justice K. Manoj Kumar asked Milma to file an affidavit in its regard including one week's time. The court was considering a plea filed by Mr. Martin Paine against a single judge's verdict allowing Milma to hike the prices of milk. The court had earlier criticised Milma and observed that even though the milk is good as from imported skimmed milk powder, sachets of its milk contained the label 'fresh and pure'. The court directed it to remove the tagline from its packs. The court even observed that Milma was committing a fraud on the people by making such a declaration on its packs when it actually produced milk by converting skimmed milk powder. — DC

50% growth forecast in IT; 30k jobs in 18 months: CM

DC CORRESPONDENT THIRUVANANTHAPURAM, JULY 22
Amidst a global recessionary trend, the Kerala IT sector has some good news. While the National Association of Software and Service Companies (NASSCOM) projected 50 percent growth in software exports from Kerala during the current fiscal, chief minister Mr. Oommen Chandy has anticipated creation of about 30,000 new jobs in the IT sector in the next 18 months. NASSCOM president Mr. Som Mittal had reported here on Monday that the billion-dollar mark will record 20 percent growth this fiscal, said Mr. Mittal in the backdrop of the launch of NASSCOM regional council in Kerala. Later, while inaugurating the regional council, the chief minister said that the 'Technopak' phase III building and new campuses of TCS, Infosys Global and Infosys, all put together, would generate up to 30,000 new jobs in the next 18 months. He also said that the state government was making the contribution to provide high-quality human resource required to meet the demand. — Continued on P2

INDIAN BADMINTON LEAGUE | Star players fetch whopping prices in auction

Saina in Hyd, Lee goes to Mumbai

EXCITING DAYS AHEAD
Lee Cheng Wei
TEAM
Mumbai Masters
Saina Nehwal
TEAM
Hyderabad Hydras
P.V. Sindhu
TEAM
Lucknow Warriors
P. Kashyap
TEAM
Banga Beasts

\$135,000
\$120,000
\$80,000
\$75,000

TEACHER BREAKS BOY'S HAND IN KANTHALLOOR

DC CORRESPONDENT NOTTAWAM, JULY 22
A teacher reportedly fractured the bone of a student's hand while doing home work. The unfortunate victim is Bala Vignesh, a sixth standard student of Sacred Heart School, Kattalloor. The incident happened on Monday when the teacher Ms. Sree Banjitha Mary allegedly bent the student who developed pain on his hand. — Continued on P2

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NEW DELHI TUESDAY 23 JULY 2013

NATION | Politics **2** Rajnath's praise of Modi on US trip upsets senior leaders

NATION | 2000 match-fixing **4** Hansie Cronje named in chargesheet; Gibbs, Boje left out

WORLD **10** Britain Royal baby birth imminent, Kate hospitalised

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WINDOWS

Mulayam can be PM man: Karat

New Delhi: CPI-M general secretary Prakash Karat said SP supremo Mulayam Singh Yadav could emerge as the prime ministerial candidate in the 2014 LS polls if his party does well. — PTI

Full report on Page 3

SHOOTOUT BETWEEN SEERS KILLS LABOURER

AMITA VERMA
 LUCKNOW, JUL 22

Firing between two groups of seers at the famous Harmandir Sahib temple complex in Ayazpura left one person dead and two others critically wounded.

The deceased has been identified as Bharat, a labourer from Baharshi, Maharastra. He and Chota Baharshi Das and a passer-by were wounded in the firing that took place on Sunday evening.

According to the police, two groups, led by Mahant Bhavraj Das and Mahant Das, both belonging to different sects of the Harmandir Sahib temple, had been involved for a long time in disputes over distribution of properties and wealth situated at the temple.

The two groups opened fire at each other over a dispute over blocking the passage to a building.

29 China quakes: Twin dead, 600 hurt

Lanzhou, China: The tremors in China's Gansu province, with magnitudes of 5.9 and 5.6, triggered fatalities which killed 89 people and injured almost 600. — AFP

Full report on Page 8

WEATHER

Max: 25°C
 Min: 15°C
 RH: 65%

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky, few spells of rain may occur.

SUNRISE

Vijaya: Dakshinayana
 Tithi: Ashadha Bahula
 Padyami 08:11 pm
 Star: Uttarashadha till 08:01 am and then Sravanan till 3:20 am (early on 24th)
 Varjyam: From 9:34 am to 10:59 am
 Durmuhurtam: From 8:31 am to 9:22 am and then from 11:16 pm to 12 midnight
 Rakshakan: From 3 pm to 4:30 pm

SUNSET TODAY 5:17 PM
 SUNRISE TOMORROW 5:20 AM
 MOONRISE TOMORROW 3:22 PM
 MOONSET TODAY 3:40 PM

'Nitish-for-PM' chorus worsens Bihar BJP crisis

ANAND S.T. DAS
 PATNA, JUL 22

The revolt within the BJP in Bihar worsened on Monday as some of the party's rebel MLAs aligned to senior leader Nitesh Kumar Modi and protesting the resignation of an MLA revival of him came out to open support of chief minister and JDU's stalwart Mr Singh. "The party has become too distant on Narendra Modi while the rest of the Bihar I have no hesitation in saying openly that I am with Nitesh Kumar," he added.

"Bihar's people must vote for the JDU in the next LS polls to ensure the party wins at least 30 out of a total 81 seats so that Nitesh Kumar can become PM," said the rebel MLAs in comments that, according to BJP sources, increased his chances of getting a second term.

Mr Singh, the MLA from Mahakantapur in Saran district, said he preferred Mr Kumar to Mr Narendra Modi as India's next PM and called upon Bihar's people to vote for the JDU in the 2014 LS polls to help Mr Kumar become PM.

"There is no internal democracy in the state BJP," Hapahat MLA Gauri's suspension is extremely unfortunate," said Mr Singh. "The party has become too distant on Narendra Modi while the rest of the Bihar I have no hesitation in saying openly that I am with Nitesh Kumar," he added.

"Bihar's people must vote for the JDU in the next LS polls to ensure the party wins at least 30 out of a total 81 seats so that Nitesh Kumar can become PM," said the rebel MLAs in comments that, according to BJP sources, increased his chances of getting a second term.

Mr Singh, the MLA from Mahakantapur in Saran district, said he preferred Mr Kumar to Mr Narendra Modi as India's next PM and called upon Bihar's people to vote for the JDU in the 2014 LS polls to help Mr Kumar become PM.

Biden on 4-day visit to India

Official sources said the talks would primarily focus on key areas of economic and trade ties, energy and climate change, defence cooperation and a wide range of regional cooperation. Mr Biden is also due to attend a women's empowerment event at IIT Bombay.

US vice-president Joe Biden and his wife Jill, accompanied by Tara Gandhi Shaktacharya, the granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi, during a visit to Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi on Monday.

During his four-day stay, Mr Biden is expected to set out an "ambitious vision" for Indo-US ties.

Congress ahead in race for allies

SAHAJ BASAK
 NEW DELHI, JULY 22

A tactical war has broken out between the Congress and the BJP over the forthcoming 2014 general election. While the Congress is mulling its forces to get a minimum of 100 seats, the BJP is working furiously to achieve a target of a minimum 140 seats. In the coalition era, if the Congress is confident of securing a seat with a minimum of 100 seats, BJP spin doctors feel the party needs at least 140 seats to return to power.

In the assembly game the Congress has already consolidated its ties with the DMK and Jharkhand Mukti Morcha, initiated back-channel talks with the TDP for a joint alliance and with the VCP Congress for a post-poll tie-up. The BJP's trust in Mr Modi's trusted man, BJP general secretary in charge of the state Anand Sharma, with the CII and several business groups, has already begun a task exercise to dislodge him.

While the Congress has begun its exercise to perk up its media management team, the BJP continues to rely on a handful of columnists. The other problem plaguing the surface outfit to project Mr Modi as its PM candidate. There is not only an undercurrent brewing over the move among the senior leaders, a result has also been out in the BJP's Bihar unit.

If the Congress is trying to consolidate the Muslim vote bank, particularly in UP, the BJP's UP leaders are upset at the inter-party talks initiated by Mr Modi's trusted man, BJP general secretary in charge of the state Anand Sharma, with the CII and several business groups, has already begun a task exercise to dislodge him.

Rahul draws red line for outspoken in party

AGE CORRESPONDENT
 NEW DELHI, JULY 22

Congress vice-president Rahul Gandhi on Monday warned that those who go beyond will be asked to leave the party.

"Spokenness and polemics may have their individual views, but as party spokespersons and political personalities at a time when the party line is clear, they should not be asked to leave the party," Mr Gandhi said.

Former Uttar Pradesh Congress MP Shashi Kant Singh said Mr Gandhi's words were timely and necessary.

AICC vice-president Rahul Gandhi arrives for the party conclave in New Delhi on Monday.

Lok Sabha elections are less than a year away. According to insiders, the message was loud and clear for those using the party to promote themselves in the media. Significantly, Mr Gandhi's warning came on the day the party chief proved the members of AICC general secretary Shashi Kant Singh and party MP Shashi Kant Singh had led to the formation of a new outfit.

According to insiders, the message was loud and clear for those using the party to promote themselves in the media. Significantly, Mr Gandhi's warning came on the day the party chief proved the members of AICC general secretary Shashi Kant Singh and party MP Shashi Kant Singh had led to the formation of a new outfit.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Uttarakhand chief minister Vijay Bahuguna inside the flood hit Kedarnath Temple on Monday. Mr Bahuguna visited the shrine along with a team of officials from the Archaeological Survey of India, Engineers (India) Projects Ltd and the Geological Survey of India to come up with an effective plan of action so that regular prayers can be resumed there at the earliest.

BJP: Name Dawood-linked minister

AGE CORRESPONDENT
 MUMBAI, JULY 22

Mumbai BJP president Ashish Shelar on Monday alleged that the security agencies had intercepted fugitive gangster Dawood Ibrahim's phone calls that suggest he is linked to "a minister" in the state government.

Mr Shelar demanded that the state government confirm the authenticity of the CDs of the said conversation and announce the name of the minister.

Mr Shelar made the allegations while participating in discussions in the Legislative Council on the supplementary demands added by the government.

The Mumbai BJP president, a member of the Legislative Council, said while the state is spending big money on keeping Dawood's scheme labourers alive to date, it should also bring out the truth about reports of Dawood's intercepted conversation.

"For the last few days the media is reporting about Dawood Ibrahim's telephone conversation that was intercepted by the security agencies. According to reports, RAW and IB have confirmed Dawood's visit on the face. The gangster is also referring to money paid to a minister. The government should get those CDs tested at FIC, and also prove the name of the said minister," Mr Shelar said on the floor of the Legislative Council.

SC panel for moratorium on Bt food crop trials

New Delhi, July 22: A Supreme Court-appointed committee is bent on recommending a moratorium on field trials for Bt in food crops in the country, contending that there was no definitive information about their long-term safety.

The technical expert committee (TEC) consisting of experts in the fields of molecular biology, biotechnology, safety, biodiversity and agriculture science highlights the inherent problems with GM crops and recommends a cautious approach towards them being approved in the country.

The technical expert committee therefore advises the government to make in the interim report that there should be a moratorium on field trials for Bt in food crops (those that are directly used for food) intended for commercialisation (not research) until more definitive information from even field trials number of studies as to the long-term safety of Bt in food crops. The final report is believed to have been submitted to the Agriculture Minister Shashi Kant Singh on Monday. Mr Singh had previously pointed for GM food, arguing that it was necessary for the growing requirements of the country.

He made the point at a Cabinet meeting while speaking on the Food Security Bill that will provide cheap food for all people of the country's population.

On biotechnology-related Bt crops, the expert committee is bent on recommending a moratorium to have until more definitive information is available. It would most likely exert a highly adverse impact over time on sustainable agriculture, rural livelihoods, and environments. The technical expert committee finds them completely unsuitable in the Indian context.

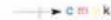
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SPORT

Cricket

20

Kohli-led Team India takes on Zimbabwe in first ODI today




NATION | Politics

2

Congress to target Modi's campaign via social media

NATION | 1993 blasts case

5

Supreme Court dismisses Sanjay Dutt's final plea

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Delhi CM Sheila Dikshit and fashion designer Ritu Kumar at the Association Ladies League's Delhi Women of the Decade Achievers Award Function in New Delhi on Tuesday.

Jeff commander killed in gunfight

Bringer: In what is being termed as a major breakthrough against Islamist militants, the Army and Jammu & Kashmir police's counter-insurgency Special Operations Group on Tuesday killed the 'supernumerary' of Jash-e-Muhammad group in a joint operation carried out in a remote village of the state's Ladole valley close to the Line of Control.

Iron tablets make 879 students sick

Chandigarh: Nearly 880 students, 150 of them girls, suffered from nausea and complained of stomach ache after consuming iron tablets in government schools in several districts of Haryana, officials said on Tuesday. The tablets were given to them as part of Haryana's iron supplementation programme to combat anaemia, they said.

CBI to probe leak in Mulayam case

New Delhi: The CBI on Tuesday ordered an internal inquiry to identify the official who allegedly leaked documents related to the Central agency's probe into the disreputable assets case against Sarwanand Mulayam Singh Yadav and his son Akhilesh Yadav.

CRICKET ON TV

Zimbabwe vs India 1st ODI: Harare 12.30 pm IST Ten Cricket

WEATHER

Max: 32°C
Min: 26°C
RH: 51%
Rainfall: Nil

Forecast: Generally cloudy sky. Rain may occur in some areas.

ASTROLOGUE

Vijaya: Dakshinayana Tithi: Akshaya Suktika Vijaya till 4.56 pm. Star: Dhanyusta till 1.04 am (Wednesday). Varjaya: From 6.57 am to 8.24 am. Durmuhurta: 11.56 am to 12.48 pm. Rakshakal: From 12 noon to 1.33 pm.

SUNSET TODAY: 5.19 PM
SUNRISE TOMORROW: 5.19 AM
MOONRISE TOMORROW: 1.36 PM
MOONSET TODAY: 1.35 AM

First glimpse of Britain's future king

William says 'we are working on a name' for the royal baby; British bookies predict George, Alexander and James as the favourites

In a first, the birth of the royal baby was announced via Twitter

Mystics in India made the prediction that Britain's new prince will one day stand for elected office



Prince William and Catherine show their newborn baby boy to the media outside St Mary's Hospital in London on Tuesday. The baby, born 4.24 pm GMT Monday and weighing 8 pounds 6 ounces, is third in line for the British throne.

As controversy rages, Shakeel meets Sonia

Cong man does it again, calls BJP 'terror symbol'

AGI CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 23

A day after Congress vice-president Shashi Gandhi had urged party leaders not to stray from the party line, AGI's Shakeel met Sonia on Tuesday to discuss the BJP's high-powered election coordination committee headed by Rahul Gandhi for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

AGI's general secretary Shakeel Ahmed met party chief Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday to discuss the BJP's high-powered election coordination committee headed by Rahul Gandhi for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Shakeel met Sonia Gandhi on Tuesday to discuss the BJP's high-powered election coordination committee headed by Rahul Gandhi for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Maken, CP Joshi in Rahul's team

New Delhi: The Congress on Tuesday brought in senior leaders C.P. Joshi and Ajay Maken into the party's high-powered election coordination committee headed by Rahul Gandhi for the 2014 Lok Sabha polls.

Maken, CP Joshi in Rahul's team

15.3% drop in poverty since 2004

MUMBAI, JULY 23

India's poverty ratio has declined sharply by 15.3 per cent to 20.13 from 37.3 per cent in 2004, when the CPIA came to power at the Centre after defeating the NDA.

Poverty data released by the Planning Commission on Tuesday incidentally used the same Tendulkar method that the government had used in March 2012 after a huge controversy.

Biden meets PM; discusses trade, Afghan PM, Obama plan to meet in September

AGI CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 23

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is likely to have a one-to-one meeting with US Vice President Joe Biden during a six-day visit to the United States, when he will also attend the UN General Assembly session. Mr Singh is expected to arrive in the US on September 20, but it was officially clarified late on Tuesday night that he does not have a meeting with Mr Obama before the plan for a bilateral Singh-Obama meeting.



US vice president Joe Biden (above) with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh during a meeting at 7 Race Course Road in New Delhi. Mr Biden's wife Jill (below) poses at the Taj Mahal in Agra on Tuesday.

64 MPs to US: Stick to Modi ban

AGI CORRESPONDENT NEW DELHI, JULY 23

While BJP president Rajnath Singh is trying to persuade the US government to lift its ban on granting US visas to Congress CM Narendra Modi, a group of 64 MPs from both Houses has reportedly urged Washington to continue to deny Mr Modi a visa.

While BJP president Rajnath Singh is trying to persuade the US government to lift its ban on granting US visas to Congress CM Narendra Modi, a group of 64 MPs from both Houses has reportedly urged Washington to continue to deny Mr Modi a visa.



Shotgun for Advani at BJP 'helm'

PATNA, July 23: A day after Madhya Pradesh CM Shivraj Singh Chautabhai held a "helmet" as BJP's supreme leader, another 'vice' of support for the party patriarch came when on Tuesday Shrinigraha Sinha described him as the "most seasoned and mature" leader who must be at the "helm of affairs".

Mr Sinha also appeared to lend his support to statements of discontent in the party over promotion of the Gujarat CM as possible prime ministerial candidate saying it was deep. Through Parliamentary Board "I would be glad."

"I will maintain that Narendra Modi, though he is very popular. The kind of hype that has been created through media and social media has been very successful," he said. "If he has been projected as prime minister after Parliamentary Board meeting, it would be a great thing. But the rider on that rider point of view, Advani should be at the helm of affairs."

Mr Sinha said. Asked if Mr Advani should be in the race for prime ministerial candidates, he said, "there couldn't be a better person than him in terms of statesmanship." —PTI



EARTH PHOTOGRAMS

In this NASA handout image taken on Friday, the camera on NASA's Cassini spacecraft has captured Saturn's rings and Earth and its moon in the same frame. Earth, which is 1.44 billion km away in this image, appears as a blue dot at centre right; the moon can be seen as a fainter protrusion off its right side. An arrow indicates their location in the annotated version. It is only one footprint in a mosaic of 33 footprints covering the entire Saturn ring system (including Saturn itself). This is the only wide-angle footprint that has the Earth, moon system in it. The images were obtained with the Cassini spacecraft's wide-angle camera at a distance of approximately 1.217 million km from Saturn, and around 1.44 billion km from Earth. —AFP

Jhumpa's novel on Bengal Naxals on Booker longlist

SARAJU KALL, LONDON, JULY 23

Indian origin Pulitzer Prize winner, Jhumpa Lahiri's new book, 'The Inheritance of Loss', was on Tuesday 'longlisted' for this year's Booker Prize.

Indian poet-writer Jhumpa Lahiri's debut novel 'The Inheritance of Loss' has made the shortlist of the prestigious £50,000 award last year, but the prize eventually went to Hilary Mantel in a rare Booker double for being 'Up the Beat'.

The shortlist of six books will be announced on September 10. The six writers on the shortlist will each get £2,500 and designer-bound edition of his/her book. The winner will receive a further £50,000.

London born Jhumpa Lahiri, 40, who had earlier written 'The Interpreter of Maladies' (1998), 'The Namesake' (2003), and 'Unaccustomed Earth' (2008), has in her new novel focused on West Bengal's Naxalite movement in the late 1960s and its impact on the lives of two brothers.

No India-based writer has made the list this year.

GOLF WAS NEVER A FINER CORPORATE STATEMENT.

Curtis Accutella addresses American Bobby Jones' achievement of winning the Golf Grand Slam in 1930 with a Limited Edition Pen. The limited edition pen which symbolizes success has a solid sterling silver oval-toned fountain pen-style golf scores. It is available as a fountain pen, ball pen or a capped ballpoint and is a choice of green or black resin. Priced at a luxury 10K with Limited Edition certificate, the pen says it all. To see, touch and experience the wonderful creation, drop by at US\$100.



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Coverage:**



**India
News**

**Indo Asian
Services
US Vice
focus on four
with India
By: Aran
20, 2013**



**News
President to
key areas
Kumar/July**

Visiting India
deepen ties
strategic
Vice President
will focus on
economic
energy and
defence and
cooperation.
obviously a
increasingly so
Pacific

Monday to
with a
partner, US
Joe **BIDEN**
four key areas -
cooperation,
climate,
regional
"India is
key player and
in the Asia
region," a



senior administration official said in a White House teleconference call Friday ahead of the trip aimed at outlining the US vision of moving forward with its policy of Asia Pacific rebalance.

"The overarching goal is to tie together all nations of the Asia Pacific from India to the western shores of Americas through strong partnerships, institutional alliances and rules of the road," he said of the trip that would also take **BIDEN** to Singapore.

On economic cooperation, **BIDEN** "will focus on issues from investment policy to intellectual property and speak to how we can work together to fill the goal between where we are today and where we can be," the official said.

On energy and climate, the vice president "will speak to the work that we need to do together to realise the promise of the civil nuclear agreement" as also the work they should be doing together on addressing the global challenge of climate change, he said.

Noting that India and the US have built a strong foundation in defence cooperation and sales in the past few years, the official said **BIDEN** will talk about "how we can build an even stronger edifice and deepen cooperation going forward.

"The vice president's "full and formidable agenda" will also cover the "wide range of regional cooperation that the US and India have embarked upon both in South Asia and East Asia relating to maritime security and terrorism to our work together in the institutions of the Asia Pacific."

BIDEN, who will be accompanied by spouse Jill **BIDEN**, will begin the four-day trip with a visit to the Gandhi Smirti Museum to show his respect both to Mahatma Gandhi and to India's modern history

.On Tuesday he will meet with Vice President Hamid Ansari, opposition Bhartiya Janata Party leader Sushma Swaraj and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

He will also call on President Pranab Mukherjee, and then attend a dinner hosted by Ansari, "along with an array of Indian officials and folks from the private sector."

Travelling to Mumbai Wednesday, he'll deliver a policy speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange and hold a roundtable with business leaders.

BIDEN will hold a women's empowerment event at the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai Thursday before departing for Singapore.

While **BIDEN** is engaged in official business in New Delhi, spouse Jill **BIDEN**, will make a quick trip to Agra to do a health and nutrition event in Kachhupura community in Agra and see the Taj Mahal.

Times of India

US welcomes India's rise: Joe BIDEN

By: Srijana Mitra Das/July 21, 2013

American Vice-President Joseph **BIDEN** arrives in India today, on a four-day trip that covers a wide range of bilateral issues, regional concerns — and shared possibilities. In an exclusive interview with the Times of India, Vice-President **BIDEN** told Srijana Mitra Das some of the topics leading his agenda, including America's interest in India's economy, the US-India civil nuclear deal, India's 'Look East' policy and its role in Afghanistan. Vice-President **BIDEN** also addressed Indian concerns about work visas to the US, China's role in this region and America's view of Pakistan — and the Taliban:

Please tell us about your visit to India?

I'm really looking forward to this visit. It's my first to India as vice-president. The last time i came here was about five years ago, when i was still in the Senate. Since then, the bilateral relationship has grown even stronger and the range of projects and areas on which we cooperate is wide and deep.

Our two nations are striving to make progress and this relationship plays a really important role in that, as it should. The message that i'll carry to India — both in my official meetings with the president, vice-president and prime minister, and in my conversations with Indian society — is that our two countries must continue to aspire to the promise of prosperity and security, and that delivering on that promise is something we can do together, through our bilateral cooperation.

I also look forward to talking about these issues in the context of the broader Asia-Pacific region — we see India's 'Look East' policy as an

important element in regional cooperation, one that serves our common interests and values, and i have some ideas about strengthening our cooperation in the region that i plan to share.

Regarding regional dynamics, do you see both China and the Taliban becoming more significant players here?

India, China and the United States are all important players in the Asia-Pacific region. We all have important voices and the responsibility to strive for peace, cooperation and prosperity. Our countries should work together to advance our common economic and security interests. China shares borders and interests with South and Central Asia — it has a real stake in regional cooperation.

Regarding the Taliban's future role, we have been clear that if the Taliban are to have any role in Afghanistan's political future, they will need to break ties with al-Qaida, stop supporting violence and accept the Afghan Constitution as part of the outcomes of any negotiated peace settlement.

Our goal is for Afghans to be talking to Afghans about how they can move forward, end the violence and start rebuilding their country. As President Obama has said, our partnership with Afghanistan will continue — as will our shared goal to disrupt, dismantle and defeat al-Qaida and ensure that Afgha-nistan can never again become a safe haven for terrorists.

How would you see US-Pakistan ties evolving, especially considering concerns on both sides, over drone attacks and over dynamics with extremist groups?

We are encouraged by Pakistan's recent elections, which marked the first time a civilian government has completed its term and transferred power democratically to another civi-lian government. Our two countries have many areas of common interest and the US looks forward to working with the government of Pakistan on a shared agenda — that includes countering terrorism, holding accountable those responsible for terrorist

attacks, supporting Pakistan's economic growth and maintaining close consultations on a range of regional issues, including a secure and peaceful future for Afghanistan.

As Prime Minister Sharif has said, we will seek to expand our areas of convergence and narrow areas of divergence.

Which aspects of the US-India relationship are most significant to America — and how do you see ties developing, with America's exit from Afghanistan approaching?

The United States and India cooperate on a wide range of economic, security and regional issues. India's rise as a global economic power is one of the most powerful stories of the 21st century. The United States has welcomed India's emergence and both nations have profited from it — annual trade is five times larger than it was in 2000, on track for \$100 billion this year.

But we all understand that we can do more to grow together. For example, we can look at ways to meet India's energy demand, both by cooperating on clean energy research and civil nuclear power.

Our security and counterterrorism cooperation is vitally important, not only to the security of our citizens and our economies, but to our global stability. The United States was proud that the Indian Air Force was able to use C-130J aircraft manufactured in the United States to provide relief supplies to the victims of flooding in Uttarakhand last month. And we've joined with India and other countries to counter piracy in the Gulf of Aden. India has also long been one of the world's largest providers of United Nations peacekeepers.

When it comes down to it, our countries share the same democratic values and we have a tremendous capability to work together in the region and around the globe. That's what we've done — and it's what we'll continue to do.

On the region, with a dynamic economy and a market of 1.2 billion, India is the economic hub of South Asia and plays a significant role in helping to integrate the region. We strongly support the role India has played in Afghanistan, leveraging its economic strength to improve Afghanistan's economy — for example, India has provided more than \$2 billion in development assistance, and billions more in private sector investment in projects that will help to ensure our common goal of a stable and prosperous future for the Afghan people.

How would you regard the concerns of Indians about proposed curbs on the immigration of skilled professionals for work to the USA?

The Senate Bill under discussion has provisions that could benefit Indian workers seeking employment in the US. For example, the Bill would nearly triple the number of H-1B visas for skilled workers — since almost 60% of H-1B holders are from India, we anticipate that the expansion of this programme will certainly benefit many skilled Indian workers.

In fact, because the Senate Bill would so dramatically increase the ceiling on H-1Bs, many more Indian university graduates will be able to work on a temporary basis in the US, gaining new skills that they will bring back to India.

A wider question — what will be some of the most significant legacies of the Obama-**BIDEN** leadership?

It's hard to define your legacy before the job is over and it's something that historians are certainly better suited to than i am! But i will say that our goals, when we first came into office, were to reverse the financial crisis we inherited, to do everything we could to give the middle class the opportunity to succeed, to restore our standing around the world, to end the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and to take the fight to al-Qaida.

At this point, about halfway through our time in the White House, i think

we've made significant progress.

We rescued our American automobile industry from bankruptcy, made college more affordable for middle-class families, expanded access to affordable healthcare to tens of millions of Americans, and created more than seven million jobs in the process.

We also restored our global reputation, ended the war in Iraq responsibly, are on track to end the war in Afghanistan next year — and made al-Qaida central far weaker and far less capable of attacking nations around the world.

The winding down of two wars has allowed us to turn to opportunities that reflect the realities of a fast-changing world. That has led us to elevate our engagement across the Asia-Pacific, from India to the Americas. And i believe we are making progress in tying together a broad-based Pacific community that can deli-ver prosperity and security for all nations — that is one reason why i am making this visit to India.

There's still more to do, both at home and abroad — but i think it's fair to say we've come a long, long way.

The Hindu

Economic policy the battleground as BIDEN arrives in India

By: Narayan Lakshman/July 21, 2013

The first visit by a U.S. Vice President to India in nearly 30 years will be marked by an intensifying disagreements over economic policy, it became apparent this week, as senior administration officials suggested that Joseph **BIDEN** would flag the U.S.' interest in seeing further economic liberalisation in certain Indian sectors and explain why U.S. policies on H-1B visas would be beneficial to Indian companies.

Mr. **BIDEN**, who will kick off a four-day visit to India on Monday beginning with a symbolic visit to the Gandhi Smirti Museum in New Delhi, will “raise

the concerns” that Washington has regarding “further [increasing] American investment in India” and “about India’s need to provide adequate protection of intellectual property in key sectors [and] the importance of a stable and predictable tax regime.”

Simultaneously, officials said in a background call with media here, Mr. **BIDEN** would underscore the Obama administration’s view on immigration reform policies, that the bill in the U.S. Senate that dramatically raises the H-1B visa application fee and introduces other tightening measures on firms employing a bulk of workers under this category actually “will very much benefit Indian workers seeking employment in the U.S.”

An official said that this bill would “nearly triple the number of H-1B visas for skilled workers,” and this means if the bill passes into law then Indian university graduates would be able to work on a temporary basis in the U.S., “gaining new skills that in some cases they will bring back to India.”

However, the White House admitted, some firms that had structured their workforce to “rely heavily on H-1B employees” would, under the terms of this bill, have to “take another look at certain aspects of their business model.”

Overall Mr. **BIDEN**’s trip, which will include meetings with Indian counterpart Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, with President Pranabh Mukherjee and Sushma Swaraj of the BJP on July 23, will focus on four areas of cooperation: economic cooperation, energy and climate, defence and regional cooperation in South and East Asia.

Under the umbrella of energy cooperation, the India-U.S. civil nuclear agreement will remain “firmly in [Mr. **BIDEN**’s] crosshairs,” during the visit, it was made clear. The U.S. will, notwithstanding the efforts New Delhi has made to facilitate progress with the pre-early works agreement with Westinghouse, explain that it still perceives the “liability problem,” as “an issue.”

Accompanied by his wife, Dr. Jill **BIDEN**, who will seek to infuse a new energy into bilateral collaborations in health and education cooperation

while she is here, Mr. **BIDEN** will emphasise the people-to-people and business connections between India and the U.S., officials noted, and his agenda will include meetings with numerous corporate leaders, a policy speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange on July 24, and a women's empowerment event IIT Mumbai on July 25.

Press Trust of India

US vice-president Joe BIDEN on maiden visit to India to bolster ties July 22, 2013

(Note: Published online by Times of India)

In his first official visit to India after assuming office in 2009, US vice-president Joe **BIDEN** arrived here today on a four-day trip aimed at bolstering ties in key sectors of trade, energy, defence and security.

During his stay in India, **BIDEN** will hold meetings with top Indian leadership, including President Pranab Mukherjee and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

BIDEN, accompanied by his wife Jill, was received at the airport here by foreign secretary Ranjan Mathai and Indian envoy to the US Nirupama Rao.

Official sources said the focus will be on four key areas of economic and trade ties, energy and climate change, defence co-operation and a wide range of regional co-operation.

BIDEN, 70, had visited New Delhi in 2008 as a senator. He will also hold talks with Vice-President Hamid Ansari and leader of opposition Sushma Swaraj.

BIDEN, who wanted to travel to India in the first term itself, began his trip with a visit to the Gandhi Smriti Museum to show his respect to the father of the nation.

All his meetings have been scheduled for July 23, at the end of which he would attend a dinner hosted in his honour by Ansari.

BIDEN would spend the next two days - July 24 and 25 - in Mumbai, where he would meet business leaders at a round table and deliver a policy speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange.

He is expected to set up an "ambitious vision" for India- US relationship, in addition to attending a women's empowerment event at IIT Mumbai.

He would leave for Singapore on July 25. All this while, Jill would hold a series of health and nutritional events in New Delhi and Mumbai and visit the Taj Mahal in Agra.

BIDEN, however, would not be visiting the Taj Mahal. The US vice-president, while speaking at the prestigious George Washington University last week had said, "One of the reasons why President (Barack) Obama called our relations with India, quote, 'a defining partnership of the century ahead' is that India is increasingly looking east as a force for security and growth in Southeast Asia and beyond".

Press Trust of India

US Vice President BIDEN leaves for India

By: Lalit K. Jha /July 22, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** today left for a rare vice presidential trip to India for the first leg of his visit to the Asia-Pacific region.

Accompanied by his wife Jill, **BIDEN** is scheduled to arrive at New Delhi this evening, after which he will visit Gandhi Smriti, a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi.

BIDEN will meet top leaders in New Delhi and address business and student community in Mumbai, before leaving for Singapore for the last leg of his week-long trip.

In Mumbai, he will deliver a speech on US-India relations and meet the business community and students.

"This trip will be an important opportunity to strengthen our partnerships within the region and reaffirm our commitment to re-balancing US foreign policy towards the Asia-Pacific," the White House said.

BIDEN's visit is expected to lay ground work for the US visit of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in September-October, during which he is expected to hold meetings with President Barack Obama.

According to the White House, **BIDEN** will begin his official meetings tomorrow with his Indian counterpart Ansari.

He will also meet the US Embassy staff in New Delhi.

BIDEN will meet President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other leaders to discuss India-US engagement on a broad array of issues includes economic growth, trade, energy and climate change, security and investments in innovation and education.

In his meetings with the top leaders, **BIDEN** is likely to discuss host of bilateral, regional and global issues, besides emphasising on closer cooperation to harness economic and strategic opportunities, the White House said.

The US Vice President is then scheduled to call on Leader of Opposition Sushma Swaraj, before having a one-to-one dialogue with Prime Minister Singh at his official residence.

BIDEN will meet President Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhawan and take part in the dinner to be hosted by Vice President Ansari at the Hyderabad House, before leaving for Mumbai.

His wife Jill will visit USAID 'Health of the Urban Poor' programme in Kachhpura, Agra, where she will interact with the workers and volunteers. She will also visit the Taj Mahal.

In Mumbai, **BIDEN** will deliver remarks on the US-India partnership at the Bombay Stock Exchange, which will be streamed live. Later, he is scheduled to meet the Indian business, trade and investment leaders.

On Thursday, **BIDEN** is scheduled to meet with the women staff of the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT), Bombay.

The Vice President will also tour IIT's research and education facilities to know about innovative programmes and research in the areas of nanotechnology and earth sciences.

The US Vice President will leave for Singapore from Mumbai on July 25.

Meanwhile, Jill **BIDEN**, on Wednesday, will visit the DILAASA Crisis Intervention Center at K B Bhabha Municipal Hospital. DILAASA is India's first hospital based anti-Gender Based Violence (GBV) centre.

BIDEN will tour the facility and meet the hospital officials, local and regional representatives, and the representatives of DILAASA's NGO partner CEHAT.

On Thursday she will visit the Anjuman-i-Islam's Saif Tyabji Girls School, an all-girls Muslim school founded in 1938 that caters to as many as 5,500 students.

UPI

BIDEN begins visit to India with visit at Gandhi memorial July 22, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** began his tour of India Monday at a memorial to Mohandas Gandhi, who led India's non-violent move to freedom from British rule.

"What a high honor and great privilege to be here in this sacred spot -- memorializing one man who changed the world," he wrote in the visitor's book at Gandhi Smriti, where the man known to the world as Mahatma Gandhi was assassinated in January 1948.

BIDEN was greeted by Gandhi granddaughter Tara Gandhi along with the director of the Gandhi Smriti and Darshan Samiti.

"My nation was changed as well by Gandhi's teachings -- when Dr. [Martin] King emulated them to free not only black men and women, but all Americans," **BIDEN** said of the leader of America's civil rights movement.

BIDEN is expected to discuss a range of issues with Indian leaders, including economic growth trade, energy and climate change, security and investments. He is expected to meet with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, President Pranab Mukherji, as well as other senior leaders.

Ahead of his arrival, **BIDEN** told The Times of India bilateral relations between India and the United States have grown stronger since his last visit as a senator.

"The message that I'll carry to India -- both in my official meetings with the president, vice president and prime minister, and in my conversations with Indian society -- is that our two countries must continue to aspire to the promise of prosperity and security, and that delivering on that promise is something we can do together, through our bilateral cooperation," **BIDEN** said.

India, China and the United States are important players in the Asia-Pacific region, **BIDEN** said, with the responsibility of striving for peace, cooperation and prosperity.

"Our countries should work together to advance our common economic and security interests," **BIDEN** told The Times. "China shares borders and interests with South and Central Asia -- it has a real stake in regional cooperation."

BIDEN said the United States was encouraged by Pakistan's recent elections, marking the first time a civilian government has completed its term and transferred power democratically to another civilian government.

The United States welcomes India's emergence as a power, noting that annual trade is five times greater now than it was in 2000 and is on track to hit \$100 billion this year, **BIDEN** said.

"India's rise as a global economic power is one of the most powerful stories of the 21st century," **BIDEN** said, noting that there was much the two countries could do to grow together in areas of energy, counter-terrorism cooperation and global security.

"When it comes down to it, our countries share the same democratic values and we have a tremendous capability to work together in the region and around the globe," he said. "That's what we've done -- and it's what we'll continue to do."

Asian News International

BIDEN, his wife Jill to reach India by evening

July 22, 2013

(Note: published online by Hindustan Times among others)

United States vice-president Joe **BIDEN** will arrive at New Delhi by Monday evening. He will be accompanied by his wife Jill.

They will first visit Gandhi Smriti, a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi.

He will meet President Pranab Mukherjee, vice-president Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other leaders to discuss India-US engagement on a broad array of issues including economic growth, trade, energy and climate change, security and investments in innovation and education.

The US vice-president will then call on the leader of the opposition Sushma Swaraj, before having a one-to-one dialogue with Prime Minister Singh at his official residence.

BIDEN will meet President Mukherjee at the Rashtrapati Bhawan and take part in a dinner to be hosted by vice president Ansari at Hyderabad House, before leaving for Mumbai.

He will address the business and student communities in Mumbai and leave for Singapore for the last leg of his week-long trip.

In Mumbai, he will deliver a speech on US-India relations and meet the business community and students.

"This trip will be an important opportunity to strengthen our partnerships within the region and reaffirm our commitment to re-balancing US foreign policy towards the Asia-Pacific," the White House said.

Asian News International

BIDEN arrives in India on four day state visit

July 22, 2013

(Note: Published online by Yahoo! News, SiFy, MSN India among others)

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived here Monday on a four-day state visit, during which he will interact with the Indian leadership on a variety of issues of mutual interest to the two countries, address captains of Indian industry, the student community and American embassy staff.

BIDEN, who is being accompanied by his wife Jill, and a senior officials of the Obama administration, was received by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, India's Ambassador to Washington Nirupama Rao and other senior officials in the technical area of the Indira Gandhi International Airport (IGIA)

He is the first U.S. vice-president to visit India after three decades.

Soon after his arrival in the Indian capital, the American vice president is scheduled to go to Rajghat, the memorial of Mahatma Gandhi, to pay homage and tribute to the Father of the Nation and to Gandhi Smriti, a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi.

The official part of **BIDEN's** visit will begin Tuesday, when he meets top leaders in New Delhi.

BIDEN will call on President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other leaders to discuss India-U.S. engagement on a broad array of issues, including ways to enhance economic growth, and cooperation in trade, energy and climate change,

security and strategic opportunities, besides investments in innovation and education.

He will also address staff at the U.S. Embassy in New Delhi.

In Mumbai, **BIDEN** will deliver a speech on U.S.-India relations and meet the business community and students on Wednesday.

He then leaves for Singapore for the final leg of his nearly week-long trip.

"This trip will be an important opportunity to strengthen our partnerships within the region and reaffirm our commitment to re-balancing US foreign policy towards the Asia-Pacific," the White House had said earlier before **BIDEN's** departure for India.

His visit to India is expected to lay the ground work for a visit to the United States of Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in September-October, during which he is expected to hold meetings with President Barack Obama.

Indo Asian News Services

US Vice President Joe BIDEN arrives in India

July 22, 2013

(Note: Published online by NY Daily News, Yahoo! News, The New Indian Express, India Today and MSN India among others.)

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in India Monday on a four-day visit, the second high-level visit by the US in a month aimed at keeping up the momentum in bilateral ties.

BIDEN, who is accompanied by his wife Jill, was received by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai as his aircraft landed at the Indian Air Force station, Palam.

The visit by the US vice president, his first since his swearing-in, is expected to lay the groundwork for the visit in September by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the US. US Secretary of State John Kerry had visited India June 23-25.

Enhanced economic cooperation, defence, energy, nuclear and regional issues are expected to be on the table when **BIDEN** meets Prime Minister Manmohan Singh Tuesday for talks. There will be no delegation-level talks.

Ahead of the visit, the White House held an extensive background teleconference announcing the visit on July 19.

"I think you can expect the vice president to set out an ambitious vision for the US-India relationship, looking not just at the months ahead or the years ahead, but the decades ahead. And in particular, I think he will highlight all of the areas of potential - the economic potential of our relationship," a White House official said.

BIDEN has said he wants to see an acceleration in bilateral trade, which is on track to touch \$100 billion this year.

BIDEN and his wife are to visit Gandhi Smriti, a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, after their arrival.

He is to call on President Pranab Mukherjee, meet Vice President Hamid Ansari, United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sushma Swaraj on Tuesday.

He leaves for Mumbai Tuesday evening, where he is to address the business community and students. He departs Mumbai Thursday for Singapore on the last leg of his week-long trip.

In Mumbai, he will deliver a speech on US-India relations and meet the business community and students.

"This trip will be an important opportunity to strengthen our partnerships within the region and reaffirm our commitment to re-balancing US foreign policy towards the Asia-Pacific," the White House said.

BIDEN will attend a dinner to be hosted by Vice President Ansari at Hyderabad House on Tuesday, before leaving for Mumbai.

AFP

BIDEN on visit to fire up US-India ties

July 22, 2013

(Note: Published online by MSN India)

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** was due in India Monday at the start of a four-day visit designed to revive momentum in flagging diplomatic ties and fire up bilateral trade.

BIDEN, the first vice president to visit India in three decades, will meet senior leaders including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi before heading to the financial hub Mumbai to deliver a keynote speech on the economy.

In an interview published in Monday's Times of India newspaper, **BIDEN** said the world's two biggest democracies had a "tremendous capability to work together" but should be doing more.

He also emphasised that he wanted to see an acceleration in bilateral trade, which he said was on track to meet \$100 billion this year.

"The United States has welcomed India's emergence and both nations have profited from it," the vice president said.

"India's rise as a global economic power is one of the most powerful stories of the 21st century," he added.

The announcement of **BIDEN**'s visit was made during a trip to India last month by Secretary of State John Kerry, who sought to assuage Indian fears about the aftermath of next year's withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan.

India, which has spent more than two billion dollars of aid in Afghanistan, fears any return of the Taliban, hardline Islamists who were strong allies of Pakistan before being toppled in 2001.

Nascent talks between the US and Taliban were due to start last month after the Islamists opened an office in Doha, but they collapsed before even getting off the ground.

In his meeting with Indian leaders, **BIDEN** is expected to reiterate that the US will not back any peace process involving the Taliban unless they renounce violence.

"If the Taliban are to have any role in Afghanistan's political future, they will need to break ties with al-Qaeda, stop supporting violence and accept the Afghan constitution as part of the outcomes of any negotiated peace settlement," he told the Times of India.

"We strongly support the role India has played in Afghanistan, leveraging its economic strength to improve Afghanistan's economy ...in projects that will help to ensure our common goal of a stable and prosperous future for the Afghan people," he added.

BIDEN will fly on Wednesday to Mumbai where he is expected to hold a roundtable with business leaders and press for stronger intellectual property protection.

While bilateral trade has grown in recent years, there is still widespread frustration among US business leaders over what they see as unfair trading practices.

Among the points of contention is India's championing of generic drugs -- which advocates say save lives in poor nations -- despite protests from Western drug firms.

India in turn has been alarmed by proposals in the US Congress to curb visas for high-tech workers.

India's Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Commerce Minister Anand Sharma were both in Washington last week to pitch for investment and discuss India's readiness to open talks on a bilateral investment treaty.

"Economic engagement in both trade and investment, though robust, is well below potential, given the opportunities a growing economy like India offers and the opportunities in the largest economy of the United States," Sharma said.

BIDEN will be the most senior administration official to visit India since President Barack Obama visited in 2010.

While the US has been among the world powers calling for India to be given a permanent seat at the UN Security Council, observers detect a sense of drift in ties.

"India is a natural ally of the US but... relations require greasing occasionally because insecurities have crept in, especially on the Indian side," Subhash Agrawal, of the Delhi-based think tank India Focus, told AFP.

BIDEN will head from India to Singapore on Thursday, where officials say he will tackle tensions over the disputed South China Sea.

News Track India

US Vice President Joe BIDEN arrives in India on a 4-day visit July 22, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in India on Monday on a four-day visit to enhance economic cooperation, defense, energy, nuclear and regional issues. **BIDEN**, who is accompanied by his wife Jill, was received by Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai as his aircraft landed at the Indian Air Force station, Palam.

This is the second high-level visit by the US in a month aimed at keeping up the momentum in bilateral ties.

BIDEN and his wife visited Rajghat, to pay homage and tribute to Mahatma Gandhi.

The visit by the US vice president, his first since his swearing-in, is expected to lay the groundwork for the visit in September by Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh to the US. US Secretary of State John Kerry had visited India June 23-25.

BIDEN will meet PM Manmohan, President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari, United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi and Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader Sushma Swaraj on Tuesday.

BIDEN has said he wants to see acceleration in bilateral trade, which is on track to touch \$100 billion this year.

He will then leave for Mumbai in the evening, where he is to deliver a speech on US-India relations and meet the business community and students.

Press Trust of India

US vice-president Joe BIDEN on maiden visit to India to bolster ties July 22, 2013

((Note: Published online by Economic Times)

More than 40 American business organisations today asked US Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, who is on a visit to India, to raise with the Indian leadership their concerns over the country's trade and intellectual property protection policies.

In a letter to the Vice President, these organisations outlined how India is allegedly imposing regulations that restrict US industries' ability to compete against the country's unfair advantage and have failed to respect internationally recognised intellectual property rights.

Notably, the Indian Government has strongly defended its policies and has denied allegations of not providing level playing field to the US businesses.

The organisations under the banner of recently formed, Alliance for Fair Trade with India (AFTI), noted that if these actions are allowed to continue without a response from the US, other countries could emulate India's self-defeating economic strategy.

BIDEN arrived in New Delhi today on a four-day trip aimed at bolstering ties in key sectors of trade, energy, defence and security.

Before **BIDEN's** trip, a senior Administration official had said that economic policies is one of the top priorities for the Vice President in his meetings with the Indian leaders.

"Many US companies are facing serious issues doing business in India that currently limit the potential of that relationship," the letter said.

These issues are systemic, going far beyond any one industry sector, it said.

In the manufacturing, agriculture, telecommunications, biopharmaceutical, solar energy, entertainment, semi-conductor, and other sectors, many companies face measures that are discriminatory, unfair, and/or inconsistent with international norms, the companies said in the letter.

Noting that last week's announcement regarding a review of India's Preferential Market Access (PMA) policy related to information and communications technology equipment is a step in the right direction, the AFTI said the measure does not fully resolve the PMA issue, since the policy has not been permanently and beneficially reformed, nor does it address the range of other concerns that have been voiced.

The letter alleged that Indian tax authorities increasingly are imposing discriminatory taxes on US multinationals, making US businesses less competitive and triggering expensive litigation to resolve tax controversies.

New Delhi is also failing to respect intellectual property rights by denying, breaking, or revoking patents on agricultural products and nearly a dozen medicines for the purpose of enabling domestic companies to manufacture them in India, often for export, to the disadvantage of American companies and American workers, the letter said.

"US businesses are eager to partner with India in growing the country's economy for our mutual benefit, but they cannot do so if the Indian government follows a course of discrimination, inadequate enforcement, and unfair treatment," it said.

"With the overwhelming support from Congress and critical US industries, the vice president has a unique opportunity to show the administration's commitment to protecting US innovative and creative sectors by raising this important issue during his high-level meetings in India," said Mark Elliot, a co-chair of AFTI and the executive vice president of the US Chamber of Commerce's Global Intellectual Property Center.

"American businesses want to continue to invest in India, but not at the expense of American workers and economic progress," said Linda Dempsey, a co-chair of AFTI and the National Association of Manufacturers Association (NAM) vice president for International Economic Affairs.

Business organisations that signed the letter include: The National Association of Manufacturers, US Chamber of Commerce, American Foundry Society, Association of Equipment Manufacturers, INDA, Association of the NonWoven Fabrics Industry, Biotechnology Industry Association, California Manufacturers & Technology Association, CropLife America and Motion Picture Association of America.

The National Electrical Manufacturers Association, Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America, Recording Industry Association of America, Solar Energy Industries Association, and the Telecommunications Industry Association, were also among the companies who urged **BIDEN** to take up their cause during his India visit.

The Hindu

Monkeys keep BIDEN's security on their toes

July 23, 2013

Monkeys gave a tough time to security and police personnel during United States Vice-President Joe **BIDEN**'s visit to Gandhi Smriti to pay tribute to the father of the nation.

Mr. **BIDEN**, his wife Jill, daughter and son-in-law headed straight from the airport to the Gandhi Memorial House at Tees January Marg and spent about one-and-a-half hours at the place.

Even before he arrived at the memorial, the Delhi Police personnel, who were coordinating the security arrangements of the VIP along with the Secret Service Agents of the U.S. administration, had a tough time sanitising the open area around Gandhiji's statue, where the U.S. Vice-President was supposed to pose for shutterbugs.

A group of monkeys swooped on the trees, nibbling on raw mangoes and dropping the fruits right where Mr. **BIDEN** was to stand.

Indo Asian News Services

Sushma Swaraj meets BIDEN, discusses H1B issue, avoids Modi visa issue

July 23, 2013

Leader of opposition in the Lok Sabha Sushma Swaraj on Tuesday met US Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, and discussed the issue of H1B visas given to professionals.

"I had a very good meeting with Mr Joe **BIDEN**, Vice President, United States of America this afternoon," Swaraj said on her Twitter account.

"Amongst other issues, I raised the issue of Totalization agreement and H1B Visa to Indian professionals," the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) leader said.

H1B is the US visa for high-skilled foreign labour. The US recently passed a bill that overhauls the H1B provision, severely impacting Indian tech firms operating in the US such as Infosys, Wipro, TCS and Satyam Mahindra.

Vice President **BIDEN** arrived in India Monday on a four-day visit aimed at boosting bilateral strategic ties.

However, Swaraj refrained from discussing the lifting of ban on American visa to Gujarat chief minister Narendra Modi.

Indo Asian News Services

Nuclear deal, trade on agenda as BIDEN, PM meet July 23, 2013

India and the US Tuesday discussed how to take forward the commercial aspects of the civil nuclear deal and enhance economic ties as US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh here Tuesday.

BIDEN, who arrived here Monday on a four-day visit, met Manmohan Singh for around an hour at the Prime Minister's House at 7, Race Course Road.

Both sides "discussed the synergies between India and US on a wide variety of issues and emphasized the importance the bilateral relationship has".

The prime minister "underlined the significance of economic exchange between the two countries in helping India to tackle the host of issues relating to enhancement of the wellbeing of the Indian people".

National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon, Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, Ambassador Nirupama Rao and Foreign Secretary-designate Sujatha Singh were present during the talks, said sources.

Both sides held discussions on energy, innovation as well as on regional issues such as Afghanistan and the neighbourhood.

"They also discussed on how to take forward the commercial aspects of the civil nuclear agreement between the two countries," said an official source.

India and the US have still to work out the commercial details of a contract between Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd. (NPCIL) and the US' Westinghouse Electric for setting up the first US reactor in India.

US Secretary of State John Kerry, who was in India last month, had said that India and the US were committed to "fully implement" the Indo-US civil nuclear deal and arrive at a common agreement "by September this year" for the first US reactor in India.

Earlier, **BIDEN** called on Vice President Hamid Ansari where he outlined President Barack Obama's and his "personal commitment and interest" in expansion of India-US relations, and said India's Look East policy was complementary to America's "re-balancing towards Asia".

Ahead of his trip, **BIDEN** said the visit to India and Singapore were intended to reinforce the White House strategy of "rebalancing" towards Asia and the Pacific.

Ansari emphasized on the vibrancy of the bilateral relationship, which he said indicated that relations have grown from strength to strength.

Indo Asian News Services

BIDEN outline Obama's commitment to India ties

July 23, 2013

Visiting US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** Tuesday outlined President Barack Obama's and his "personal commitment and interest" in expansion of India-US relations and said India's Look East policy was complementary to America's "re-balancing towards Asia".

BIDEN, who arrived here Monday evening on a four-day visit, met Vice President Hamid Ansari and later held talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

During talks with Ansari, **BIDEN** referred to "India's own Look East policy and its complementarity with the US re-balancing towards Asia". He emphasised that enhanced economic engagement was in the interest of both countries.

Ahead of his trip, **BIDEN** had said the visit to India and later to Singapore were intended to reinforce the White House strategy of "rebalancing" towards Asia and the Pacific.

Ansari emphasized on the vibrancy of the bilateral relationship which, he said, indicated that relations have "grown from strength to strength".

He said the areas of agreement between the two sides are considerable and expanding and highlighted that "huge segments of the Indian population were extremely supportive of improved relations", said a source.

Ansari also spoke of the need for continuous attention to building the partnership that is based on shared values of liberty, constitutionalism, democracy and tolerance.

Both had wide ranging discussion on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as regional issues, including Afghanistan.

BIDEN's is the second high-level visit from the US to India in a month, coming exactly a month after that of US Secretary of State John Kerry. He travels to Mumbai later Tuesday on the second leg of his India visit.

Indo Asian News Services

Enhanced trade, n-deal on table in BIDEN-Manmohan meet

July 23, 2013

India and the US discussed ways to enhance economic cooperation and implementation of the civil nuclear deal that is stuck in commercial negotiations, among other issues, as visiting US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Prime Minister Manmohan Singh met here Tuesday.

Keeping up the momentum in their ties, Prime Minister Manmohan Singh is to visit the US in end September for a bilateral meeting with US President Barack Obama.

This was discussed during talks between **BIDEN** and Manmohan Singh, sources told IANS.

"The meeting between Obama and Singh will take place in September end, this has been confirmed. The dates have not been fixed yet. We are working on two sets of dates," the source added.

The prime minister would attend the UN General Assembly in New York and then visit Washington for a bilateral summit with Obama. This will be Obama's first bilateral meeting with Singh in his second term.

BIDEN, who arrived here Monday on a four-day visit, met Manmohan Singh for around an hour at the Prime Minister's official residence - 7, Race Course Road.

Both sides "discussed the synergies between India and US on a wide variety of issues and emphasized the importance the bilateral relationship has," the source said.

The prime minister "underlined the significance of economic exchange between the two countries in helping India to tackle the host of issues relating to enhancement of the wellbeing of the Indian people".

Both sides held discussions on energy, innovation as well as on regional issues such as Afghanistan and the neighbourhood.

"They also discussed on how to take forward the commercial aspects of the civil nuclear agreement between the two countries," said an official source.

Ahead of his visit, the US has welcomed India's decision to increase foreign direct investment in key sectors like defence, telecom and insurance.

Immigration issues also figured in the talks, especially during **BIDEN's** meeting with Bharatiya Janata Party leader Sushma Swaraj. New Delhi has voiced concerns over a bill passed recently by the Senate that overhauls the H1B provision, severely impacting Indian tech firms operating in the US such as Infosys, Wipro, TCS and Satyam Mahindra.

Afghanistan, the drawdown of the US-led international forces in 2014 and the new regime in Pakistan were also touched upon during discussions on regional issues.

National Security Advisor Shivshankar Menon, Foreign Secretary Ranjan Mathai, Ambassador Nirupama Rao and Foreign Secretary-designate Sujatha Singh were present during the talks, said sources.

Earlier, **BIDEN** called on Vice President Hamid Ansari where he outlined President Barack Obama's and his "personal commitment and interest" in

expansion of India-US relations and said India's Look East policy was complementary to America's "re-balancing towards Asia".

Ahead of his trip, **BIDEN** had said his visit to India and Singapore was intended to reinforce the White House strategy of 'rebalancing' towards Asia and the Pacific.

The Democratic Party politician, who is visiting India with his wife Jill **BIDEN**, also called on President Pranab Mukherjee, and met United Progressive Alliance chairperson Sonia Gandhi.

He left for Mumbai Tuesday night on the second leg of his India visit.

AFP

Afghanistan, trade dominate BIDEN talks in India July 24, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** held talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh on Tuesday as he sought to calm fears over the exit of US troops from Afghanistan and capitalise on growing investment opportunities.

BIDEN also met President Pranab Mukherjee and a top opposition party figure, Sushma Swaraj, and will be guest of honour at a dinner hosted by his counterpart Hamid Ansari in the capital later Tuesday.

BIDEN, the most senior US official to visit India since President Barack Obama in 2010, discussed with Singh the security situation in Afghanistan during a 75-minute meeting, according to the Press Trust of India(PTI)news agency.

The vice president has said the world's two largest democracies share common goals on a range of regional security issues.

But there is widespread unease among Indian leaders over what will happen in Afghanistan once US combat troops have left in 2014, with many fearing that Pakistan has most to gain from the withdrawal.

During talks, the pair confirmed that Singh will meet Obama during a six-day visit to Washington from September 20, PTI quoted sources as saying.

They also discussed implementation of a landmark civil nuclear deal and ways to build up two-way commerce, the sources said.

Boosting bilateral trade is expected to form the cornerstone of a keynote speech **BIDEN** is scheduled to make in Mumbai on Wednesday.

India has spent more than two billion dollars of aid in Afghanistan since the Taliban, hardline Islamists who were strong allies of Pakistan, were toppled in a 2001 US-led invasion.

Even though plans for talks between the US and the Taliban collapsed last month, the possible return to power of the insurgents alarms many in India.

Writing in The Times of India on Tuesday, Washington-based commentator Seema Sirohi reflected a widespread feeling in New Delhi that the departure of US troops would be a major boost for Pakistan.

"**BIDEN**, as one of the original proponents of the pullback of US troops from Afghanistan, is well positioned to explain why the Americans have handed the keys to Kabul to Pakistani generals," she wrote.

"Americans may close their eyes to the reality but it is impossible for India to do so. **BIDEN** should understand that."

In an interview ahead of his arrival, **BIDEN** said the Taliban had a part to play in the political process as long as they renounced violence.

"Our goal is for Afghans to be talking to Afghans about how they can move forward, end the violence and start rebuilding their country," he told The Times of India.

"We have been clear that if the Taliban are to have any role in Afghanistan's political future, they will need to break ties with Al-Qaeda, stop supporting violence and accept the Afghan constitution as part of the outcomes of any negotiated peace settlement."

Indian and US officials have pointed to **BIDEN**'s visit as a chance to heat up the investment climate and raise the level of bilateral trade, which is on course to reach around \$100 billion a year.

But in a sign of the frustration among American investors over the obstacles they face in doing business in India, a Washington-based lobby wrote an open letter to **BIDEN** urging him to address what it called "India's unfair trade and intellectual property practices".

BIDEN "has a unique opportunity to show the administration's commitment to protecting US innovative and creative sectors by raising this important issue during his high-level meetings in India", Mark Elliot, a co-chair of the Alliance for Fair Trade with India, wrote in the letter.

The issue of intellectual property has been a major bone of contention in trade ties for years, with the American pharmaceutical industry consistently accusing India's huge generics industry of riding roughshod over patents.

India, in turn, has voiced dismay about US Congress proposals to curb visas for high-tech workers employed by the flagship Indian outsourcing industry working for US clients on-site.

BIDEN, who arrived in India on Monday evening, leaves on Thursday for Singapore.

UPI

Vice President BIDEN meets with India's top political leaders

July 23, 2013

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** held a series of meetings with India's top political leaders in New Delhi Tuesday before attending a banquet in his honor.

The U.S. vice president is on a mission to convince India Pakistan is not the United States' favorite friend in South Asia, The New York Times reported.

BIDEN began his visit Monday afternoon with a trip to the memorial for Mohandas K. Gandhi, considered India's founding father.

He wrote a tribute in the site's visitor's book calling Gandhi "one man who changed the world."

Wednesday **BIDEN** will be in Mumbai to discuss growing concerns about India's economy with the country's business elite.

BIDEN is the first U.S. vice president to visit India in nearly 30 years and his trip comes just one month after Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to New Delhi to discuss climate change and diplomacy.

While **BIDEN** met with government leaders, his wife, Jill, visited the slum dwellers in Kachchpura near the Taj Mahal to evaluate the Health for Urban Poor program, funded by USAID. She also spent 45 minutes at the Taj Mahal.

BBC

US Vice-President Joe BIDEN meets India PM Singh July 23, 2013

US Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** is holding talks with Indian PM Manmohan Singh during a four-day visit to India to boost diplomatic and economic ties.

Mr **BIDEN** is the first US vice-president to visit India in three decades.

Mr **BIDEN** will also travel to the financial capital, Mumbai, to meet business leaders and deliver a speech on the economy.

Trade between two countries has grown from \$9bn (£5.9) in 1995 to nearly \$100bn this year.

Mr **BIDEN**, accompanied by his wife Jill, arrived in New Delhi on Monday evening.

He went immediately to visit a museum dedicated to Mahatma Gandhi, writing in the visitors' book that it was an "honour and great privilege" to see a place "memorialising one man who changed the world".

Ahead of his visit Mr **BIDEN** had said in an interview with the Times of India newspaper that the world's two biggest democracies had a "tremendous capability to work together" but should be doing more.

But there are areas of concern - the US wants India to allow greater access to American firms, and a landmark nuclear deal has not delivered the lucrative contracts it promised to.

Correspondents say India is concerned about next year's withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan.

India has spent \$2bn in aid in Afghanistan and fears the return of Taliban once the US leaves.

"We strongly support the role India has played in Afghanistan, leveraging its economic strength to improve Afghanistan's economy," Mr **BIDEN** told the Times.

He said India's aid "will help to ensure our common goal of a stable and prosperous future for the Afghan people".

During his landmark visit to India in November 2010, President Barack Obama had said Washington and Delhi's relationship would be one of the century's defining partnerships.

Hindustan Times

Visit betrays strain on Indo-US ties

By: Pramit Pal Chaudhuri/July 24, 2013

The four-day visit of US vice-president Joe **BIDEN** is all about trying to show that the Indo-US relationship is not in as bad a shape as it seems. But **BIDEN** himself symbolises how the partnership is under strain, because of both geopolitical differences and economic friction.

As a senator, **BIDEN** was among the strongest supporters of the Indo-US nuclear deal. As a vice-president, he is equally fervent about withdrawing from Afghanistan — even if it means enthroning the Taliban in Kabul. The former policy took Indo-US relations to dizzy heights while the latter is bringing it down to earth with a bump.

Senior Indian officials feel the two democracies are headed for a strategic divorce over Afghanistan. **BIDEN** is among the loudest advocates in the Obama administration for a complete US withdrawal underpinned by an Islamabad-brokered peace deal with the Taliban. New Delhi wants the US to give Kabul the wherewithal to resist the Taliban — and, therefore, the Pakistani influence.

BIDEN is among those in the administration who believe that the US needs to get out of its west Asian wars and focus on Asia. Though he struggled to define the common ground between India and the US in Afghanistan in statements before he came to India, he did underline how the two nations are working together.

The US's "pivot to Asia" is a mix of economics, diplomacy and military positioning. In theory, India could be at the heart of this policy. In practice, it is only a potential player.

The first reason is India's flagging economy and the growing problems US investors are having with New Delhi's policies on taxes, intellectual property and overall economic reforms. The second is India's unwillingness to allow the bilateral defence cooperation agreement to go beyond a certain point.

Indian officials cite the US waffling stance on China as well as the bilateral Kabul gap as to why the relationship's geopolitical foundations are so shaky.

The lack of political will at the top means the bureaucracies on both sides have returned to their bickering ways.

BIDEN will receive some positive spin on civil nuclear liability and the purchase of US reactors but it remains uncertain if this will be resolved by the time Manmohan Singh meets Obama probably in September.

The Hindu

US Vice-President Joe BIDEN to meet Manmohan Singh

July 23, 2013

(Note: Article accompaniment to video)

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is to meet Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in New Delhi on Tuesday, with trade and security on the agenda.

The first US Vice-President to visit India in three decades, **BIDEN** began a four-day visit on Monday, accompanied by his wife Jill.

BIDEN was also to meet President Pranab Mukherjee on Tuesday before flying to the country's financial hub Mumbai.

Talks were expected to cover regional security, including the conflict in Afghanistan, bilateral trade, climate change and defence cooperation, officials at India's Ministry of External Affairs said.

In Mumbai, **BIDEN** was scheduled to meet business leaders and deliver a policy speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange.

The Vice-President was scheduled to leave for Singapore on Thursday.

Economic Times-India

Joe BIDEN meets Indian leaders, wants trade bottlenecks removed

July 23, 2013

US today stressed the need for removal of bottlenecks to enhance trade ties with India and emphasised on the reforms process to encourage

business as Vice President Joseph **BIDEN** held meetings with top Indian leadership, including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh.

BIDEN, who arrived here yesterday on a four-day maiden visit, held comprehensive talks with Singh after which, sources said, the Prime Minister will undertake a bilateral visit to the US from third week of September and will meet President Barack Obama apart from attending the UN General Assembly in New York.

The probable dates mentioned are September 20-26 but there is no confirmation.

According to the sources, the two sides discussed ways to boost trade ties, with **BIDEN** expressing concerns of American companies and stressing on the need to remove hurdles to do business here. On his part, Singh also emphasised the need for greater commercial engagement for India to meet its own quest for economic growth.

The Cumulative FDI Equity Inflows from the US during the period April 2000 to January 2012 amounted to about USD 10.36 billion, constituting 6 per cent of the total FDI into India.

The two leaders also discussed the situation in the region with **BIDEN** describing US withdrawal plans from Afghanistan and future strategy for the peace and stability there, the sources said, adding another important component of their talks was energy, including supply of LNG from the US.

Singh and **BIDEN** discussed a whole range of issues, including implementation of the landmark civil nuclear deal and ways to enhance commerce, the sources said. The two leaders agreed to take these issues forward.

In this context, the Prime Minister told **BIDEN** that he looks forward to meeting Obama in September, the sources said.

During the meeting with **BIDEN**, Singh conveyed his best wishes to Obama.

The US Vice President started his day with a meeting with his Indian counterpart Hamid Ansari during which they had a wide ranging discussion on various aspects of bilateral relations as well as regional issues including Afghanistan.

During the meeting, Ansari spoke of the need for continuous attention for building the partnership that is based on shared values and on his part **BIDEN** also emphasised that enhanced economic engagement was in the interest of both countries, sources said.

BIDEN also outlined President Obama's and his own personal commitment and interest in expansion of India-US bilateral relations and referred to India's own Look East policy and its complementarity with the US re-balancing towards Asia.

The two Vice Presidents also reviewed the regional situation especially the entire gamut of issues relating to Afghanistan.

The Vice President also called on President Pranab Mukherjee and held meetings with Leader of Opposition Sushma Swaraj.

Before his scheduled departure for Mumbai, **BIDEN** attended the dinner by Ansari hosted in his honour.

Economic Times-India

India-US talks: US vice-president Joseph BIDEN should not make American business into American foreign policy

By: Seema Sirohi/July 23, 2013

US vice-president Joseph **BIDEN** has two choices as he begins an important visit to India: he can steer Indo-US relations back to calm waters with his legendary political skills or he can continue the lecture that has become the dominant American export to India of late.

The first is needed - even urgently, if anything significant is to be accomplished in President Barack Obama's second term - the second is

not. **BIDEN** has to strike the right balance between American complaints, which are broadly tactical, and Indian concerns, which are strategic.

Americans are worried about market access, pharma profits and big business whines. Indians are worried about their neighbourhood where a giant intrudes brazenly and a country waits to be overrun by medieval men who boast about shooting little girls in their face.

These mismatched agendas must be corrected soon. Both New Delhi and Washington have lost too much time - often wilfully - but **BIDEN's** visit must do more than damage control and once again raise ambitions.

The button on how rotten India's economic and trade policies are has been pushed enough. Any more tirades against India inspired by America's big business run the risk of turning off votaries of this relationship. Some already have become disillusioned and many are on the verge.

Lectures on cutting greenhouse gases - like secretary of state John Kerry's last month - while saying little on how Americans could change their lifestyles of multiple SUVs and floodlit malls will only engender more irritation.

Instead, **BIDEN** should stem the flood of anti-India sentiment frothing from his old home on Capitol Hill where the likes of IBM and Microsoft have unleashed a pernicious campaign. In their worldview, the relationship is a set of quid pro quos. They have inspired a Bill that effectively shuts out Indian IT companies. This picking of "winners and losers" is un-American.

The US Chamber of Commerce has become a portal for dubious reports that claim India's intellectual property regime is worse than China's.

Such "research" by paid lobbyists and disseminated through the halls of US Congress falls flat in the face of reality - the reality of the administration's own decision to sell sensitive defence technology to India. Both things can't be right.

But this is the prevailing atmosphere in Washington. The angry brigade, which includes some key Obama officials, seems to have lost sight of the

big picture. It is largely focussed on getting its pound of flesh to fill the accounting book on bilateral relations.

No doubt the government of India bears a fair share of responsibility for letting things slide this far. It moved neither on the strategic front nor on the bilateral agenda in time and lost key constituencies - American business and some administration officials. It took its time to recognise the depth of American anger. When it finally moved last week to raise FDI caps, it was too little too late.

But it doesn't mean that all Indian decisions, including those by Indian courts on patents, are wrong. They are not and India should stand its ground, especially on the Supreme Court's verdict on Novartis.

National News Coverage:

Associated Press

BIDEN Will Focus on Trade, Security in India Trip

By: Nirmala George/July 22, 2013

(Note: Published online by The Indian Express and Washington Post, among others.)

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in India on Monday on a trip that will focus on boosting trade and regional security ties and strengthening a strategic partnership that has languished in recent years.

BIDEN's four-day visit, which will include a meeting with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, is viewed as a major step in promoting President Barack Obama's focus on forging strong partnerships in the Asia-Pacific region aimed at counterbalancing China's power.

BIDEN and Indian leaders were expected to discuss hurdles to trade and restrictions on American companies doing business in the Indian marketplace.

BIDEN's first stop after his arrival was a ceremonial visit to a museum dedicated to Indian independence hero Mohandas Gandhi.

It is **BIDEN's** first trip to India as vice president. He visited New Delhi in 2008 as a senator.

During formal talks Tuesday, **BIDEN** and Indian officials will focus on ways to expand bilateral trade that currently stands at \$100 billion, officials said.

In a speech in Washington on Thursday, **BIDEN** noted that trade between the countries had increased five-fold over the past 13 years, but there was no reason it should not expand five times as much again.

Despite the increasing trade, U.S. business groups have complained about the slow pace of economic reform in India and have urged New Delhi to open up its markets further. The Indian government in recent months has loosened rules governing foreign investment in some areas of the economy.

American businesses have been pressuring the Obama administration to press India for stronger intellectual property protection. New Delhi is expected to raise concerns about proposals in the U.S. Congress that would curb visas for high-tech Indian workers.

India and the United States will also discuss regional security, including efforts to end the conflict in Afghanistan.

The U.S. increasingly views India as a partner in developing Afghanistan, where New Delhi has provided \$2 billion in assistance. Washington also wants India to play a more active role in training Afghan security forces as the U.S. and its NATO allies withdraw combat forces by 2014.

During the Cold War, relations between India and the United States were strained as America tilted toward India's arch-enemy Pakistan and India turned toward the Soviet Union. Relations have thawed since then, with New Delhi and Washington signing a defense cooperation pact in 2005 and ratifying a landmark civil nuclear agreement in 2008.

More recently, the Obama administration has reaffirmed India's role in its Asia-Pacific policy.

"Our goal is to help tie Asia-Pacific nations together - from India to the Americas- through strong alliances, institutions and partnerships," **BIDEN** said in Washington last week.

However, Indian analysts said New Delhi would have its own questions over the new policy.

"When President Obama came up with his pivot to Asia policy, it was widely welcomed in India. Because the pivot was seen as an effort to create a balance against very aggressive Chinese policies," said Lalit Mansingh, a former Indian ambassador to the United States.

"Then the Americans moderated it by calling it a rebalance. And they have further diluted it by saying it is not meant against China," he said.

"India would have liked a more vigorous stand on China where its security interests will be protected. So, this will be one of the issues India would like to discuss," Mansingh said.

BIDEN will be accompanied during the visit by his wife, Jill, who will visit a U.S. supported public health program in Agra and then tour the nearby Taj Mahal.

The **BIDENs** will then head to Mumbai, where the vice president will meet business leaders before heading for Singapore on Thursday.

USA Today

BIDEN heads to India, Singapore

By: David Jackson/July 22, 2013

Vice President **BIDEN** is off on a six-day trade and diplomatic trip to India and Singapore.

"In India, the vice president will emphasize economic and strategic opportunities for our countries to work more closely together, bilaterally and across Asia," said a White House statement.

The vice president and wife Jill **BIDEN** land Monday in New Dehli; they will travel to Mumbai later this week.

"In Mumbai, the vice president will deliver a speech on U.S.-India relations and meet with business and community leaders and students," the White House said.

The vice president arrives Thursday in Singapore, where the White House says he "will emphasize the centrality of Southeast Asia in our regional strategy."

BIDEN "will visit a U.S. company and speak to economic opportunities in the region, including the importance of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and Singapore's role as a hub for U.S. exports and investment," the White House said.

The **BIDENs** will stop in Hawaii on their way back to the United States; they return to Washington on Sunday.

Wall Street Journal: India Real Time
BIDEN Pays Tribute to Gandhi
By: Biman Mukherji/July 22, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** began his four-day tour of India by paying tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the leader of India's independence movement.

"What a high honor and great privilege to be here in this sacred spot — memorializing one man who changed the world," Mr. **BIDEN** wrote in the visitors' book at Gandhi Smriti, the site in New Delhi where Gandhi was assassinated on January 30, 1948.

"My nation was changed as well by Gandhi's teachings when Dr. King [Martin Luther King] emulated them to free not only black men and women, but all Americans," wrote Mr. **BIDEN**, who was accompanied by his wife Jill **BIDEN** and daughter Ashley.

Dr. King was the leader of the African-American Civil Rights movement in the 1960s and used a strategy of nonviolent civil disobedience, a method employed by Gandhi.

Mr. **BIDEN** was greeted by Gandhi's granddaughter, Tara Gandhi, who gave him and his family handspun cotton shawls with borders in the same orange, green and white stripes of the Indian flag.

The U.S vice president removed his shoes as a mark of respect before he laid a floral wreath at the memorial site. Mr. **BIDEN** then took a tour of the memorial garden and the house where Gandhi was staying when he was shot on his way to pray outside. The museum at the site includes photographs, paintings, frescos and Gandhi memorabilia, including a pair of his glasses and sandals.

Mr. **BIDEN** is scheduled to meet India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, President Pranab Mukherjee and Vice President Hamid Ansari on Tuesday.

During his visit, he is expected to discuss a broad range of issues with Indian leaders including economic growth, trade, energy and climate change, security and investments.

On Wednesday, Mr. **BIDEN** will deliver a speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai, the country's financial capital; he will speak about the U.S.-India partnership and is expected to address the prospect of greater trade and investment between the two countries.

LA Times

Vice President Joe BIDEN arrives in India for 4-day visit

By: Mark Magnier/July 22, 2013

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in India on Monday afternoon, the first U.S. vice president to visit in decades. The four-day visit is designed to strengthen ties and lay the groundwork for a planned summit between Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Obama this fall in Washington.

After meeting senior Indian officials in the capital of New Delhi, the vice president will travel to Mumbai, the nation's financial hub, to deliver a speech urging both sides to boost economic ties well beyond the current \$100 billion in annual U.S.–India trade.

BIDEN's trip was announced last month during a visit to India by Secretary of State John Kerry.

Analysts and U.S. officials said they didn't expect to see many "deliverables" – diplomat-speak for signed deals — emerge from **BIDEN's** trip. Rather, they said, the visit would focus on tending the relationship, which has flagged in recent months as both countries prepare for elections in 2014 and U.S. companies grow frustrated over unlimited liability concerns associated with a civilian nuclear agreement and red tape.

The two sides are also expected to discuss Afghanistan. India is worried that the Taliban could return to power there after NATO combat troops depart in 2014. The hard-line Islamist Taliban was strongly allied with Pakistan before it was forced from power in 2001. India has contributed some \$2 billion in aid projects to Afghanistan in recent years, but its activities are viewed warily by rival Pakistan.

In Mumbai on Wednesday, **BIDEN** is also expected to meet with business leaders, visit the stock exchange and push for stronger patent and copyright protections in the often freewheeling Indian market. American drug companies are particularly concerned with India's liberal generic-drug policy, which humanitarian groups contend saves lives in developing nations but drug firms say saps their incentive to fund expensive research.

India, for its part, is concerned over proposals in Congress that would curb visas for high-tech workers. **BIDEN**, who is accompanied by his wife, Jill, is scheduled to travel to Singapore on Thursday after India to discuss trade with officials of the island-state and discuss tension in the South China Sea. **BIDEN** also may meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is on a three-day trip to the region, on Friday.

Washington Times

In India, Joe BIDEN pays tribute to Gandhi

By: Dave Boyer/July 22, 2013

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** began his visit to India on Monday by paying tribute to Mohandas K. Gandhi at a memorial in his honor, saying his teachings changed America as well as India.

Mr. **BIDEN**, his wife Jill and their daughter Ashley were greeted by Gandhi's granddaughter at the site where the Indian independence leader was assassinated in 1948.

"What a high honor and great privilege to be here in this sacred spot — memorializing one man who changed the world," Mr. **BIDEN** wrote at the visitors' book. "My nation was changed as well by Gandhi's teachings — when Dr. King emulated them to free not only black men and women, but all Americans."

He was referring to the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., the leader of the civil-rights movement in the U.S. who emulated Gandhi's example of nonviolent civil disobedience.

The vice president took off his shoes as a mark of respect before he laid a floral wreath at Gandhi's memorial.

Mr. **BIDEN** will meet with senior leaders of India on energy, security, climate change and other issues. He also will give a speech in Mumbai before traveling to Singapore later in the week.

ABC News

Vice President BIDEN Embarks on Asia Tour

By: Matthew Larotonda/July 21, 2013

Vice President Joseph **BIDEN** left for Asia today, kicking off six days of diplomatic events in India and Singapore. The trip comes as U.S. foreign policy has increasingly shifted toward the region; Secretary of State John Kerry visited India less than a month ago during an overseas tour.

Accompanied by Dr. Jill **BIDEN**, the vice president is scheduled to meet with India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and President Pranab Mukherjee for what the White House has billed as discussions including the economy, energy, and security concerns. He also plans to deliver remarks

to the Bombay stock exchange and women teaching at the India Institute of Technology in separate events.

In Singapore, **BIDEN** is expected to hold similar talks with that country's Prime Minister Lee and President Tony Tan, as well as Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. Afterwards he plans to visit an American-owned Pratt and Whitney aircraft facility and the USS Freedom, currently deployed to the region.

On Thursday the vice president said the U.S. wanted to help foster "an Asian-Pacific order" to deliver security and economic prosperity for those countries.

"We want to help lead in creating 21st century rules of the road that will benefit not only the United States, and the region, but the world as a whole," he said in remarks at George Washington University.

He also said he viewed the nation's relationship with China as "a healthy mix of competition and cooperation."

Associated Press

PM-Obama Meet in September, Joe BIDEN Shares FDI Concerns July 23, 2013

The U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held talks in on Tuesday as part of a renewed effort to strengthen ties between the two countries.

The meeting came just weeks after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry came to India to lead a strategic dialogue between the nations. The pair of high-profile meetings signal increasing efforts to upgrade bilateral relations as the U.S. lays out its plans to rebalance its foreign policy toward the Asia-Pacific.

Mr **BIDEN**'s trip will also lay the groundwork for a summit meeting between Singh and President Barack Obama in Washington in September.

Indian officials said the two discussed a raft of issues, including ways to boost trade and ease bottlenecks preventing American companies from investing in the Indian market.

They also talked about the hurdles in implementing a landmark civil nuclear agreement that the countries ratified in 2008.

India has said foreign nuclear companies operating in the country should assume nearly unlimited liability for accidents, a stringent condition that makes it all but impossible for foreign nuclear firms to set up nuclear power plants in India.

Regional security, especially in war-torn Afghanistan, and New Delhi's concerns about the possibility of the Taliban returning to power in Kabul post-2014, were also discussed during the 75-minute meeting.

The U.S. increasingly views India as a partner in developing Afghanistan, where New Delhi has provided \$2 billion in assistance. Washington wants India to play a more active role in training Afghan security forces as the U.S. and its NATO allies withdraw combat forces by 2014.

Later on Tuesday, **BIDEN** will attend a banquet in his honour hosted by his Indian counterpart, Vice-President Hamid Ansari, before leaving for Mumbai.

The New York Times

BIDEN Arrives in India in Effort to Improve Relations

By: Gardiner Harris/July 23, 2013

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. arrived in New Delhi on Monday as part of a continuing effort by the Obama administration to convince the country's elite of its good will after decades of strong support for India's archrival, Pakistan.

Mr. **BIDEN**'s trip is the first by an American vice president in nearly 30 years, and it comes one month after Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to New Delhi, the capital, to discuss climate change and diplomacy.

Mr. **BIDEN**'s itinerary calls for him to spend a day with political leaders before flying Tuesday night to India's financial capital, Mumbai. During his two days there, he is expected to voice growing concerns about India's economy and its openness to foreign investment before leaving for Singapore on Thursday night.

Investors from the United States and around the globe once flocked to India, drawn by its rapid economic growth, gradual economic liberalization and huge population. But in the last decade, many American companies have found the going far tougher than expected, and their complaints are beginning to resonate in Washington.

The problems that companies confront here – endemic corruption, shifting government rules and poor infrastructure, among others — seemed less dire when the Indian economy was growing at a blistering rate. But growth has slowed to 5 percent over the past year, and those issues have become far greater irritants.

Mr. **BIDEN**'s complaints about India's investment climate are likely to be greeted with some sympathy in Mumbai, since even Indian companies have begun looking for growth outside their country's borders. Investments by both foreign and domestic companies have fallen over the past five years to 31 percent of the country's gross domestic product from nearly 38 percent, said Subir Gokarn, director of research at Brookings India, with crucial sectors like manufacturing and mining doing especially poorly.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh acknowledged in a speech to a prominent business group here on Friday that the nation's economy was under stress.

"We, like most other countries, are going through a difficult period," Mr. Singh said in his barely audible whisper. "I know that business is deeply concerned about the slowdown in our economy."

The Indian rupee has lost about 9 percent of its value against the dollar in recent months, a decline exceeded only by the Brazilian real among major emerging market currencies. India has substantial budget and current account deficits, and inflation is running at nearly 10 percent annually.

The country's central bank has been faced with the difficult task of defending the currency by trying to raise short-term interest rates without pushing up long-term rates, which would further slow growth. But the Reserve Bank of India took the unusual step last week of withdrawing a bond sale after investors insisted on interest rates that were higher than the government's bankers wanted to pay.

Ajay Shah, a professor at the National Institute of Public Finance and Policy in New Delhi, said these problems guaranteed that India's era of rapid economic growth would not return for many years.

"There's been a tremendous collapse in confidence," Mr. Shah said.

India's government has taken steps to put its fiscal house in order by reducing fuel subsidies, a hugely expensive program that largely benefits the rich. And last week, the government announced a loosening of restrictions on certain foreign investments.

But national elections scheduled for next year are likely to mean that the government will be loath to make additional cuts to popular welfare projects, said Sreeram Chaulia, a professor and dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs. A new food security bill could even expand such social spending significantly.

"Right now, this government is concerned about winning the next election," Mr. Chaulia said.

Mr. **BIDEN** also intends to push India for further defense cooperation and more arms purchases from the United States, according to a senior Obama administration official.

India has long resisted becoming too close to the American military. Recent border tensions between India and China have jangled nerves in New Delhi and made officials here strive to improve India's defense manufacturing abilities, something the United States has said it could help achieve.

The New York Times

BIDEN Meets India's Leaders to Promote Closer Ties

By: Gardiner Harris/July 23, 2013

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. held a parade of meetings on Tuesday with India's top political leaders, but the most important part of his trip to India will begin Wednesday, when he is expected to discuss with India's business elite in Mumbai the growing concerns about India's economy.

Mr. **BIDEN** started his trip Monday afternoon with a visit to a memorial in New Delhi to Mohandas K. Gandhi, who is considered India's founding father. Mr. **BIDEN** wrote a tribute to Gandhi in the visitors' book, calling Gandhi "one man who changed the world."

On Tuesday, Mr. **BIDEN** held meetings with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Mohammad Hamid Ansari and Sushma Swaraj, a leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. A banquet in Mr. **BIDEN**'s honor was scheduled for Tuesday night, after which he was scheduled to fly to Mumbai, India's financial capital.

Mr. **BIDEN**'s trip is part of a long-term effort to convince India's officials and people that the days when Pakistan, India's longtime rival, was the United States' favorite friend in South Asia are over. Mr. **BIDEN**'s trip is the first by an American vice president in nearly 30 years, and it comes one month after Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to New Delhi, the capital, to discuss climate change and diplomacy.

But Mr. **BIDEN** is expected to deliver more than just happy talk about the growing strategic and cultural ties between the United States and India. While in Mumbai, he is expected to express growing concerns about India's economy and its openness to foreign investment before leaving for Singapore on Thursday night.

Investors from the United States and around the globe once flocked to India, drawn by its rapid economic growth, gradual economic liberalization and huge population. But in the last decade, many American companies

have found the going far tougher than expected, and their complaints are beginning to resonate in Washington.

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But national elections scheduled for next year are likely to mean that the government will be loath to make additional cuts to popular welfare projects, said Sreeram Chaulia, a professor and dean at the Jindal School of International Affairs. A new food security bill could even expand such social spending significantly.

"Right now, this government is concerned about winning the next election," Professor Chaulia said.

Mr. **BIDEN** also intends to push India for further defense cooperation and more arms purchases from the United States, according to a senior Obama administration official.

India has long resisted becoming too close to the American military. But recent border tensions between India and China have jangled nerves in New Delhi and made officials here strive to improve India's defense manufacturing abilities, something the United States has said it can help achieve.

Associated Press

US, India Renew Efforts to Boost Bilateral Ties

July 23, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and India's Prime Minister Manmohan Singh held talks in the Indian capital Tuesday as part of a renewed effort to strengthen ties between the two countries.

The meeting came just weeks after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry came to India to lead a strategic dialogue between the nations. The pair of high-profile meetings signal increasing efforts to upgrade bilateral relations as the U.S. lays out its plans to rebalance its foreign policy toward the Asia-Pacific.

BIDEN's trip will also lay the groundwork for a summit meeting between Singh and President Barack Obama in Washington in September.

Indian officials said the two discussed a raft of issues, including ways to boost trade and ease bottlenecks preventing American companies from investing in the Indian market.

They also talked about the hurdles in implementing a landmark civil nuclear agreement that the countries ratified in 2008.

India has said foreign nuclear companies operating in the country should assume nearly unlimited liability for accidents, a stringent condition that makes it all but impossible for foreign nuclear firms to set up nuclear power plants in India.

Regional security, especially in war-torn Afghanistan, and New Delhi's concerns about the possibility of the Taliban returning to power in Kabul post-2014, were also discussed during the 75-minute meeting.

The U.S. increasingly views India as a partner in developing Afghanistan, where New Delhi has provided \$2 billion in assistance. Washington wants India to play a more active role in training Afghan security forces as the U.S. and its NATO allies withdraw combat forces by 2014.

Later Tuesday, **BIDEN** will attend a banquet in his honor hosted by his Indian counterpart before leaving for Mumbai, India's financial hub.

Voice of America

BIDEN's India Visit is Key in Asia 'Rebalance' Strategy

By: Aru Pande/July 23, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** is in India for a four-day visit aimed at strengthening economic and defense ties. The U.S. sees India as an important part of the Obama administration's "rebalance" toward Asia.

BIDEN's visit is the first to India by an American vice president in three decades, and follows U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry's trip by just a few weeks.

The renewed U.S. attention on India in recent months comes less than two years after the Obama administration named the South Asian country as a key player in its pivot, or rebalance, toward the Asia-Pacific region.

Gopalan Balachandran, a consulting fellow with the New Delhi-based Institute for Defense Studies and Analyses, said, "It's not as if Asia economies are growing a hundred times and the rest are all standing still, and you say 'okay, I will keep [seeing] Asia the same way like I did 10 years ago or even 15 or 20 years ago.' It's not possible. To some extent, the rebalancing is necessitated by changes in the global environment, both in politics and the economy."

Working strategically

In an interview with the Times of India newspaper this week, **BIDEN** noted that the "winding down of two wars" has allowed the United States to "turn to opportunities that reflect the realities of the fast-changing world."

He spoke of the need for India, China and the United States to work together to advance common economic and security interests.

C. Raja Mohan, with the Observer Research Foundation, said both New Delhi and Washington share the common goal of not wanting an Asia that is dominated by China.

"But at the same time, India is not going to be a traditional ally of the U.S. eager to balance or counter China's efforts. I think the shared objective for

the U.S. and India is how do we structure a stable balance of power in Asia - and between that - there is much room for India and the U.S. to collaborate," said Mohan.

This potential collaboration is a focus of the American vice president's visit, as **BIDEN** aims to deepen economic, defense and energy ties. Key among the goals is to boost bilateral trade that currently stands at \$100 billion.

Advancing mutual interests

Increasing economic cooperation is not without its challenges. Some American companies have expressed frustration at what they see as India's unfriendly investment climate. For its part, India has called for a U.S. immigration policy that will make it easier for highly skilled Indian workers to enter the American job market.

Despite these hurdles, Mohan said the U.S.-India relationship has come a long way in the last decade.

"If anybody would have said that India-U.S. cooperation would be as strong and as dynamic as it is today, few would have believed this proposition at that point of time. The fact is that because expectations have risen so much, there are disappointments on both sides," said Mohan.

Analysts say while such disagreements may not be resolved, **BIDEN's** visit will go a long way toward consolidating progress and restoring political trust between the two nations.

BIDEN's schedule on Tuesday includes talks with Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, who is expected to make his own visit to the United States later this year.

BIDEN then will travel to Mumbai on Wednesday to give a policy speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange and meet with business leaders before leaving for Singapore on Thursday.

Mumbai, India

International News Coverage:

Indo Asian News Services

BIDEN bats for more biz between India-US

July 24, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** Wednesday called for further expanding the growing economic cooperation with India and expressed hope that, if right choices are made, bilateral trade could grow five-fold.

Lauding India as "a rising power", **BIDEN** patted its plans for future growth, saying the country had risen exponentially during the past decade mainly due to bold steps towards liberalization it took in 1991.

In this context, **BIDEN** said trade between India and the US grew five-fold to touch \$100 billion in the past 13 years.

He was speaking on 'US-India Partnership' at the Bombay Stock Exchange.

"We see tremendous opportunity and there is no reason, that if our countries make the right choices, the trade cannot grow five-fold or more," **BIDEN** said.

Welcoming the relaxation of FDI norms in certain sectors, **BIDEN** felt that a lot more was needed to be done to remove trade barriers.

"We have to do a lot of work on a wide range of issues like limit in FDI, inconsistent tax system, market access barriers, civil nuclear cooperation, bilateral investment treaty and policies protecting innovations," **BIDEN** said.

The first US vice president to visit India in over three decades, **BIDEN** appreciated India's regional role and welcomed its engagement and efforts to develop new trade and transportation links by land and by sea.

Simultaneously, he acknowledged the role of the Indian community in America's growth story saying the US has benefitted due to the "Indian human capital".

BIDEN said both the US and India have been targeted by terrorists and sought enhanced cooperation to tackle terrorism.

He said the US has been sharing intelligence with India on terror in order to avoid situations like 9/11 and 26/11, and supported India's claim for a permanent seat in a revamped UN Security Council.

Dwelling on American ties with China, **BIDEN** termed it as "a healthy mix of competition and co-operation".

He called for enhanced engagement between India, China and the US. "The cooperation between the three big nations will help grow the world economy."

BIDEN, accompanied by his wife Jill **BIDEN**, their daughter Ashley and son-in-law Howard D. Crein, arrived in Mumbai early Wednesday on the second leg of his visit to India.

On Thursday, **BIDEN** will visit the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), at Powai.

The **BIDENs** will also visit the new premises of the US Consulate at Bandra-Kurla Complex and interact with the staff, an embassy spokesperson added.

Indo Asian News Services

US Vice President Joe BIDEN arrives in Mumbai

July 24, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in Mumbai late on Tuesday night on the second leg of his ongoing visit to India, an embassy spokesperson said.

He was accompanied by his wife, US Second Lady Jill **BIDEN**, their daughter Ashley and son-in-law Howard D Crein.

Shortly after arrival at the Chhatrapati Shivaji International Airport, they left by road to their hotel in south Mumbai.

On Wednesday afternoon, **BIDEN** will speak on US-India Partnership at the Bombay Stock Exchange.

Thereafter, around 1 pm, he will participate in a round-table discussion with the captains of Indian business and industry at Hotel Taj Mahal.

On Thursday, **BIDEN** is scheduled to pay a visit to the Indian Institute of Technology, Bombay (IIT-B), at Powai in central suburban Mumbai.

During the course of his visit, the **BIDENs** will also visit the new premises of the US Consulate at Bandra-Kurla Complex and interact with the staff there, the spokesperson added.

UPI

BIDEN meets Indian business leaders in Mumbai

July 24, 2013

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** Wednesday began the third day of his four-day India trip in the financial capital of Mumbai to promote U.S.-India economic ties.

The Mumbai visit comes a day after **BIDEN** met with India's top leaders including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh in the capital New Delhi.

The importance of **BIDEN's** India visit lies in the fact it comes on the heels of a similar visit by the new U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry and is designed to promote closer economic and strategic ties with the South Asian country of 1.2 billion, which boasts of one of the world's largest remaining markets.

White House press secretary Jay Carney, noting the important role of India in Washington's policy deliberations, said at his media briefing Tuesday the "message the vice president is carrying in his meetings with Indian officials, is that we want to continue to enhance our economic and strategic engagement with India."

"There are enormous opportunities for our two countries to work together and to work together even more closely than we have as this relationship has evolved in a positive direction now for so many years."

Carney also pointed out **BIDEN** and President Barack Obama "highly value our relationship with India, and are looking for ways to make it even stronger and more cooperative."

BIDEN's visit to Mumbai, where it was raining heavily, included speaking on the U.S.-India partnership at the Bombay Stock Exchange and meeting with top Indian business, trade and investment leaders at the iconic Taj Mahal Palace hotel.

Carney had said, "When it comes to economic growth, trade, energy and climate change, as well as security issues and education issues, there's a lot that the vice president is discussing in India."

Last week before leaving for India, **BIDEN** in a major speech in Washington on the Obama administration's Asia-Pacific rebalancing policy said Washington is engaging directly with India as it makes some fundamental choices. He said U.S.-India bilateral trade in the past 13 years has grown five-fold to nearly \$100 billion, adding there is "no reason, that if our countries make the right choices, trade cannot grow fivefold or more."

BIDEN also has lauded the Indian government's recent decisions to liberalize caps on foreign direct investment in certain sectors, which the United States has long been seeking. However, he said much work still remains to be done on a wide range of issues, including the bilateral civil nuclear cooperation, a bilateral investment treaty and policies protecting innovation. **BIDEN**, as U.S. senator, had strongly supported the civilian nuclear deal.

"But we believe doing -- going with an open mind and listening, as well as making our case, we believe it can be done," he said.

On India's side, there is concern about U.S. withdrawal of troops from Afghanistan as that might encourage the Taliban to return even as New Delhi's economic involvement in that country is growing. Ahead of his trip, **BIDEN** in an interview with the Times of India said the United States strongly supports the role India has played in Afghanistan.

There is also concern about U.S. policy toward Pakistan, India's main rival.

The New York Times has reported part of **BIDEN**'s mission is to convince India Pakistan is not the United States' favorite friend in South Asia.

AFP

BIDEN urges India to open up to US companies

July 24, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** urged India on Wednesday to improve investment conditions and remove obstacles faced by American companies which restrict trade between the world's biggest democracies.

BIDEN, the first US vice president to visit India in three decades, listed intellectual property concerns, requirements to buy local content and inconsistent tax treatment as worries for foreign investors.

"These are tough problems, but they have to be negotiated and worked through to meet the potential of this relationship," he said in a speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange focused on boosting annual trade from its current level of nearly \$100 billion.

He also noted that India's "instinct to protect your industries is understandable. But we need to be candid with each other about the obstacles which exist when economies do business".

BIDEN is the most senior US official to visit India since President Barack Obama in 2010, and the four-day visit is designed to revive flagging momentum in relations.

Problems on both sides have soured ties, leading many analysts to conclude that a relationship described by Obama as one of the "defining partnerships of the 21st century" is far from fulfilling its potential.

BIDEN also alluded to looming friction at a meeting of the World Trade Organisation in Bali in December over India's highly protected farming industry.

"We need to find a way forward to address India's... legitimate concern about food security without distorting global trade. It is a difficult problem but it must be addressed," he said.

Despite a nuclear energy deal in 2008 championed by the United States, Washington has been left embittered after its companies lost out to French and Russian competitors in the race to sell new reactors.

In the retail sector, US supermarket chain Walmart has been unable to open new stores because of local sourcing rules that require it to buy 30 percent of its products from small-scale local industries.

Walmart, which said last year it wanted to launch its first supermarket within two years, has told the government it is unable to meet the demand, according to press reports on Tuesday.

Officials have pointed to **BIDEN's** visit as a chance to improve the investment climate between the US and India, where the government has been trying to introduce pro-business reforms in a bid to boost the sluggish economy.

Ahead of **BIDEN's** visit, a US official briefing journalists said there was no reason why bilateral trade "can't be five times (more). Over the last 13 years, it has quintupled, and it should quintuple again".

India's left-leaning government has already opened up or proposed opening up the banking and insurance, airline, energy and media sectors to foreign investors, but has imposed conditions.

Experts have said some of the conditions, designed to protect local industries and counter criticism India is "selling out" to foreign multinationals, are too restrictive.

In the US, pharmaceutical companies have been lobbying against India's backing of generic drugs, highlighted recently when Swiss giant Novartis lost a high-profile case to extend a patent on its leukaemia drug Glivec.

India in turn has been alarmed by proposals in the US Congress to curb visas for high-tech workers, which are feared to hit employees of the flagship Indian outsourcing industry who work for American firms in the US.

While red tape, weak infrastructure and regulatory uncertainty have deterred many companies, India's government is eager to attract foreign investors.

Both Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Commerce Minister Anand Sharma were in Washington this month to pitch for greater investment and discuss India's readiness to open talks on a bilateral investment treaty.

BIDEN arrived in Mumbai late Tuesday after holding talks with Prime Minister Manmohan Singh and other political leaders in the capital on economic issues and the security situation in Afghanistan.

On Thursday **BIDEN** will visit Mumbai's Indian Institute of Technology before leaving for Singapore, where officials say he will tackle tensions over the disputed South China Sea.

Press Trust India

Joe BIDEN hails IIT-B as one of the best in world

July 25, 2013

(Published online by Hindustan Times, Economic Times)

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** today hailed the premier Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay as "one of the leading" technology schools in the world that left him "extremely impressed".

"I have been extremely impressed. This is a great university, one of the leading universities in the world in the field of technology," he said after visiting various laboratories and interacting with students on the campus.

BIDEN's comments came amid talk of declining standards of education in the country.

After visiting the departments of Nano Technology and Earth Sciences, he held a closed-door meeting with female students pursuing doctoral studies in multiple disciplines.

"We are looking at India's future. I mean it," he said, citing the oft-used quote "women are half the sky".

BIDEN, who wrapped up his 4-day India visit with IIT-B as his last port of call, particularly appreciated the diverse work being done by the female students he met in areas as varied as transportation, education and medicine.

Accompanying US officials said the meeting was part of an Indo-US partnership on 'women in science'.

"To see these women engaged in science, technology and engineering is something worth promoting very heavily in the US. In the US, now more women graduate from college than men and still there are only 20 per cent or so entering the science stream," he said.

BIDEN, the first US vice-president to visit India in the last three decades, said the future of the people of this country which is "most open and most representative" is much better.

"We have to take advantage of the collective capabilities of our population," he added.

UPI

BIDEN urges India to increase opportunities for women

July 25, 2013

India should work for greater gender equality, U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** said Thursday during a tour of one of the country's most prestigious universities.

"The future goes with the country that is most open and most representative of the entire population," **BIDEN** said, in a statement issued by the White House.

The vice president's comments were made as sexual assaults of Indian women have put the country's attitudes toward women's rights under a microscope.

"You're looking at India's future," **BIDEN** said after a 45-minute discussion with female students at the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai.

Pointing to five female doctoral students during a press conference, he said, "These women are as capable as any one of you men standing out there.

"We have to take advantage of the collective cognitive ability of our populations," **BIDEN** added, noting the U.S. is encouraging more women to become involved in science and technology.

BIDEN visited the university at the end of a four-day stop in India, shortly before he left for Singapore.

National News Coverage:

AP

US VP tells Indian business leaders US-India commercial ties should be expanding exponentially

July 24, 2013

(Published online by the Washington Post)

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** has told Indian business leaders that commercial ties between their two countries should be expanding exponentially.

BIDEN spoke Wednesday to top business officials in India's financial hub of Mumbai. The vice president is on a four-day trip to India to strengthen ties between the two countries.

BIDEN told the group that the relationship between India and the United States has unlimited potential and that their economic ties should grow as well.

He also proposed starting three-way talks between the U.S, India and China to work toward their common interests.

Reuters

BIDEN seeks to assure India on Afghanistan, presses on trade

By: Prashant Mehra/ July 24, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** sought on Wednesday to ease Indian concern about a possible political settlement with the Afghan Taliban, saying the insurgents would have to give up ties to al Qaeda and accept the Afghan constitution that guarantees equal treatment to women.

BIDEN, seeking to shore up Indo-U.S. ties that have cooled in recent months over trade disputes and intellectual property rights also urged India to shun protectionism, calling for bold decisions to strengthen its economy.

India, which has invested billions of dollars in Afghanistan since the Taliban were ousted from power in 2001, is worried that reconciliation with the Taliban would embolden militant groups, some of which are backed by rival Pakistan, and threaten its interests.

The United States, on the other hand, preparing to withdraw most of its combat troops from Afghanistan by the end of 2014, has backed the talks as part of a broader process to end three decades of bloodshed.

"I know there are questions about the U.S. position on reconciliation with the Taliban," **BIDEN** said in a wide-ranging speech at BSE, one of Mumbai's two main stock exchange.

"I want to make clear, we have always been committed to an Afghan-led, Afghan-owned process that needs three outcomes: that the Taliban must break with the al Qaeda permanently, stop the violence, accept the Afghan constitution and guarantee equal treatment for women," said **BIDEN**, who is on a four-day trip to India.

Talks with the Taliban are meant to find a way of bringing the insurgents back into the Afghan political process.

A plan to open a Taliban office in Qatar, as part of efforts to promote talks, erupted in a row after Afghan President Hamid Karzai objected to representatives of the Taliban raising their flag and giving the office a nameplate that suggested they wanted to set up a government-in-exile.

"**BIDEN** will need to assure the Indians that the U.S. is not pursuing some secret deal with the Taliban that would put Indian regional security interests at risk," Lisa Curtis, a South Asia specialist at The Heritage Foundation, told Reuters.

Curtis said India-U.S. relations had got bogged down in recent months over Afghanistan and Washington's frustration with what it sees as India's protectionist trade policies.

U.S. COMPLAINTS GET LOUDER

U.S. business groups this year have escalated their complaints about India's trade practices, complaining its policies discriminate against American firms or undermine U.S. intellectual property rights, especially for pharmaceuticals.

BIDEN said the business environment had to improve to open the way for greater bilateral trade, which stands at about \$100 billion a year.

"Protection of intellectual property, limits on FDI, inconsistent tax dues, barriers to market access, these are tough problems," he said, referring to foreign direct investment.

"But we all know they have to be negotiated and worked through in order to meet the potential of this relationship."

U.S. drug manufacturers say some Indian decisions have denied patent protections for certain drugs made by Pfizer, Novartis and Bayer to benefit local generic drug companies.

After his speech, **BIDEN** held talks with some of India's most prominent business leaders. "There was an honest discussion about how both sides should be productive in reducing some of the barriers that impact trade and commerce," he said later.

For its part, India has opposed provisions in immigration legislation passed by the U.S. Senate that would make it harder for India's information technology workers to get temporary visas to work in the United States.

"How does temporary relocation of workers amount to immigration?" asked an Indian official.

New York Times

BIDEN Urges Closer Cooperation With India's Business Elite

By: Neha Thirani Bagri/ July 24, 2013

Vice President Joseph R. **BIDEN** Jr. urged India's financial elite Wednesday to seize on the chance to bolster ties with the United States to benefit both nations on areas like the economy and environment.

“I would ask you to consider the historic opportunity that we have here,” Mr. **BIDEN** said, speaking to a packed room at the Bombay Stock Exchange in India’s financial capital. “Imagine what our two countries can achieve together, not only for one another but for the economic and political stability of the region.”

In a speech peppered with colorful rhetoric, Mr. **BIDEN** identified four main areas of importance: improving economic exchange, addressing climate change, collaborating in defense matters and addressing India’s role in the Asia-Pacific region.

His speech comes as the United States tilts its focus in the region more toward India in part to counterbalance China’s rise but also because of Washington’s increasingly problematic relationship with its longtime military ally Pakistan, India’s principal foe.

In the course of Mr. **BIDEN**’s two-day visit to Mumbai he is expected to meet with leading Indian industrialists and businesspeople and to attend an event at the Indian Institute of Technology before flying to Singapore on Thursday.

During his speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange, Mr. **BIDEN** extolled the need for greater ease in doing business with India and called for further economic reforms, highlighting the frustrations many American businesses have had as they have sought to tap into India’s potentially huge consumer market.

“India is no longer an economic island and will continue to rise as an economic power,” Mr. **BIDEN** said as he extolled the economic growth of the country since its economy was opened up in 1991. “However significant challenges and problems persist. It is time we take this relationship to a new level to achieve our shared vision.”

Mr. **BIDEN** said that among the obstacles to a friendly business environment in India are the lack of protection for intellectual property, inconsistent tax rules, high barriers to market entry, and protectionist policies. He called for a trade and investment partnership that is open and

fair to both countries and pushed for an improved bilateral trade agreement.

Addressing the American immigration bill that would limit the number of foreign workers allowed into the United States, Mr. **BIDEN** said that the number of visas the United States has granted has recently increased. He added that bilateral trade between India and the United States has grown fivefold over the last 13 years, reaching nearly \$100 billion this year, and can increase even further if both countries make the right choices.

India has introduced many economic reforms since September 2012, reducing the restrictions for certain types of foreign investment, but American officials believe the changes have not gone far enough.

While India's strong market of 1.2 billion people has attracted several global companies, the country has proved to be a challenging business environment for many. The deep-seated corruption, bureaucratic red tape and convoluted and ever-changing government regulations have led many foreign companies to complain about India's difficult investment climate.

Recently, an amendment to the law that allows the Indian government to tax past overseas transactions involving Indian assets led to a battle with British telecom company Vodafone Group and created considerable apprehension among foreign investors. In April, India's top court alarmed overseas drug companies by allowing Indian pharmaceutical companies to make generic versions of the drug Gleevec, a product of Novartis, which raised questions about the protection of intellectual property in India.

Building on Secretary of State John Kerry's recent visit to India, Mr. **BIDEN** also urged India to address the challenges posed by climate change and begin working toward cleaner energy options.

"Unless development is sustainable, the consequences of climate change will seriously undermine the economic progress made by India and risk the very health of the people of the country," he said, suggesting that the two countries work to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons and encourage scientists from both countries to work on green technology options.

He also pushed for an increased security partnership, adding that such ties would be good for business and regional stability.

“There is no contradiction between strategic autonomy and a strategic partnership,” he said. “Global powers are capable of both.”

He added that the United States would like to see India achieve its cherished goal of a permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council, as well as take a bigger role in regional leadership.

Mr. **BIDEN** received warm applause when he congratulated India’s cricket team for beating England in January.

Mr. **BIDEN**’s visit to India, his first official trip to the country since assuming office in 2009, is the first by an American vice president in almost three decades. He arrived in New Delhi on Monday and spent a day meeting with India’s top political leaders, including Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari and Sushma Swaraj, the leader of the opposition.

Bloomberg

BIDEN Urges India to ‘Take Medicine’ by Opening Slowing Economy By: Andrew MacAskill & Anoop Agrawal/ July 24, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** called on India to further open its economy to foreign investment and improve protection for intellectual property to help drive a possible fivefold increase in trade between the nations.

The experience of developed economies shows that the best way to boost growth is to open to the world, **BIDEN** said in a speech to business leaders at the Bombay Stock Exchange today during the first visit to India by an American vice president in three decades. Hundreds of millions of Indian consumers deserve access to the most affordable products, he said, and a graduate wanting to start the next Tata Motors Ltd. (TTMT) should be able to buy the best parts available wherever they are made.

“It is a little bit like as my mother used to say: ‘You have to take your medicine in order to be healthy’,” **BIDEN** said. “You have an extraordinary opportunity to unleash the immense talents of the people of India in the global economy and power India’s growth for decades to come.”

The U.S. is pushing India, Asia’s third-largest economy, to remove remaining investment caps in sectors including finance, retail and insurance. The government of Indian Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, serving the final year of his second consecutive term, this month proposed to ease FDI limits as part of efforts to woo long-term capital after the local currency touched an unprecedented low against the dollar on July 8. Foreign-direct investment slid about 21 percent to \$36.9 billion last fiscal year compared with 2011-12.

Efforts to throw open pension and insurance funds have been opposed by smaller parties within India’s parliament that Singh might need to push the measures through. The economy grew at a decade-low 5 percent last fiscal year.

Steel Pullout

Pacts meant to boost economic ties have foundered. A landmark 2005 agreement on cooperation in civil nuclear energy, for example, has failed to deliver business for U.S. companies wary of Indian rules on compensation claims in the event of an atomic accident.

Bilateral trade could rise fivefold from the current \$100 billion, **BIDEN** said as he nears the end of a four-day trip to India. His visit, a month after the arrival of U.S Secretary of State John Kerry, is aimed at improving U.S-India ties and laying some of the groundwork for a summit between Singh and President Barack Obama later this year.

After delivering today’s speech he will meet with business leaders at the Taj Palace Hotel in Mumbai. Yesterday, **BIDEN** held talks with Singh, President Pranab Mukherjee and Sushma Swaraj, a leader of the opposition Bharatiya Janata Party. He leaves for Singapore tomorrow.

Steel companies ArcelorMittal (MT) and Posco put more pressure on Singh last week when they announced they were scrapping steel projects valued at \$12 billion in India because of delays in getting land and mining permits.

The Hill

BIDEN, in India, calls climate change a risk to development

By: Ben Geman/July 24, 2013

Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** said in India Wednesday that fighting climate change shouldn't be at odds with economic development efforts in the world's second-most-populous nation.

BIDEN devoted plenty of space to climate change in his speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange at a time when the White House is vowing to step-up international engagement.

"Of course India's first priority is and must be lifting its citizens out of poverty. But unless we can develop a sustainable path on a low-carbon path, the consequences of climate change will seriously undermine the development and growth, as well as harm the very health of the people of India," **BIDEN** said in a wide-ranging speech in Mumbai.

Here's a little more from the White House transcript:

It matters to India – to the productivity of your farmlands, the availability of water, the risks you face from floods and rising seas. India is already taking steps. But like us, India can do more. And we are anxious and willing to work with you.

BIDEN urged joint work with India to curb use of hydrofluorocarbons, which are potent greenhouse gases used in refrigerators, air conditioners and other applications.

The U.S. and China recently launched a joint effort to help curb the gases that are seen as a key climate risk as air conditioning demand grows in India, China and elsewhere.

BIDEN also urged more progress on negotiations to enable the U.S. reactor companies to be the suppliers for planned nuclear plants in India under a 2008 U.S.-India agreement on nuclear power cooperation. The efforts have hit snags over India's liability policies.

"Your leaders fully understand that in order to sustain your development India needs access to low-carbon technologies and other sources of clean energy. And that's why when I was a United States Senator and Chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee I fought so hard in the United States Senate to champion the U.S.-India Civil Nuclear Agreement. It's part of the path to sustainable energy in a growing, powerful country," **BIDEN** said.

"But part of that agreement was India committed to work with American companies as well as you build out those nuclear plants. And it's important that we complete the first agreement between American companies and the Nuclear Power Corporation of India," he said.

USA Today

BIDEN: I may have Indian relatives

By: David Jackson/ July 24, 2013

Joe **BIDEN** wonders if he can run for office in India.

Speaking Wednesday at the stock exchange in Mumbai, Vice President **BIDEN** said he wanted to go "off script" to talk about a letter he received shortly after his election to the U.S. Senate in 1972.

"I received a letter from a gentleman named **BIDEN** -- **BIDEN**, my name -- from Mumbai, asserting that we were related," **BIDEN** said to laughter. "Seriously."

The letter writer told **BIDEN** that one of their ancestors worked for the British East India trading company back in the 1700s, and wound up in the city then known as Bombay.

Alas, **BIDEN** said he never checked out his alleged Indian connection.

"So I was thinking about it -- if that's true, I might run here in India for office," **BIDEN** mused. "I might be qualified."

The veep added that, after this latest trip to India, "I'm going to follow up to find out whether there is a **BIDEN** and whether we're related. I hope he's in good standing if we are."

The Weekly Standard

Joe BIDEN claims Indian Relatives

By: Daniel Halper/ July 24, 2013

Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, speaking today at the Bombay stock exchange, claimed Indian relatives.

"Thank you all for giving me this opportunity. It's an honor to be back in India and to be here in Mumbai," **BIDEN** said to kick off his speech. "Off script for a second here, I was reminded -- I was elected to the United States Senate when I was a 29-year-old kid back in 1972, and one of the first letters I received and I regret I never followed up on it. Maybe some genealogist in audience can follow up for me, but I received a letter from a gentleman named **BIDEN** -- **BIDEN**, my name -- from Mumbai, asserting that we were related. (Laughter.) Seriously. Suggesting that our mutual, great, great, great, something or other worked for the East India Trading Company back in the 1700s and came to Mumbai.

"And so I was thinking about it, if that's true, I might run here in India for office. (Laughter.) I might be qualified. But I've never followed up on it. But now that I'm back for the multiple times, I'm going to follow up to find out whether there is a **BIDEN** and whether we're related. I hope he's in good standing if we are. (Laughter.)"

BIDEN also said that after this trip, he'd be able to return to Delaware and brag to the Indian-American community there.

Any weekend in Delaware -- we have a very significant and tight Indian-American community -- any weekend in Delaware, you can find the

Delaware United Cricket Club competing. And now I have bragging rights. I will be able to go back and tell my friends who belong to that club that I visited the home of the best cricket team in the world. It will give me some reason to -- (applause). You won the International Cricket Council Championship.

The Hill

U.S.-E.U pact could redefine global trade standards

By: John Castellani/July 24, 2013

As the United States continues to rebound from one of the worst economic downturns in recent history, there remains a high level of uncertainty that suggests we're not quite out of the woods yet. To bolster our recovery, President Obama and Congress have rightly looked to foreign trade as a driver of economic growth and jobs. Trade has been a top-of-mind issue lately, with Vice President Joe **BIDEN** traveling to India to urge greater economic cooperation, and House and Senate hearings being held to explore the great potential of increased trade.

Because the nature of world trade is changing, our leaders must look to unlock new foreign markets for American exports. While the Trans-Pacific Partnership is currently being negotiated with strategically important Asia-Pacific nations, we can't forget about the European Union, with whom we already share the world's largest trading relationship.

Recently, the United States and the EU have embarked on an ambitious new venture with the potential to reshape our relationship and redefine the nature of global commerce. The Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership (TTIP) aims to eliminate many remaining barriers to trade between America and the EU, and if structured properly will help to spur a new wave of economic growth on both sides of the Atlantic.

Today, the Energy and Commerce subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing and Trade is holding a hearing on the TTIP. Congress is right to be engaged this early in the process, as our trade deficit with the

EU ballooned by nearly 16 percent last year to over \$115 billion. Increasing access for U.S. exports across all sectors of our economy must be a major priority. And there's no reason to think we can't be successful: The United States and the nations that comprise the European Union share many common bonds and have a long, rich history of economic and diplomatic cooperation. With the TTIP, we have a unique opportunity to craft a trade agreement that reflects our shared values and establishes a framework that establishes new norms for international trade.

For the biopharmaceutical industry, which employs over 800,000 Americans, that framework must include provisions that protect the cycle of innovation, allowing us to continue pioneering medical advancements for the world's patients. Given the fact that the United States and the EU account for nearly 60 percent of all the medicines currently in development throughout the world, it's in both our long-term interests to get it right. Establishing clarity and certainty, from regulatory processes to patents, will encourage cross-border competition and cooperation, and allow American and European drug researchers to bring lifesaving medicines to market faster and more efficiently.

In addition to the promise of renewed economic prosperity, the TTIP also has the potential to serve a different yet equally important purpose. Over the last few years, there have been increasing attacks on the global innovation ecosystem that threaten to stifle the pipeline of new drug development. There are several countries (for instance, India and Canada) that have been aggressively scaling back or denying intellectual property protections for biopharmaceutical medicines in order to prop up their own domestic industries. By securing strong and enforceable provisions in the TTIP, we can send a strong message and establish a global policy of rewarding risk takers and the investments needed to develop new innovative products.

The TTIP is a great concept on many levels that will help spark economic and job growth, but only if we pay attention to the details. Great care must be taken to ensure America is allowed to compete on level footing with our European partners. For the U.S. innovators who will drive growth in the

21st century, the TTIP must recognize and protect the significant contributions our industries make to the global economy. And if one of the goals of the TTIP is to establish a model for future trade agreements, current U.S. law should certainly form the baseline for negotiations.

As Congress considers Trade Promotion Authority (TPA) legislation that will allow the President to fast-track trade deals, these considerations must factor into their decision making or the United States risks being left behind in the global marketplace. Only by securing the strongest agreement possible can we reap the full potential of the TTIP and future free trade agreements.

Castellani is president and CEO of the Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America.

Wall Street Journal: India Real Time
BIDEN Calls on India to Lower Barrier to Trade
By: Niharika Mandhana/ July 24, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joseph **BIDEN** Wednesday urged India to lower barriers to foreign trade and investment if the country wants to strengthen its economy.

The relationship between India and the U.S. must be based on a "trade and investment partnership that is open and fair that grows both economies as India builds the largest middle class in human history," Mr. **BIDEN** said as part of a speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai, India's financial capital.

Mr. **BIDEN** is on a four-day India visit that follows a series of drawdowns of investment by international companies.

Last week, global retail giant Wal-Mart Stores Inc., WMT -0.13% insurer Berkshire Hathaway Inc. BRKB -0.54% and steel companies Posco and ArcelorMittalMT -0.38% all reduced their India investment plans.

His remarks came as the Indian government said it was unable to make amendments to investment regulations requested by Wal-Mart.

Wal-Mart had told the government that it could not meet a 30% local sourcing requirement, people present during the discussions told The Wall Street Journal recently. The government on Tuesday said it wouldn't be able to make any changes to the rule, since "it is a politically sensitive issue," the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

Foreign businesses are growing increasingly frustrated with the Indian government's weak public policy, say analysts. Foreign direct investment in India fell 21% in the fiscal year that ended March 31.

India and the U.S. have a lot of work to do to expand ties, said Ashley Tellis, a senior associate at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, a Washington-based think tank. "But, this has not happened because of the paralysis that has characterized policy-making in India," he said.

In recent months, U.S. businesses and members of Congress have written several letters to the U.S. government, complaining that India's policies are protectionist, and discourage innovation.

To be sure, the Indian government at times has seemed responsive to their concerns, recently suspending a controversial "Buy India" policy for electronics goods, which required that up to 30% of goods sold in India be made locally.

But some say the Indian government has not gone far enough to attract foreign investment.

"India's value as a market for U.S. goods and investment is losing sheen," said Sreeram Chaulia, a professor at the Jindal School of International Affairs in Haryana. "What the Americans don't want to see in India is protectionist and populist policies."

Mr. **BIDEN** Wednesday referred to a range of regulations that he said needed amendment, including protection of intellectual property,

requirements of companies to buy local content, limits on foreign direct investment and barriers to market access.

"These are tough problems," Mr. **BIDEN** said. He said India's "instinct to protect industries is fully comprehensible and easy to understand" as local "businesses are seeking any competitive edge they find."

"But I believe recent history of other developing countries and developed countries shows that the better way to grow is to strengthen your economy, although it takes some bold decisions," he said.

India has taken steps to open itself up to foreign investment and the global economy, first in 1991 and again in September last year, when the government pushed through a series of measures designed to liberalize foreign-investment regulations, dubbed the "big bang reforms" in India.

Earlier this month, the Indian government announced efforts to lure foreign investment by opening up telecom to 100% foreign ownership and easing overseas-investment rules for defense, energy and single-brand retail. But few investments have materialized.

"In a highly competitive investment environment, investors look for a consistent commitment to, not sporadic outbursts of, reforms," Michael Froman, the U.S. Trade Representative, said earlier this month. "Most importantly, they look for the enduring confidence that comes from long-term, sustained, high levels of growth."

The Indian economy is currently struggling, growing at 5%, its slowest pace in a decade. The rupee has declined more than 30% since the end of 2007.

Finance Minister P. Chidambaram and Commerce Minister Anand Sharma traveled to the U.S. earlier this month to allay concerns about the country as an investment destination.

They appealed for continued investment in India, particularly in the manufacturing sector.

"A few cases of business rivalry ought not to be brought to the political table and converted into a political issue between two countries which have

so much to contribute to global prosperity," Mr. Chidamabaram said in a speech to the U.S.-India Business Council.

Relations between India and the U.S. have been warming in the past decade. Bilateral trade nears \$100 billion, with India running a trade surplus. Trade has increased fivefold over the past 13 years, said Mr. **BIDEN**.

The countries in 2005 signed a civil nuclear agreement that ended India's status as a global nuclear pariah and allowed U.S. companies to sell nuclear equipment to India.

The pact has yet to bear fruit for U.S. companies, who have expressed concerns over Indian legislation that could saddle American companies with large financial liabilities in the event of an accident.

Mr. **BIDEN** said Wednesday that he still saw opportunities for U.S. investment, particularly in technology and infrastructure.

In the 45-minute speech, Mr. **BIDEN** also called on India to grow business ties with East Asian countries and increase military cooperation with the U.S. to ensure ships can navigate freely in the South China Sea and Indian Ocean.

Mr. **BIDEN**'s message comes at a time when the U.S. itself pivots eastward in an attempt to shore up Asian alliances and assert its opposition to Beijing's territorial claims in the South China Sea.

Mr. **BIDEN**'s visit to India comes a month after U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry traveled to New Delhi for an annual strategic dialogue, and marks a continuation in the Obama administration's efforts to reinvigorate relations between the two democracies.

Wall Street Journal: India Real Time

BIDEN Arrives in Heavy Monsoons

By: Shreya Shah and Niharika Mandhana/ July 24, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** has arrived in Mumbai as the city braces for possible flooding caused by heavy monsoon rains, high tides and an overflowing reservoir.

Mr. **BIDEN** is supposed to deliver a speech Wednesday at 1 p.m. at the Bombay Stock Exchange about trade and investment in India, among other things, and then attend a business roundtable at 3:30 p.m. at the Taj Mahal Palace Hotel.

It wasn't clear Wednesday morning how the rains might affect Mr. **BIDEN**'s schedule. His staff said his schedule would not be affected by the rains, which were slowing in the late morning.

Mr. **BIDEN** is supposed to travel by road during his visit, according to N.N. Mistry, assistant commissioner of traffic police in the city. Arrangements to block certain roads have been made, Mr. Mistry said.

A deluge in the city during the past day led companies Wednesday morning to advise employees to work from home and schools run by the city government to give students the day off.

Combined with an unusually high tide and a water reservoir overflowing in the city, the unrelenting rainfall led the Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation, which is the city government, to ask citizens not to leave their houses unless they have no option but to do so, said Mahesh Narvekar, head of Mumbai's disaster management department.

The national disaster response force, civil defense teams, the fire-squad, naval teams and the municipal corporation were all on alert, Mr. Narvekar added.

To be sure, the rainfall Wednesday is nowhere near the deluge in 2005, when the entire city was flooded and life came to a standstill, Mr. Narvekar said.

Between 8:30 a.m. on Tuesday and 8:30 a.m. Wednesday, the suburb of Santa Cruz got 215.6 mm rainfall, according to an official at Mumbai's disaster management helpline.

“Heavy to very heavy rainfall is expected for the next 24 hours in Mumbai,” he said.

Kinjal Kheradia, 24, who works as an assistant manager at 70 Event Media Group, gave her team of eight the day off on Wednesday. She says only people with an exceptionally heavy workload who cannot work from home will come to the office on Wednesday.

Ms. Kheradia is trying to avoid a repeat of her long journey home Tuesday evening, in heavy rains. It took Ms. Kheradia more than two hours Tuesday evening to travel from her office in suburban Bandra to her house in South Mumbai, a journey that usually takes 45 minutes, she said.

Some trains are running 20 minutes late. Low-lying areas of the city, including parts of Sion, Parel, and Matunga, are flooded.

Thus far this year, the monsoon has brought Mumbai exceptionally heavy rains.

Since June 1, the suburb of Santa Cruz in Mumbai has recorded 1684.5 mm rain. Mr. Narvekar said Mumbai has received 80% of the year’s average rainfall during the past month-and-a-half. At this time last year, Mumbai had received only 35% of the average rainfall in a year, he said.

Wall Street Journal: India Real Time
BIDEN Pushes Gender Equality
By: Niharika Mandhana/July 25, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joe **BIDEN** made a push for greater gender equality on Thursday, at the end of his four-day visit to India, at a time when women’s rights in the country have come under the spotlight.

“The future goes with the country that is most open and most representative of the entire population,” Mr. **BIDEN** said on a short trip to the Indian Institute of Technology in Mumbai.

His comments came after a meeting with a group of female students, during which Mr. **BIDEN** discussed their research and the practical problems Indian women face every day, such as access to transport.

“You’re looking at India’s future,” Mr. **BIDEN** said, pointing to the five female doctoral students surrounding him. “These women are as capable as any one of you men standing out there.”

Mr. **BIDEN**’s observations on the empowerment of women during a trip that otherwise focused on New Delhi’s economic policies come six months after the fatal gang rape of a 23-year-old in the nation’s capital, which sparked protests across the country and led to demands for better protection of women.

Indian courts are expected in August to sentence four adult men and one juvenile accused of assaulting and raping the young woman on a moving bus in December, causing such devastating injuries that she later died.

Mr. **BIDEN** said that the U.S. is encouraging more women to participate in the fields of science and technology. “We have to take advantage of the collective cognitive ability of our populations,” he said.

In May 2013, U.S. technology executives visited India to learn about the obstacles and opportunities for Indian women in the field, according to the U.S. State Department.

On Thursday, students of the Indian Institute of Technology gave Mr. **BIDEN** a short tour of some laboratories on the university’s campus, describing their equipment and research.

“Looks like something out of Star Wars,” Mr. **BIDEN** said, as a student detailed the functioning of a large machine.

Mr. **BIDEN**’s visit to India this week aimed to invigorate economic ties with the country. He met Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, President Pranab Mukherjee and the leader of India’s opposition in the lower house, Sushma Swaraj. Mr. **BIDEN** left for Singapore Thursday.

Singapore

International News Coverage:

AFP

BIDEN in Singapore to discuss sea disputes

July 25, 2013

(Published online by ABS-CBN news)

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in Singapore on Thursday, July 25, for a visit in which he is expected discuss trade ties and ways to calm regional maritime tensions.

BIDEN's plane touched down at a military air base in the city-state following an earlier visit to India.

President Barack Obama's number two is scheduled to meet with the country's top leaders, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and modern Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew on Friday.

He will also hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is visiting Singapore on the same day as part of a swing to Southeast Asia.

On Saturday, **BIDEN** will visit a Pratt & Whitney aircraft engine overhaul facility and tour the US Navy's littoral combat ship USS Freedom, which has been deployed to Singapore and the surrounding region as part of Washington's strategic "pivot" towards Asia.

BIDEN and his wife Jill on Saturday will also become the latest high-profile visitors to be bestowed a unique Singapore honor -- having an orchid named after them.

The vice president will depart for Hawaii on Saturday.

A senior US administration official said in Washington ahead of the Singapore visit that **BIDEN** is expected to discuss with Singaporean

leaders tensions in the South China Sea caused by overlapping maritime claims.

China claims virtually all of the sea, sparking protests from rival claimants the Philippines and Vietnam, which accuse Beijing of mounting a creeping takeover of disputed islets.

Brunei and Malaysia, as well as Taiwan, also claim parts of the sea.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has been urging China to negotiate a legally binding code of conduct in the sea aimed at preventing conflict.

BIDEN and the Obama administration are "concerned about certain patterns of activity that have unfolded in these areas, and so I think you can expect that he will address this issue head-on" in Singapore, the senior US administration official said.

The official added that **BIDEN** will talk with Singapore leaders about Washington's "very deep stake in making sure that these disputes are managed in a way that promotes freedom of navigation, promotes stability, promotes conflict resolution, avoids intimidation and coercion and aggression."

Beijing, however, has been reluctant to discuss such a code with ASEAN, saying it prefers to deal with individual claimants.

The rivalries in the South China Sea have for decades been a source of regional tension, with China and Vietnam fighting battles in 1974 and 1988 for control of some islands in which dozens of Vietnamese soldiers died.

Tensions have again boiled in recent years with the Philippines, Vietnam and some other countries expressing concern at increasingly assertive Chinese military and diplomatic tactics to stamp its control over the sea.

Trade relations are also expected to figure in **BIDEN's** agenda, with Singapore being a major US economic partner in the region.

Today-Singapore
BIDEN to visit Singapore
July 25, 2013

The Ministry of Foreign affairs has announced that United States Vice President Joe **BIDEN** will be headed to Singapore for an official visit from today till Saturday.

Mr **BIDEN** will be accompanied by his wife Dr Jill **BIDEN**, and he will be meeting with President Tony Tan, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and former Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew. PM Lee will also host Mr **BIDEN** to a working dinner involving other Cabinet Ministers and the Speaker of Parliament.

Mr **BIDEN** and his wife will also be honoured with a new orchid hybrid named after them, the Dendrobium Joe and Jill **BIDEN**, at a ceremony at the National Orchid Garden. Minister, Prime Minister's Office, Second Minister for the Environment and Water Resources and Second Minister for Foreign Affairs Grace Fu, and Senior Minister of State in the Ministry of Law and Ministry of Education Indranee Rajah will also be at the ceremony.

On July 27, Mr **BIDEN** will visit the Pratt & Whitney aircraft engine overhaul facility and then the US Littoral Combat Ship, USS Freedom, at the Changi Naval Base.

Also accompanying Mr **BIDEN** for this trip will be senior officials from the VP's Office, the US National Security Council and the US Department of State.

Channel News Asia
US Vice President BIDEN to visit Singapore from July 25-27
July 25, 2013
(Published online by: Xin MSN news)

Vice President of the United States of America Joseph R **BIDEN** will visit Singapore from Thursday to Saturday.

Mr **BIDEN** will be accompanied by his wife, Dr Jill **BIDEN**, and senior officials from the Vice President's Office, National Security Council and Department of State.

Mr **BIDEN** will meet with President Tony Tan Keng Yam, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and former Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew.

PM Lee will also host Mr **BIDEN** to a working dinner involving other cabinet ministers and the Speaker of Parliament.

As part of the visit, Mr **BIDEN** and Dr **BIDEN** will attend a ceremony at the National Orchid Garden where a new orchid hybrid, the Dendrobium Joe and Jill **BIDEN**, will be named in honour of the Vice President and his wife.

On Saturday, Mr **BIDEN** will visit the Pratt & Whitney aircraft engine overhaul facility.

He is also expected to visit the US Littoral Combat Ship, USS Freedom, at the Changi Naval Base.

AFP

US Vice President BIDEN arrives in Singapore

July 26, 2013

(Published online by the Fox News)

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in Singapore on Thursday for a visit in which he is expected discuss trade ties and ways to calm regional maritime tensions.

BIDEN's plane touched down at a military air base in the city-state following an earlier visit to India.

President Barack Obama's number two is scheduled to meet with the country's top leaders, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and modern Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew on Friday.

He will also hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is visiting Singapore on the same day as part of a swing to Southeast Asia.

On Saturday, **BIDEN** will visit a Pratt & Whitney aircraft engine overhaul facility and tour the US Navy's littoral combat ship USS Freedom, which has been deployed to Singapore and the surrounding region as part of Washington's strategic "pivot" towards Asia.

BIDEN and his wife Jill on Saturday will also become the latest high-profile visitors to be bestowed a unique Singapore honour -- having an orchid named after them.

The vice president will depart for Hawaii on Saturday.

A senior US administration official said in Washington ahead of the Singapore visit that **BIDEN** is expected to discuss with Singaporean leaders tensions in the South China Sea caused by overlapping maritime claims.

China claims virtually all of the sea, sparking protests from rival claimants the Philippines and Vietnam which accuse Beijing of mounting a creeping takeover of disputed islets.

Brunei and Malaysia, as well as Taiwan, also claim parts of the sea.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which has been urging China to negotiate a legally binding code of conduct in the sea aimed at preventing conflict.

BIDEN and the Obama administration are "concerned about certain patterns of activity that have unfolded in these areas, and so I think you can expect that he will address this issue head-on" in Singapore, the senior US administration official said.

The official added that **BIDEN** will talk with Singapore leaders about Washington's "very deep stake in making sure that these disputes are managed in a way that promotes freedom of navigation, promotes stability,

promotes conflict resolution, avoids intimidation and coercion and aggression".

Beijing, however, has been reluctant to discuss such a code with ASEAN, saying it prefers to deal with individual claimants.

The rivalries in the South China Sea have for decades been a source of regional tension, with China and Vietnam fighting battles in 1974 and 1988 for control of some islands in which dozens of Vietnamese soldiers died.

Tensions have again boiled in recent years with the Philippines, Vietnam and some other countries expressing concern at increasingly assertive Chinese military and diplomatic tactics to stamp its control over the sea.

Trade relations are also expected to figure in **BIDEN's** agenda, with Singapore being a major US economic partner in the region.

AFP

Security, trade top agenda in BIDEN's Singapore trip July 26, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** was to meet Singaporean leaders and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on Friday in talks likely to be dominated by regional maritime disputes and trade.

BIDEN, who arrived in the city-state late Thursday, was scheduled to meet Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his father, influential elder statesman Lee Kuan Yew, later in the day.

President Barack Obama's number two will also meet Abe, who is visiting Singapore as part of a tour of Southeast Asia following his fresh victory in upper house polls.

Officials and analysts said maritime disputes and US trade ties with the region -- the focus of a strategic shift by Washington to counter growing Chinese influence -- are expected to be on top of the agenda.

A senior US administration official said in Washington ahead of the visit that **BIDEN** would use the meetings to discuss efforts to manage overlapping maritime claims in the South China Sea, a potential flashpoint for regional conflict.

China says it owns virtually all of the sea and has increasingly taken steps to enforce its claims, sparking protests from rival claimants the Philippines and Vietnam. Brunei and Malaysia, as well as Taiwan, also claim parts of the sea.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has been urging China to negotiate a legally binding code of conduct aimed at preventing conflict in the waters.

Beijing, however, has been reluctant to discuss such a code with the 10-nation regional bloc, saying it prefers to deal with individual ASEAN claimants.

BIDEN, in a speech at George Washington University ahead of his Asia trip, stressed the importance of a code of conduct for the South China Sea.

"With regard to maritime disputes, it's critical that all nations have a clear understanding of what constitutes acceptable international behaviour," **BIDEN** said.

"That means no intimidation, no coercion, no aggression, and a commitment from all parties to reduce the risk of mistake and miscalculation," he said, adding that "setting clear rules is the first step to managing these disputes".

Japan and China are locked in their own maritime dispute over islands in the East China Sea.

Euan Graham, an analyst with the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, said economics would be on **BIDEN**'s agenda as much as security.

Washington is seeking "to flesh out the economic leg" of its strategic re-balancing through the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free-trade agreement, in addition to other initiatives to deepen ties with ASEAN, Graham told AFP.

Led by the US, the TPP talks currently involve 12 countries -- Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.

Japan joined the TPP talks for the first time this month.

BIDEN has said the US aims for the completion of a TPP deal this year, which would create one of the world's biggest free trade zones.

Some analysts say the TPP initiative is part of Washington's efforts to contain China, which is not a party to the ongoing negotiations.

China however is part of talks for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a 16-nation free-trade bloc in Asia that excludes the US.

Before plunging into serious diplomacy Friday, **BIDEN** and his wife Jill were feted during a ceremony at the National Orchid Garden, where a new hybrid was named "Denrobium Joe and Jill **BIDEN**" in their honour.

BIDEN also stopped by an open-air food centre, one of the many in Singapore offering a wide array of cheap meals, shook hands with some locals and bought two cups of fresh lime juice.

On Saturday, he will visit a facility of US aerospace giant Pratt & Whitney and tour the US Navy's littoral combat ship USS Freedom.

The warship has been deployed to Singapore and the surrounding region for the next eight months to give teeth to Washington's strategic "pivot" towards Asia.

He will leave for Hawaii later on Saturday.

AFP

BIDENs have orchid named after them in Singapore

July 26, 2013

Singapore has long used orchid naming to recognise international leaders, with high-profile political figures including Nelson Mandela and Margaret Thatcher having blossoms at Singapore's National Orchid Garden.

The **BIDENs** were feted at a ceremony at the 63-hectare (155 acre) garden, where a new hybrid orchid, Dendrobium Joe and Jill **BIDEN**, was named in their honour.

The vice president signed a symbolic "birth certificate" officially naming the orchid, one of many new varieties constantly being developed in Singapore.

"Mr. Prime Minister, never did I think in my wildest dreams that I would have an orchid named after me and my wife," a smiling **BIDEN** told Singapore's Lee Hsien Loong.

"That was beyond any expectations I ever had as a child or an an adult."

VIP orchid-naming first took root in 1957 during British colonial rule when a variety was named after Anne Black, the wife of London's high commissioner to Singapore.

Singapore is a leading exporter of orchids and its national flower is an indigenous violet-hued variety called the Vanda "Miss Joaquim".

The Straits Times

US keen to help boost India-Asean ties: BIDEN

July 26, 2013

He stresses growing importance of both to regional security, prosperity

THE United States wants to help strengthen the links between India and South-east Asia as a way to boost regional security and prosperity, visiting

US Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** said as he began a two-day visit to Singapore.

Mr **BIDEN**, who was in New Delhi and Mumbai earlier this week, noted that both India and Singapore have central roles to play in helping to address tension in the Asia-Pacific.

"There's an important reason why I've chosen to travel from India to Singapore," Mr **BIDEN** said in a written interview with The Straits Times.

"We want to highlight and reinforce the growing links between India and South-east Asia, and the growing importance of both to regional prosperity and security. We see some of the same opportunities in Southeast Asia that we see in India."

The Vice-President is not expected to announce major new initiatives during his visit.

White House officials have instead characterised the trip as part of ongoing US efforts to strengthen engagement with the Asia-Pacific, a hallmark of US foreign policy under the Obama administration.

By sending Mr **BIDEN**, a key player in the administration who has decades of experience in foreign policy, the White House is also hoping to send a strong signal to Asian countries that it is "all in" with regard to the strategy to "rebalance" towards the Asia-Pacific, officials added.

The strategy, announced in late 2011, involves shifting more US military and diplomatic resources to the region after two costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Some Asian countries, however, are concerned that Washington would not be able to sustain this effort. Others are worried that the US strategy is too focused on security matters, and ignores trade and economic ties, which are paramount to the region.

In his written reply, Mr **BIDEN** sidestepped a question on whether a US-Asean free trade agreement was possible in the next three years. But he

stressed that a key aspect of his visit was to highlight the importance of the economic relationship between the US, India and Asean.

He added: "There's a reason why 1,500 US companies make their home away from home in Singapore, and there's a reason why the US invests more in South-east Asia than in China.

"We see the mutual opportunity here and we greatly value it. And part of our rebalancing strategy is to strengthen those bonds, to work together towards greater integration, and towards reducing barriers to trade and investment."

Addressing business leaders at the Mumbai stock exchange on Wednesday, Mr **BIDEN** also urged India to further open its economy to foreign investments, a move which could improve US-India trade fivefold.

Turning to prickly US-China ties, he said the relationship was not as bad as widely assumed.

"When a lot of people think about this relationship, they think only in terms of suspicion. But I don't think that's the right way of looking at it," he said.

"The truth is more hopeful, and probably more complicated."

ABS-CBS News

BIDEN arrives in Singapore

July 26, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** arrived in Singapore on Thursday for a visit in which he is expected discuss trade ties and ways to calm regional maritime tensions.

BIDEN's plane touched down at a military air base in the city-state following an earlier visit to India.

President Barack Obama's number two is scheduled to meet with the country's top leaders, including Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and modern Singapore's founding father Lee Kuan Yew on Friday.

He will also hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is visiting Singapore on the same day as part of a swing to Southeast Asia.

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BIDEN and his wife Jill on Saturday will also become the latest high-profile visitors to be bestowed a unique Singapore honour -- having an orchid named after them.

The vice president will depart for Hawaii on Saturday.

A senior US administration official said in Washington ahead of the Singapore visit that **BIDEN** is expected to discuss with Singaporean leaders tensions in the South China Sea caused by overlapping maritime claims.

China claims virtually all of the sea, sparking protests from rival claimants the Philippines and Vietnam which accuse Beijing of mounting a creeping takeover of disputed islets.

Brunei and Malaysia, as well as Taiwan, also claim parts of the sea.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) which has been urging China to negotiate a legally binding code of conduct in the sea aimed at preventing conflict.

BIDEN and the Obama administration are "concerned about certain patterns of activity that have unfolded in these areas, and so I think you can expect that he will address this issue head-on" in Singapore, the senior US administration official said.

The official added that **BIDEN** will talk with Singapore leaders about Washington's "very deep stake in making sure that these disputes are managed in a way that promotes freedom of navigation, promotes stability,

promotes conflict resolution, avoids intimidation and coercion and aggression".

Beijing, however, has been reluctant to discuss such a code with ASEAN, saying it prefers to deal with individual claimants.

The rivalries in the South China Sea have for decades been a source of regional tension, with China and Vietnam fighting battles in 1974 and 1988 for control of some islands in which dozens of Vietnamese soldiers died.

Tensions have again boiled in recent years with the Philippines, Vietnam and some other countries expressing concern at increasingly assertive Chinese military and diplomatic tactics to stamp its control over the sea.

Trade relations are also expected to figure in **BIDEN's** agenda, with Singapore being a major US economic partner in the region.

MSN News

BIDEN calls for easing of tensions in Asian waters

July 26, 2013

In a flurry of diplomacy on the first day of his two-day visit to Singapore, President Barack Obama's number two urged parties to reject bellicose threats in the South China Sea and East China Sea and "quickly" agree on rules to prevent conflict.

China claims nearly all of the strategically vital South China Sea, even waters close to the shores of its smaller neighbours, a regular flashpoint with smaller nations like Vietnam and the Philippines.

Beijing is also locked in an increasingly fractious maritime row with Japan in the East China Sea over a series of disputed islands -- a source of growing concern for Washington which has a defence alliance with Tokyo.

As well as meeting with Singaporean leaders, **BIDEN** took the opportunity to hold talks with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who was visiting Singapore on the same day as part of tour of Southeast Asia.

"We each expressed our concern about the rising tensions in the South China Sea," **BIDEN** told reporters after a meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong.

"The United States urges all parties to reject coercion, intimidation and threats to the use of force," said **BIDEN**, who arrived late Thursday from an earlier visit to India.

"We encourage the ASEAN and China to quickly reach agreement on a code of conduct," he added.

Four members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -- Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam -- are locked in rival claims with China and Taiwan over areas in the South China Sea.

The 10-nation grouping has been urging China to negotiate a legally binding code of conduct aimed at preventing conflict in the sea, but Beijing has said it prefers to deal with individual claimants.

Washington says it has an interest in the freedom of navigation in the sea, which hosts vital shipping lanes.

China in recent years has increasingly taken steps to enforce its claims, sparking the strongest protests from Philippines and Vietnam.

BIDEN in his remarks did not refer to any particular threats to the use of force or intimidation in the South China Sea.

But in June this year, a powerful arm of China's state-run media accused the Philippines of trying to provoke Beijing and warned it could lead to aggressive Chinese action.

"If the Philippines continues to provoke China... a counterstrike will be hard to avoid," said the commentary run by the People's Daily, the mouthpiece of the ruling Communist Party.

On his meeting with Abe, **BIDEN** said both leaders shared the view that the US-Japan alliance plays a central role in regional peace and stability.

"The vice president reaffirmed the US position on the East China Sea, including our alliance commitments," a US statement after the meeting said.

BIDEN also "highlighted the US view that all sides should take steps to reduce tensions", the statement added.

BIDEN said he also discussed trade ties, including a US-led initiative called the Trans-Pacific Partnership which aims to establish one of the world's biggest free trade zones.

"We're working hard with Singapore and others to get it done in 2013," **BIDEN** said.

Japan joined the talks for the first time this month with 11 other countries already holding negotiations -- Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.

BIDEN said the 12 countries account for 40 percent of world gross domestic product and would form the "core for a stronger global economic growth... in the 21st century".

Some analysts say the TPP is part of Washington's efforts to contain China, which is not a party to the ongoing negotiations.

China however is part of talks for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a 16-nation free-trade bloc in Asia that excludes the US.

Before plunging into serious diplomacy Friday, **BIDEN** and his wife Jill were feted during a ceremony at the National Orchid Garden, where a new hybrid was named "Denrobium Joe and Jill **BIDEN**" in their honour.

"Never did I think in my wildest dreams that I would have an orchid named after me and my wife," **BIDEN** said.

"That was beyond any expectations I ever had as a child or as an adult."

On Saturday, **BIDEN** will visit a facility of US aerospace giant Pratt & Whitney and tour the US Navy's littoral combat ship USS Freedom.

The warship has been deployed to Singapore and the surrounding region for the next eight months to give teeth to Washington's strategic "pivot" towards Asia.

He will leave for Hawaii on Saturday.

AFP

Security, trade likely to top agenda in BIDEN's Singapore trip July 26, 2013

Maritime disputes and trade ties with Asia are likely to top the agenda as US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** begins a visit to Singapore on Friday, officials and analysts said.

BIDEN, who arrived in the city-state late Thursday, is scheduled to meet Singapore's Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his father Lee Kuan Yew.

President Barack Obama's number two will also meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is visiting Singapore on the same day as part of a tour of Southeast Asia.

On Saturday, **BIDEN** will visit a facility of US aerospace giant Pratt & Whitney, and tour the US Navy's littoral combat ship USS Freedom, which has been deployed to Singapore and the surrounding region for the next eight months to give teeth to Washington's strategic "pivot" towards Asia.

The USS Freedom, designed to fight close to the shore, arrived in April and will participate in naval exercises as well as visit other ports.

BIDEN and his wife Jill on Saturday will also become the latest high-profile visitors to be bestowed a unique Singapore honour -- having an orchid named after them.

A senior US administration official said in Washington ahead of the visit that **BIDEN** is expected to use his meetings in Singapore to discuss efforts

to manage overlapping maritime claims in the South China Sea, a potential flashpoint for regional conflict.

China says it owns virtually all of the sea and has increasingly taken steps to enforce its claims, sparking protests from rival claimants the Philippines and Vietnam, which accuse Beijing of hegemonic ambitions.

Brunei and Malaysia, as well as Taiwan, also claim parts of the sea.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam are members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), which has been urging China to negotiate a legally binding code of conduct aimed at preventing conflict in those waters.

Beijing, however, has been reluctant to discuss such a code with the 10-nation regional bloc, saying it prefers to deal with individual ASEAN claimants.

BIDEN, in a speech at George Washington University on July 18 ahead of his Asia trip, stressed the importance of a code of conduct in the South China Sea.

"With regard to maritime disputes, it's critical that all nations have a clear understanding of what constitutes acceptable international behaviour," **BIDEN** said.

"That means no intimidation, no coercion, no aggression, and a commitment from all parties to reduce the risk of mistake and miscalculation," he said, adding that "setting clear rules is the first step to managing these disputes".

"The prospects where they're so close -- cheek-to-jowl -- for mistakes are real. So it's in everyone's interest that there be freedom of navigation, unimpeded lawful commerce, respect for international laws and norms, and peaceful resolution of territorial disputes."

Euan Graham, an analyst with the S Rajaratnam School of International Studies in Singapore, said economics will be on **BIDEN's** agenda as much as security.

Washington is seeking "to flesh out the economic leg" of its strategic re-balance through the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) free-trade agreement, in addition to other initiatives to deepen ties with ASEAN, Graham told AFP.

Led by the US, the TPP talks currently involve 12 countries -- Australia, Brunei, Canada, Chile, Japan, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru, Singapore, the United States and Vietnam.

BIDEN has said the US aims for the completion of a TPP deal this year, which would create one of the world's biggest free trade zones.

Some analysts say the free-trade agreement is part of Washington's efforts to contain China, which has not been invited to join the TPP.

China is part of talks for a Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, a 16-nation free-trade bloc in Asia that excludes the US.

BIDEN, who arrived in Singapore late Thursday from an earlier visit to India, leaves for Hawaii on Saturday.

The Straits Times

Deepen US-Singapore Cooperation: BIDEN

July 26, 2013

Singapore and the United States, already established partners on multiple fronts, can deepen their cooperation in regional issues as well as security concerns like nuclear proliferation and cybercrime, US Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** has suggested.

"Singapore plays an absolutely central role in South-east Asia," said Mr **BIDEN**, who arrived last night for his first-ever visit to Singapore, in a written interview with The Straits Times.

"We see a huge opportunity to strengthen our relationships in Singapore, and to really expand them, as part of our rebalancing strategy, so that both nations, and the region as a whole, can benefit from the work we do together."

The two countries have significantly stepped up bilateral collaboration of late. In February last year, they signed new agreements to conduct annual strategic talks, as well as to jointly embark on developmental projects in the Lower Mekong region.

Background story

HUGE OPPORTUNITY

We see a huge opportunity to strengthen our relationships in Singapore, and to really expand them, as part of our rebalancing strategy, so that both nations, and the region as a whole, can benefit from the work we do together.

- US Vice-President Joe BIDEN

'Central role for Singapore in S-E Asia'

UNITED States Vice-President Joe **BIDEN**, who is in town for a two-day visit, gave his thoughts on a wide range of diplomatic and economic concerns in a written interview with The Straits Times. Here are excerpts of his comments.

ON US-INDIA RELATIONS

"I see a historic moment for our two countries. It's an opportunity for us to work together in a way that doesn't just benefit each of us, but benefits the entire world, particularly the Asia-Pacific region. We also focused on how essential India's role is in the region, not just as an economic and security power, but as a genuine beacon of democracy, one that is helping debunk the totally false choice between development and freedom."

ON US-CHINA RELATIONS

"When a lot of people think about this relationship, they think only in terms of suspicion. But I don't think that's the right way of looking at it. The truth is more hopeful, and probably more complicated.

"Right now, there are obviously some real disagreements between our countries on certain issues. And I don't expect those to disappear

overnight. But I think we ought to be able to put ourselves in a position where we can be straightforward and honest with one another, and in doing so, find solutions that really work for both of us."

ON US-SINGAPORE RELATIONS

"Singapore plays an absolutely central role in South-east Asia. We see a huge opportunity to strengthen our relationships in Singapore, and to really expand them, as part of our rebalancing strategy, so that both nations, and the region as a whole, can benefit from the work we do together.

"We can build on our essential security relationship too, by improving cooperation on a range of issues, including maritime security and law enforcement efforts to fight terrorism, nuclear proliferation and cybercrime. And we can build on our deep partnerships in areas like energy, the environment and climate change, where our cooperation can play an even greater role in the region."

The Hindu Business Line

US Vice-President Joe BIDEN Visits Singapore

July 26, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** was in Singapore Friday for talks expected to focus on trade ties with Asia and regional maritime disputes.

BIDEN was due to meet President Tony Tan Keng Yam, Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong and his father, influential former leader Lee Kuan Yew.

He is also scheduled to meet Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, who is visiting the city-state on a trip to South-East Asia.

On Saturday, **BIDEN** is to visit the USS Freedom, which is currently docked at the Changi Naval Base. The US Navy ship arrived in Singapore in April for a 10-month deployment in South-East Asia, as part of Washington's plans to increase its military presence in the region.

Singapore and the United States are already close partners in trade and security but could increase their cooperation further as part of the US 'pivot' towards Asia, **BIDEN** told The Straits Times.

"We see a huge opportunity to strengthen our relationships in Singapore... as part of our rebalancing strategy," he said.

The White House said **BIDEN** "will emphasize the centrality of South-East Asia in our regional strategy." The talks are also expected to focus on efforts to manage maritime disputes in the South China Sea. China claims ownership of most of the sea — including potentially resource-rich areas — although Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei and Taiwan also claim territory.

BIDEN arrived in Singapore late on Thursday, following a visit to India. He will leave for Hawaii on Saturday.

AFP

U.S. Vice President vows his nation will remain a resident Pacific power July 28, 2013

The United States vice president has vowed that his nation will remain a Pacific power as territorial disputes continue to destabilise relations between near neighbours.

Ending a two day trip to Singapore, Vice President Joe **BIDEN** credited his country with maintaining peace and stability in the region for decades.

He says the US presence has allowed Asia-Pacific nations to focus on growing their economies.

"I state without apology that we are a Pacific power," he said.

"America is a Pacific resident power and we will remain so."

Speaking on the deck of the US navy ship USS Freedom on the anniversary of the Korean War armistice, Mr **BIDEN** said its resident power was the reason why the region is able to grow and be stable.

"Our mere presence in the Pacific is in and of itself the basis upon which stability of the region is built," he said.

In another speech at a Singapore facility of US aerospace giant Pratt & Whitney, Mr **BIDEN** said flashpoints over territorial disputes in the Asia-Pacific region are having a destabilising influence.

He did not mention any specific country, but Vietnam and US treaty ally the Philippines has accused China of mounting aggressive activity.

"The increase in maritime incidents and assertive action which we see lately in the South China Sea represents a threat to the security of the region," he said.

China seized the Scarborough Shoal last year after Manila backed down from a lengthy stand-off.

This year, Manila has complained about the presence of Chinese navy vessels near Second Thomas Shoal, which is occupied by Filipino troops.

Vice President **BIDEN** on Saturday warned that the risk of a miscalculation in the sea is real, and urged claimants to hasten talks on legally-binding rules to prevent conflict.

AFP

U.S. Vice President tells troops "America is a Pacific Power"

July 28, 2013

THE United States will remain a Pacific power, American Vice President Joe **BIDEN** vowed yesterday as he credited his country with maintaining peace and stability in the region for decades.

JBIDEN, ending a two-day visit to Singapore, said the US presence there has allowed Asia-Pacific nations to focus on growing their economies.

"I state without apology that we are a Pacific power. America is a Pacific resident power and we will remain so," President Barack Obama's number two told sailors of the US Navy's littoral combat ship USS Freedom.

"The truth of the matter is our resident power status is the reason why this area of the world is able to grow and be stable," he said.

"Our mere presence in the Pacific is in and of itself the basis upon which stability of the region is built. You are the glue that holds all this together."

The USS Freedom is a modern vessel designed to fight close to shore in areas typical of Southeast Asia's maritime geographical features.

Deployed to Singapore and the surrounding region, the ship is seen as a symbol of Washington's strategic re-balance of its military presence towards Asia following long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq.

In another speech at a facility of US aerospace giant Pratt & Whitney, **BIDEN** said "the increase in maritime incidents and assertive action which we see lately in the South China Sea represents a threat to the security of the region".

He did not mention any country but Vietnam and US treaty ally, the Philippines, have accused China of mounting aggressive actions in the sea.

Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam have laid partial claims to the sea, which hosts vital commercial and strategic shipping lanes. Taiwan is the other claimant.

China seized the Scarborough Shoal, a South China Sea outcrop just 230 kilometres (140 miles) east of the main Philippine island of Luzon, last year after Manila backed down from a lengthy stand-off.

This year Manila has complained about the presence of Chinese navy vessels near Second Thomas Shoal, which is occupied by Filipino troops.

BIDEN also warned that the risk of a miscalculation in the sea is real and urged claimants to hasten talks on legally-binding rules to prevent conflict.

"It would not take much of an incident to escalate, and tensions can turn into conflict," he said.

Channel News Asia

BIDEN Hopes for Economic Growth in Asia Pacific Region to Continue

July 27, 2013

US Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on Saturday discussed with business leaders in Singapore the importance of economic growth in the Asia-Pacific region and the need to manage tensions in the South China Sea.

These key issues were very much on the mind of the vice president during his visit to aircraft engine manufacturer Pratt and Whitney at the Changi Naval Base on Saturday morning.

He hopes there will be progress on the discussions on the Code of Conduct for the claimant states in the South China Sea, and that it will come in time for the East Asia Summit in October this year in Brunei.

BIDEN recalled that when President Barack Obama took office in 2009, the American economy was in the midst of a downturn but things have changed now with the economy growing.

BIDEN said: "Forty straight months of job growth. We have gone from losing over 800,000 jobs a month when we sworn in, to creating an average of 200,000 jobs a month in 2013."

The vice president added that political will is necessary to achieve this.

BIDEN also shared with the audience his meeting with former Minister Mentor Lee Kuan Yew on Friday at the Istana.

BIDEN said: "He (Mr Lee) said what the rest of the world is trying to do is to try and figure out what that black box is in America that allows you to re-invent yourself constantly."

"It is clear what it is -- think differently. That is why the United States is working with partners like Singapore to make a global trading system of the 21st century more competitive and fair."

BIDEN also spoke of the importance of the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP), which is being discussed amongst several countries including the US and Singapore.

He said the agreement will play an important role in spurring economic growth in this region and he hopes that the countries can reach an agreement by the end of this year.

BIDEN also noted that the Pacific is home to some of the busiest sea lanes and faces the danger of becoming fault lines for future conflicts.

He said: "The increasing maritime actions and assertive actions we have seen in the South China Sea represent a threat to the security of the Asia-Pacific region... President (Obama) and I are concerned by what we are seeing. We are concerned that tensions are growing, not declining."

However, the vice president also said that while the US welcomes ASEAN's efforts to advance talks on the Code of Conduct in the South China Sea, he noted that "we can't be in a position year after year of merely talking a Code of Conduct while tensions continue to increase".

BIDEN added: "Delay only raises risks. As we look ahead to the East Asia Summit this year, all parties involved should be looking for a way to move quickly towards a substantive code. The United States has a deep stake in these issues -- we are and we will remain a resident Pacific power."

Before flying off to Hawaii on Saturday afternoon, **BIDEN** visited the Changi Naval Base where the littoral combat ship, the USS Freedom is docked. He said this is evidence of the strong relationship between Singapore and the US.

The Straits Times

US Presence 'Crucial for Asian Growth'

By: Robin Chan/July 28, 2013

BIDEN reiterates American commitment to remaining a resident Pacific power

Visiting US Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** yesterday wrapped up his six-day Asian tour by underlining the United States' commitment to the Asia-Pacific region, saying his country "will remain a resident Pacific power".

This commitment is crucial for maintaining peace and prosperity in the region, without which there can be no economic growth or opportunities in the economies of Asia-Pacific nations as well as the US, he said yesterday.

Mr **BIDEN** made the point when he visited the aircraft engine overhaul facility of US company Pratt and Whitney, which has been in Singapore for more than 30 years and employs 2,300 people.

Pointing to the factory in Changi, he said: "The remarkable things happening here are a reminder of what's at stake for the US and the region. Expanding economic opportunity for all people. In our case, especially the American people."

He also told the American business leaders present during his hour-long visit: "We are, we will remain, a resident Pacific power. Let me say that again. We are, and we will remain, a resident Pacific power. And it is in the interests of all nations, especially Pacific nations, that we be there."

The US announced in late 2011 that it would shift more military and diplomatic resources to the Asia-Pacific, in a bid to recalibrate its priorities after two costly wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The US' desire to deepen economic and security relations with Asia-Pacific countries was a theme Mr **BIDEN** returned to several times in his tour of India and Singapore.

Yesterday, he also reiterated his call to China and Asean countries to quickly adopt a code of conduct to manage rising tensions from territorial disputes in the region.

Both made progress on the long-stalled code at a recent Asean summit, by agreeing to start formal talks in September.

But tensions remain.

The Philippines has raised alarm at the increased military presence of China in the South China Sea.

Besides the two countries, Vietnam, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan also lay claim to disputed territories in those waters.

Mr **BIDEN** said the US hopes for more progress at the East Asia Summit in Brunei in October, which will bring together Asean and major powers such as the US, Japan and China.

"It would not take much of an incident to escalate, and tensions can turn into conflict... We can't be in a position year after year of merely talking about a code of conduct while tensions continue to increase. Delay only raises risk," he said.

"So as we look ahead towards the East Asia Summit this year, all parties involved should be looking at a way to move quickly toward a substantive code."

Turning to how to sustain economic growth, Mr **BIDEN** urged emerging economies to move away from protectionist policies and integrate more deeply in the region.

The US wants to establish a new 21st-century global economic system via the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a 12-member free trade zone in the Asia-Pacific that includes the US, Japan and Singapore.

The 18th round of talks ended this week in Malaysia.

Mr **BIDEN** reiterated the US role in keeping peace and prosperity in the region at Changi Naval Base, his last stop before going home.

He was visiting sailors of the littoral combat ship USS Freedom, which is in the middle of an eight-month deployment, and the USS Fitzgerald guided missile destroyer, which just completed an exercise with Singapore.

He said: "The truth of the matter is our resident power status is the reason why this area of the world is able to grow and be stable.

"Our mere presence in the Pacific is in and of itself the basis upon which stability of the region is built. You are the glue that holds all this together."

The Daily Tribune
BIDEN Unapologetic on US Pacific Power
July 28, 2013

The United States will remain a Pacific power, Vice President Joe **BIDEN** vowed yesterday as he credited his country with maintaining peace and stability in the region for decades. **BIDEN**, ending a two-day visit to Singapore, said the US presence there has allowed Asia-Pacific nations to focus on growing their economies. "I state without apology that we are a Pacific power. America is a Pacific resident power and we will remain so," President Barack Obama's number two told sailors of the US Navy's littoral combat ship USS Freedom. "The truth of the matter is our resident power status is the reason why this area of the world is able to grow and be stable," he said. "Our mere presence in the Pacific is in and of itself the basis upon which stability of the region is built. You are the glue that holds all this together." The USS Freedom is a modern vessel designed to fight close to shore in areas typical of Southeast Asia's maritime geographical features.

Deployed to Singapore and the surrounding region, the ship is seen as a symbol of Washington's strategic re-balance of its military presence towards Asia following long wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. In another speech at a facility of US aerospace giant Pratt & Whitney, **BIDEN** said "the increase in maritime incidents and assertive action which we see lately in the South China Sea represents a threat to the security of the region".

He did not mention any country but Vietnam and US treaty ally, the Philippines, have accused China of mounting aggressive actions in the sea. Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines and Vietnam have laid partial claims to the sea, which hosts vital commercial and strategic shipping lanes. Taiwan is the other claimant. China seized the Scarborough Shoal, a South China Sea outcrop just 230 kilometres (140 miles) east of the main Philippine island of Luzon, last year after Manila backed down from a lengthy standoff. This year Manila has complained about the presence of Chinese navy vessels near Second Thomas Shoal, which is occupied by Filipino troops. **BIDEN** warned that the risk of a miscalculation in the sea is real and urged claimants to hasten talks on legally-binding rules to prevent conflict. "It would not take much of an incident to escalate, and tensions can turn into conflict," he said.

The Straits Times

BIDEN in touch with the heartland

By: Chua Chin Hon/July 29, 2013

But US Vice-President is no Ordinary Joe, weighing in on tough policy matters

MOST American politicians make it a point to celebrate their middle-class roots only during election-time.

Not so United States Vice-President Joe **BIDEN**, the "scrappy kid" from Middle America as he is often known. The old-school politician not only wears his heartland heritage as a badge of honour at home, but also enjoys showcasing it around the world when he is sent on diplomatic missions.

When the 70-year-old grandfather visited Beijing two years ago, for instance, he raised eyebrows by turning up for lunch at a small neighbourhood eatery, eschewing the many exclusive restaurants in the Chinese capital city.

He and his small entourage's modest meal of pork buns, noodles and cucumbers - with the bill coming up to 79 yuan (S\$16) - delighted many Chinese netizens who were impressed by his frugal ways.

Mr **BIDEN** reprised his heartland routine when he visited Singapore last week, turning up unannounced at the popular Adam Road hawker centre last Friday afternoon.

He went around greeting food stall owners, posed for pictures with surprised diners, and bought two cups of ice-cold lime juice for \$3 - not quite what you might expect from the second-most powerful man in the US.

However, Mr **BIDEN**'s folksy approach to politics and diplomacy, while endearing, has fed a widely held media caricature of him as a political lightweight. His propensity for headline-grabbing gaffes has not helped matters.

Some pundits even consider Mr **BIDEN** a political liability for US President Barack Obama, and suggested in the run-up to last year's election that he be replaced on the ticket by then top diplomat Hillary Clinton.

But nothing is further from the truth. If anything, Mr **BIDEN**'s track record in the last five years puts him among the most important and trusted members of the Obama administration.

For starters, he was tapped to oversee the implementation of the US\$787 billion (S\$995 billion) economic stimulus package Mr Obama helped to pass in the first few weeks of his presidency in 2009. He has been a leading voice in many tough domestic and foreign policy decisions, from tackling gun violence to counter-terrorism as well as the withdrawal of US troops from Iraq and Afghanistan.

More recently, on New Year's Eve, he leveraged his deep ties in Congress (he became a US Senator at age 30) to help broker a deal between duelling Republican and Democratic lawmakers over the so-called "fiscal cliff" crisis. If the crisis had been left unresolved, a series of major tax hikes and deep government spending cuts would have tipped the US economy back into recession.

It was another tough mission that brought Mr **BIDEN** to India and Singapore last week - pacifying worries among regional countries that the so-called US "rebalancing" strategy to Asia was running out of steam.

The strategy, announced with much fanfare in late 2011, has seen Washington shift more military and diplomatic resources towards the Asia-Pacific in recognition of its growing economic and strategic weight.

But many Asian countries have expressed doubts about whether the US can sustain this effort, given its weakened economy and distractions of crises at home and in other hot spots - a perception that the Obama administration is eager to dispel.

Mr **BIDEN**, in a wide-ranging speech in Singapore last Saturday, gave the assurance that the US was "all in" with regard to its rebalancing strategy. He added: "We are, and we will remain, a resident Pacific power.

"And it is in the interests of all nations, especially Pacific nations, that we be there."

While the same assurance has been given on several other occasions by US officials, Mr **BIDEN**'s effort takes on greater heft on account of his decades of experience in international relations.

Before he resigned from the Senate in 2009 to take up the vice-presidency, Mr **BIDEN** served for 34 years on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and was its chairman for several years. Though he is largely seen as a European and arms control expert, some of his recent experiences have helped to make up for his limited experience with Asia.

Most notably, Mr **BIDEN** has spent an unusual amount of "face time" with China's top leader Xi Jinping in recent years. The two spent at least 10 hours together when Mr **BIDEN** visited China in August 2011, including a rare joint trip to south-western Sichuan province.

When Mr Xi visited the US in February last year, it was Mr **BIDEN** who formally hosted the then Chinese vice-president during his four-day visit. Mr **BIDEN**'s direct insights on Mr Xi, who will run China for the next

decade, will be something many Asian leaders are looking to tap in future meetings.

Mr **BIDEN** declined to discuss his impressions of Mr Xi in a written interview with The Straits Times. But he characterised prickly US-China relations as being "more hopeful" than widely assumed.

"Our relationship is subject to all kinds of caricatures. I've heard the US-China relationship described as everything from the next Cold War to the new G-2, and the truth is, neither is accurate," Mr **BIDEN** noted.

"There are obviously some real disagreements between our countries on certain issues... (but) I remain confident that we'll be able to make significant, measurable progress over time."

National News Coverage:

Bloomberg

BIDEN Says U.S. to Push China for South China Sea Code

By: Haslinda Amin and Sharon Chen/July 28, 2013

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** said the U.S. is pushing China to negotiate quickly with Southeast Asian nations on a code of conduct for the South China Sea, an area that's a "major, major, major highway of commerce."

China agreed during an Association of Southeast Asian Nations-hosted forum in Brunei late last month to meet with the 10-member group in September to develop rules to avoid conflict in the waters. Nguyen Tan Dung, prime minister of Asean member Vietnam, warned in May that miscalculations over territorial disputes could disrupt commerce, with two-thirds of all maritime trade moving through the area.

"We're doing everything to encourage that to be done, but it has to be done," **BIDEN** said in a Bloomberg Television interview on July 27, as he wrapped up a six-day trip to India and Singapore. "It's in everyone's interest, including China's, to have it happen that way, through negotiating a settlement."

BIDEN is the third senior Obama administration official to visit Asia -- following Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel and Secretary of State John Kerry -- since May, as the U.S. seeks to assure its allies it is committed to a pledge to build its military and economic presence in the region. The U.S. has close ties with the Philippines, which has its own maritime dispute with China, a tussle that has also prompted the Asean member to bolster its relations with Japan.

President Barack Obama will travel to Malaysia for a summit October 11-12, Deputy National Security Adviser Ben Rhodes said yesterday in a message on the social networking site Twitter.

China's neighbors reject its map of the South China Sea, first published in the 1940s, as a basis for joint exploration of oil and gas. Spats involving fishing and exploration boats have raised tensions as countries vie for resources.

China Claims

China National Offshore Oil Corp. estimates the South China Sea may hold about five times more undiscovered natural gas than the country's current proved reserves, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

China, the world's second-biggest economy, rejects U.S. involvement in South China Sea matters. While it has said it wants a code of conduct in the waters, it also seeks to resolve territorial disputes on a bilateral basis. It views the other countries as aggressors, accusing them of breaching a previous agreement on operating in the area.

BIDEN didn't offer specifics on how the U.S. would prod China for a quick resolution of a code of conduct.

"It is in China's interest to drag out as long as possible any legally-binding document" that could be seen to diminish its claims on the South China Sea, said Terence Lee, an assistant professor of political science at National University of Singapore. "It's very unlikely the code of conduct will be agreed on this year."

Trade Ties

China has cut the cables of survey ships working for Vietnam and its dispute with the Philippines has led to several standoffs between Chinese and Philippine vessels. China claims “indisputable sovereignty” over more than 100 islets, atolls and reefs that form the Paracel and Spratly Islands, and jurisdiction over the seabed and subsoil.

Further north, Japan’s purchase last year of islands known as Senkaku in Japan and Diaoyu in China led to Chinese protests and roiled trade ties between Asia’s two biggest economies.

“What we want to see is that there’s no use of threat, intimidation or force,” **BIDEN** said in Singapore. “The rules of the road and international rules relating to international waters, sea lanes” need to be upheld, to keep them open and free, he said.

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe on July 27 agreed with the Philippines to boost maritime cooperation and seek “responsible action” on territorial disputes. Abe also called on China for talks “as soon as possible” to improve ties. During his visit to the Philippines he said Japan would provide a yen loan to equip the Philippine Coast Guard with 10 new patrol vessels.

‘Cold War’

Territorial spats and North Korea’s nuclear ambitions have escalated regional tensions, and China views the increased U.S. presence in Asia as a bid to contain it. Abe, in turn, has backed Japan’s first boost in military spending in 11 years, and his Defense Ministry is urging a buildup of marine forces.

“There’s sort of a storyline that either there’s a new Cold War with China or there’s a new G2 -- neither is true,” **BIDEN** said. “We are prepared and anxious to compete with China in the economic forum. We also believe there are many areas of cooperation, for example on the environment.”

BIDEN met Abe in Singapore on July 26, the same day Japan’s defense ministry said it should bolster its fledgling marine force and consider developing a first-strike capability as it seeks to respond to “high-handed” actions by China and the threat of North Korean missiles. Abe advocates

the country's first revision of its pacifist constitution, a U.S.-drafted document imposed on Japan after World War II.

Pacific Power

"I've met with the Japanese leadership -- I've not heard Abe say, or anyone else say, that they are going to abandon the conditions that exist within their constitution," **BIDEN** said. "It's in no one's interest to see increased militarization of any country in the region."

A year after the Pentagon said it would focus more on Asia after a decade of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, the U.S. Defense Department faces as much as \$500 billion in cuts over the next nine years. The U.S. military rebalance will mean that 60 percent of the Navy's fleet will be based in the Pacific by 2020, from about 50 percent.

"One of the reasons the region has been able to succeed so well economically for long is the stability and security the United States's presence in the region has provided," **BIDEN** said. "We're a Pacific power. We're not going anywhere."

The Wall Street Journal

U.S., Japan Seek to Calm Asia Territorial Tensions

July 26, 2013

U.S. Vice President Joseph **BIDEN** and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe used visits to Singapore on Friday to press for rapid action to ease escalating tensions in disputed Asian waters where China is increasingly asserting territorial claims.

Japan and Southeast Asia "have a common recognition to make sure that the Asian-Pacific region is ruled by law, and not by coercion and intimidation," Mr. Abe told reporters after a meeting with Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, during a regional tour that also includes Malaysia and the Philippines.

Mr. **BIDEN**, who visited India earlier in the week, said that he and Mr. Lee had also discussed concerns about rising tensions in the South China Sea during a separate meeting. Mr. **BIDEN** urged all countries involved to reject coercion, threats and the use of force in addressing the issue.

Mr. Abe and Mr. **BIDEN** also met for a half-hour Friday and discussed the state of relations between China and Southeast Asia, according to a statement issued by Mr. **BIDEN**'s office.

Beijing has in recent months stepped up military and paramilitary patrols in the South China Sea, prompting the U.S. to carry out joint naval maneuvers with allies in the resource-rich waters, which are crossed by more than half of the world's total trade.

China claims the sea almost in its entirety. Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia and Brunei, all members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, claim parts of the territory, as does Taiwan.

Creating an agreed code of behavior in the sea has been a long-standing aim of Asean. China had committed to a so-called declaration of conduct, but had shown reluctance in putting its name to a legally binding code. It has also preferred to deal with smaller nations one on one, rather than with Asean as a whole, as most members wish.

At a meeting of foreign ministers in Brunei late last month, Asean and China appeared to be making tentative progress, with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi affirming that Beijing was willing to advance talks on a code of conduct "in a step-by-step manner."

But in a move that some analysts said could slow down negotiations, Asean ministers accepted China's request to form a special board of experts to guide the process.

"We encourage the Asean and China to quickly reach an agreement on the code of conduct" for the waters, Mr. **BIDEN** told reporters after meeting Mr. Lee. "We are encouraged by the agreement to start discussions on a code of conduct and we hope to see it followed through in the coming weeks."

China and Japan have their own territorial tensions in the East China Sea.

In the buildup to winning last week's upper house election, cementing his political control, Mr. Abe took the unusual step of flying around 1200 miles to a remote island on the edge of a territory disputed with China to demonstrate his resolve to protect Japanese territory. Chinese ships regularly enter waters around the Senkaku islands—known as Diaoyu in China—which are administered by Tokyo.

Last year, Japan's government bought three of the islands from Japanese private individuals, pre-empting Tokyo's then governor, who had collected more than 1 billion yen (\$101 million) in donations to do so. That came after pro-Beijing activists landed on one of the islands.

"I am looking forward to the day when I can have amicable discussions with the leaders of China," Mr. Abe said in a speech hosted by the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies.

In questions afterward, Mr. Abe reiterated his desire for Beijing and Tokyo to hold high-level talks. He said he would like the countries' foreign ministers to meet as soon as possible.

Mr. Abe's comments come as Japan is working to redefine and expand the role of its military in light of Tokyo's defense concerns.

Citing China's rising military presence and the threat of North Korean missiles, Japan's defense ministry outlined plans in an interim report Friday to enhance the nation's military capabilities in a range of areas.

The plans include the introduction of drones, the creation of an amphibious island defense force, and improving the nation's ability to respond to ballistic missile attacks. Such plans will be part of new national defense policy guidelines to be unveiled by the year-end.

Friday's report echoed the rhetoric of the prime minister, who has stressed a tough stance toward what Tokyo views as China's territorial expansionism and North Korean belligerence.

"Defense capability is something that ultimately guarantees our national security," the ministry said in the report. "It is the expression of our resolve and capability to decisively protect our people's lives and assets, as well as our territorial land, waters and skies."

Honolulu, Hawaii

National News Coverage:

Hawaii News Now

Vice President BIDEN makes stop in Hawaii

July 27, 2013

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** has touched down in Hawaii for a short stay on Oahu.

He and his wife Jill landed at around 12:45 p.m. Saturday afternoon at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam.

The couple stopped over on their way back to our nation's capital following a six-day trade and diplomatic trip to India and Singapore.

The **BIDENs** met with service members and their families, took pictures, and then thanked them all for their sacrifice and service.

The Vice President also spoke about former Hawaii Senators Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka in his remarks and how both men had fought for our freedom.

The **BIDENs** will return to Washington, D.C. tomorrow.

KHON

Vice President BIDEN Lands at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam

By: Vanessa Stewart/July 27, 2013

The Vice President of the United States and his wife are here in Hawaii.

They arrived at Joint-Base Pearl Harbor Hickam on Saturday.

Joe and Jill **BIDEN** just wrapped up a six-day diplomatic trip to Singapore and India.

Under sunny skies, hundreds of military families attended a BBQ to enjoy hot dogs and hamburgers but the highlight was to meet Vice President **BIDEN** and his wife Jill.

“Protect your families while you are gone and embrace you when you come home and give you all that you need that’s the only sacred obligation we have,” Vice President Joe **BIDEN** said.

BIDEN and his wife spoke to troops and their families to say “thank you” for their service and sacrifice.

“It’s nice to kind of see that they have family members in the service too that they kind of know what we’re going through,” U.S. Marine Corps Public Affairs Sgt. Skyler Tooker said.

After **BIDEN** spoke, he and his wife met and took pictures with troops and their families.

One of the reasons why the Tooker family came was to have their 7-month-old son Landon meet the Vice President.

“That’s why we came actually so we could have a chance maybe to show him when he’s older that he go the opportunity that a lot of kids don’t get,” Marine wife Allison Tooker said.

And, the Tookers weren’t the only ones, vying for an up-close and personal visit.

Jesse Miller’s wife Jenny actually flew the vice president to Iraq for the first time in 2009.

And, as a surprise, he wanted to get the picture of her with **BIDEN** signed.

“He was just very impressed and wanted to emphasize that women are very capable can do anything a man could do he was very proud of that,” U.S. Air Force Capt. Jesse Miller said.

Today Tara Molle turned 30-years-old.

After asking the secret service if she could meet the Vice President, he gave her something she hadn’t expected.

“He came over he actually gave me a coin too so I’m like really excited right now I feel like a little kid,” U.S. Coast Guard PO3 Tara Molle said.

Pictures weren’t the only things the Vice President signed.

Angiel James asked **BIDEN** to sign something unique.

“I might not get a photo so at least I should get something that I have hands on so I asked him if he would sign my bear that I named Mocha,” U.S. Army Angiel James said.

James said **BIDEN** chuckled and said “you’re going to get me in trouble by signing a teddy bear.”

But he obliged, making her happy.

After the pictures, autographs, and handshakes, the **BIDEN**’s left for Kaneohe Marine Base where they will be staying overnight.

They are expected to leave Hawaii for Washington D.C Sunday afternoon.

Honolulu Star Advertiser

Vice President BIDEN addresses troops at Pearl Harbor July 27, 2013

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** stopped in Hawaii this afternoon and thanked hundreds of troops for their service on his way back from India and Singapore — two key nations in America’s military and economic involvement in Asia and the Pacific.

BIDEN told more than 500 military members and their families from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and Coast Guard that they are “equal to any Americans gone before you.”

Speaking at Pearl Harbor, **BIDEN** said he had seen them in action in Baghdad, Basra, Fallujah and Ramadi in Iraq, and Kabul, Kandahar and at 8,000 feet altitude in Kunar province in Afghanistan.

“You and your families are part of an unbroken chain of patriots that have stood guard over the Pacific since that day of infamy in 1941,” **BIDEN** said in a reference to the attack on Pearl Harbor.

BIDEN said America’s strength in the Pacific has never been greater, and he talked about a “Pacific alliance we’re looking for going from Chile to Indonesia.” The Pacific Basin “is where the future lies,” he added.

“We are, and will remain, a resident Pacific power,” **BIDEN** said.

Because of the stability provided by the United States military in the Pacific, other countries, including China, India, Indonesia and Singapore, have been able to grow, the vice president said.

BIDEN and his wife, Jill, spoke to the military families at Pearl Harbor at 1:45 p.m. after Air Force Two touched down at Honolulu Airport at 12:52 p.m.

A **BIDEN** aide said the vice president spent four days in India and two in Singapore. At the Bombay Stock Exchange, **BIDEN** said that in the past 13 years, the United States and India had increased bilateral trade fivefold, reaching nearly 100 billion.

At Changi Naval Base in Singapore, **BIDEN** spoke to sailors aboard the USS Freedom, the first of four new Littoral Combat Ships expected to be deployed rotationally to the country.

BIDEN appeared onstage at Ward Field in navy slacks, a lighter blue-and-white striped shirt, a navy cap and sunglasses. His wife wore a red-orange dress and a flower lei.

BIDEN mentioned the military and political service of former Hawaii U.S. Sens. Daniel Inouye and Daniel Akaka. Inouye died at age 88 in December after 50 years in the Senate.

Jill **BIDEN** thanked the USO for putting on the barbecue at which she and her husband spoke.

"The USO is such a great organization," she said. "I've worked with them many times, and they do really wonderful things."

Bounce houses were set up for kids, and the military families ate hamburgers, hot dogs and chips.

Jill **BIDEN** also spoke about the program "Joining Forces," dedicated to bringing Americans together to recognize, honor and take action to support veterans and military families, an effort she created with first lady Michelle Obama.

While in Singapore, a female sailor told Jill **BIDEN** she didn't have anyone to take care of her young daughter when she went out on a ship.

The vice president's wife asked the Hawaii families for input and said, "So it's those kinds of things that I can take back and Michelle and I would be happy to work on them for you."

Tara Molle, a 3rd class petty officer in the Coast Guard, spent her 30th birthday Saturday sitting on a Coast Guard blanket front and center by the stage where the **BIDENS** spoke.

"I've been in the Coast Guard for about 10 years. Very proud to be (in the Coast Guard)," Molle said. "How many times do we get to meet the vice president or president? It's a neat milestone in my career to have something like this happen."

Navy Lt. Cmdr. Bryce Benson, his wife, Alexandra, and their three kids, ages 3, 8 and 9, got to say hello to the vice president, who chatted and took photos with families for more than a half-hour in the hot Hawaii sun.

"It's a great experience -- the fact that he came here to talk to all the troops," Bryce Benson said.

Fletcher Benson, 3, was feeling the heat, and **BIDEN** told him, "It's almost over, you can go home soon," his father said.

BIDEN also had some advice for Benson's two daughters.

"He said no serious dates until you are 30, which I think is some of the best advice he ever gave," Bryce Benson said.

BIDEN is expected to leave Hawaii today for Washington, D.C.

Social Media Coverage:

@VP Tweets:

- **July 22:** PHOTO:VP and @DrBIDEN have arrived in New Delhi, their first stop on a 6 day trip to India and Singapore(WH photo)
 - 127 Retweets, 44 Favorites



- **July 22:** PHOTO: VP, @DrBIDEN, Amb Powell & g'daughter of #Gandhi Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee @ Gandhi Smriti museum (WH PHOTO)
 - 45 Retweets, 21 Favorites



- **July 22:** Worth watching: The VP and @DrBIDEN met with Gandhi's granddaughter in New Delhi today at the Gandhi Smriti museum —> <http://at.wh.gov/ncRg7>

- 85 Retweets, 31 Favorites

- **July 23:** PHOTO: VP meets with Prime Minister of India Dr. Manmohan Singh in New Delhi today (WH photo- D. Lienemann)

- 33 Retweets, 9 Favorites



July 24: PHOTO: VP delivers remarks on the U.S.-India partnership at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai, India (WH PHOTO)

- 54 Retweets, 16 Favorites



July 24: CLICK HERE to watch VP **BIDEN**'s speech today on the U.S.-India partnership @ the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai:
<http://youtu.be/yY7raCRcZT0>

- 28 Retweets, 4 Favorites
- **July 24:** Worth sharing: VP **BIDEN** on how America's partnership with India can improve the economies of both nations → at.wh.gov/niaUG
 - 33 Retweets, 10 Favorites
- **July 25:** PHOTO: VP visits w/ students in a geochemistry lab at the Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay in Mumbai(WH PHOTO)
 - 26 Retweets, 10 Favorites



- **July 26:** PHOTO: VP & son-in-law Howard stop for some lime juice & talk w/ employees @ a hawker market in Singapore(WH PHOTO)
 - 65 Retweets, 44 Favorites



• July

27:

PHOTO: VP helps test a jet engine (WH PHOTO)

- 32 Retweets, 15 Favorites



- **July 27:** PHOTO: VP talks to business leaders & employees @prattandwhitney Singapore where jet engines are serviced & tested (WH PHOTO)

- 31 Retweets, 17 Favorites



Examples of Some Mentions:

- **July 22:** @JBendery: Gandhi's granddaughter: Meeting Joe **BIDEN** "was like family friends.... Whatever he said was so profound." <http://at.wh.gov/ncRg7>
- **July 22:** @PacificCommand: Vice President **BIDEN** in #India | #partnership @DoDLiveMil <http://ow.ly/ncMAy>
- **July 22:** @Kat4Obama: WH video: Gandhi's granddaughter welcomes @VP & @Dr**BIDEN**, says VPOTUS spoke from heart, like old friends & family. [Bit.ly/18vCgHL](http://bit.ly/18vCgHL)
- **July 22:** @nielslesniewski: Gandhi's granddaughter calls @VP **BIDEN** "such a delightful person" in White House video about **BIDEN** trip. [Roll.cl/12ZdWNs](http://roll.cl/12ZdWNs)

- **July 22:** @LarchungT: @VP @whitehouse @DrBIDEN Welcome to India
- **July 22:** @USandIndia: Amb Powell @VP BIDEN, @DrBIDEN, and Tara #Gandhi at Martyr's Column at Gandhi Smriti in New Delhi, #India



- **July 22:** @USandIndia: Amb Powell welcomes @VP BIDEN & @DrBIDEN to #India! @USandMumbai @USandChennai @USandKolkata @USandHyderabad



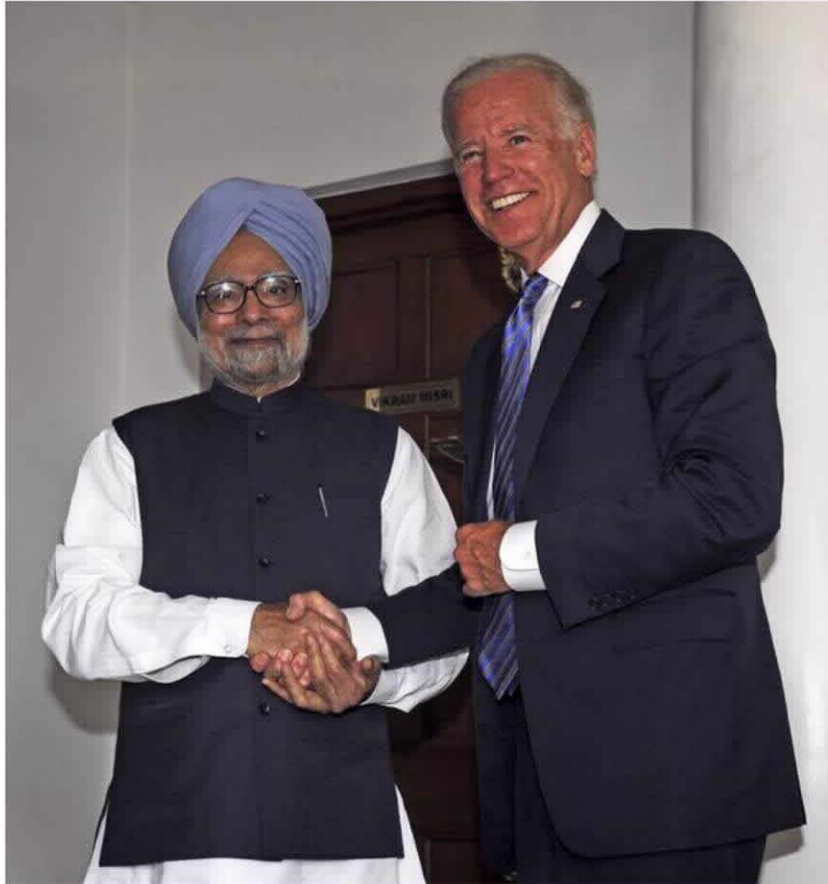
• **July 23:** @StateDept: .@VP **BIDEN** & @Dr**BIDEN** are currently visiting #India. Check out this video update on their travels, via @whitehouse. <http://go.usa.gov/jk3J>

- **July 23:** @WhiteHouse: In case you missed it, watch @VP **BIDEN** visit the Gandhi Smriti museum in New Delhi → <http://youtu.be/KdU7tEr-1vo>

- **July 23:** PMOIndia: PHOTO: Prime Minister Dr Manmohan Singh and US @VP Joe **BIDEN** with officials at a meeting in New Delhi today



July 23: PMOIndia: Happening Now: US @VP Joe **BIDEN** calls upon the Prime Minister at his residence



- **July 24:** @WhiteHouseCEQ: .@VP to India: "We both have an overwhelming stake in seeing to it that we address the issue of climate change." <http://1.usa.gov/1438XHb>
- **July 24:** @Tanvi_madan: #**BIDEN** tells Bombay Stock Exchange folks: "it has never been a good bet to bet against America" <http://goo.gl/tqfk1K> #India
- **July 24:** @NicStone: Joe **BIDEN** claims #Indian relatives and waxes lyrical on #cricket. <http://shar.es/kjtkl> via @sharethis (cc: @suhrith)
- **July 24:** @RaisinaSeries: Funny guy, just being humorous--Joe **BIDEN** Claims Indian Relatives <http://shar.es/kjvol> via @sharethis

- **July 24:** @NSCPress: From @VP in Mumbai: ...On behalf of POTUS, I invited PM Singh (@PMOIndia) to make a visit to DC at the end of Sept.: <http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-off...>
- **July 24:** @USandIndia: .@VP **BIDEN** and @Dr**BIDEN** visit Dilli Haat July 23, 2013 goo.gl/58HaFn



- **July 24:** @NMenonRao: U.S Vice Prez **BIDEN** at Bombay Stock Exchange: "A partnership defined not by what it promises but what it delivers".



- **July**
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During their trip @VP & Dr. **BIDEN** make time to experience some of the amazing culture India has to offer.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usembassynewdelhi/> ... @USAndIndia

- **July 25:** @GlobalChronicle: Joe **BIDEN** visits Indian Institute of Technology-Bombay, calls for more women in the sciences:
<http://economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/news-by-industry/services/education/joe-BIDEN-hails-iit-b-as-one-of-the-best-in-world/articleshow/21342156.cms> ... via @EconomicTimes
- **July 25:** @idc_iitb: IIT-B one of the best in world: US vice-president Joe **BIDEN** - The Times of India
<http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/education/news/IIT-B-one-of-the-best-in-world-US-vice-president-Joe-BIDEN/articleshow/21342209.cms> ...
- **July 25:** SGnews: [CNA] US Vice President **BIDEN** to visit Singapore from July 25-27 <http://bit.ly/16cZKyM>
- **July 25:** @NMenonRao: U.S Vice President **BIDEN** is visiting I.I.T Mumbai today. Met with bright, young women scientists, researchers in S.T.E.M areas. #womenpower
- **July 25:** @DoodleRani: I live close to #IITB & Joe #**BIDEN** was in the neighborhood today! @powaiinfo
- **July 26:** @TheBambooC: VP #**BIDEN** calls for deeper #US-#Singaport ties during his first visit to the country #foreignpolicy
- **July 26:** @**BIDEN**InTheNews: Palm Beach (FL) Post: **BIDEN** Orchid Marks VPs Singapore visit #**BIDEN** #news
- **July 26:** @sgbroadcast: US, S'pore stand "shoulder-to-shoulder" on most issues: US Vice-President Joe **BIDEN** said that...#singapore

- **July 27:** @brianschatz: Honored to welcome @Joe**BIDEN** and @Dr**BIDEN** to Hawaii to meet with our troops and proud military ohana.

White House Blog Posts:

In New Delhi, Vice President BIDEN Tours Gandhi Smriti

Megan Slack

July 22, 2013

04:15 PM EDT

Vice President **BIDEN** and Dr. Jill **BIDEN** arrived in New Delhi today, the first stop on a six-day trip to India and Singapore.

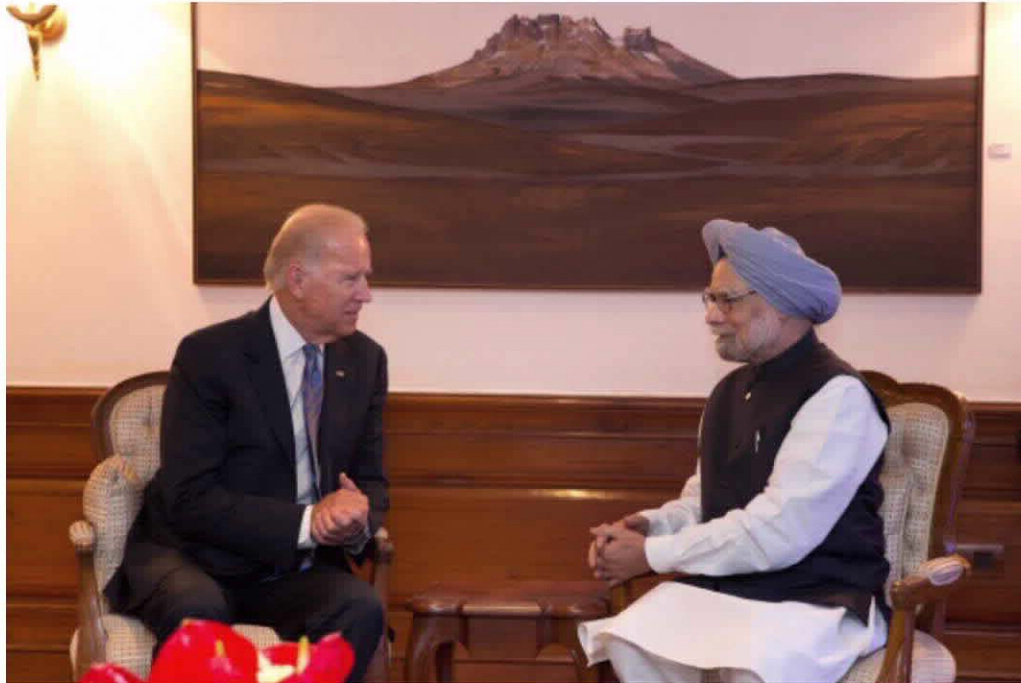
This trip is an important opportunity to strengthen our partnerships within the region and reaffirm our commitment to rebalancing U.S. foreign policy toward the Asia-Pacific. Over the next several days, the Vice President will meet with leaders in both countries to discuss a range of issues, from economic growth to energy and climate change to security.

Ahead of series of meetings in New Delhi, the Vice President and Dr. **BIDEN** had the opportunity to meet with Mahatma Gandhi's granddaughter and tour the building where Gandhi spent the last years of his life, which is now the Gandhi Smriti museum. To learn more about their visit, check out the video below or watch here.

Vice President BIDEN and Indian Leaders Discuss U.S.-India Engagement

Megan Slack

July 23, 2013
09:15 PM EDT



Vice President Joe **BIDEN** meets with Indian Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, at Panchavati, in New Delhi, India, July 23, 2013. (Official White House Photo by David Lienemann)

On his second day in New Delhi, Vice President **BIDEN** met with Indian leaders to discuss the increasingly important bilateral relationship between our two countries.

In meetings with Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh, President Pranab Mukherjee, Vice President Hamid Ansari and others, Vice President **BIDEN** emphasized a range of opportunities for our countries to work more closely together on issues such as economic growth, trade, energy and climate change, security and investments in innovation and education.

In the evening, the Vice President discussed the importance of the U.S.-India relationship at a dinner hosted by Indian Vice President Hamid Ansari.

“We look at the relationship as one that has immense potential for both the United States” and India, Vice President **BIDEN** said. “But it also has great potential for the world.”

It’s no longer a zero-sum game, as it was when I first entered public life. When another nation moves forward in leaps and bounds and creates new wealth, that is not against our interest. It’s

overwhelmingly in the interest of the United States of America that India grow -- grow at the rates it had been growing and even faster.

“And so the reason for my visit,” he said, “is to make it clear that we truly, truly value this relationship.”

Caring for India's Women and Children

Dr. Jill **BIDEN**

July 24, 2013

10:42 AM EDT



Dr. **BIDEN** meets with community leaders, US and India agency officials, and NGOS to discuss joint efforts to end childhood

malnutrition. (Photo Credit: Carrie Levay)

Last June, the United States, India, Ethiopia, and UNICEF hosted the Global Child Survival Call to Action event in Washington, DC. In India, 43% of children under the age of five are underweight and 48% are chronically undernourished. To address this and other causes of child deaths that can be prevented, India issued a national Call to Action for Child Survival and Development to end all preventable child deaths by 2035.

Yesterday I wrote about my time in Kachhpura and how they are working to end malnutrition. Today I attended a roundtable discussion with Government of Maharashtra Officials, USAID, UNICEF, Indian civil society and private sector representatives to learn about their efforts to improve nutrition across the country and to make available other proven health interventions to prevent child deaths, such as immunizations, clean water, and treatment of pneumonia and diarrhea.

As a mom, this is a personal issue for me as no parent wants to see her child go hungry or be sick. I am inspired by how the communities that I have visited have launched into action to tackle this problem. I am heartened to learn of the joint efforts of the Indian government, civil society and private sector in close collaboration with the U.S. and UN Agencies to target children between 0 and 35 months old, one of the most vulnerable groups. I look forward to seeing their continued progress in the future.

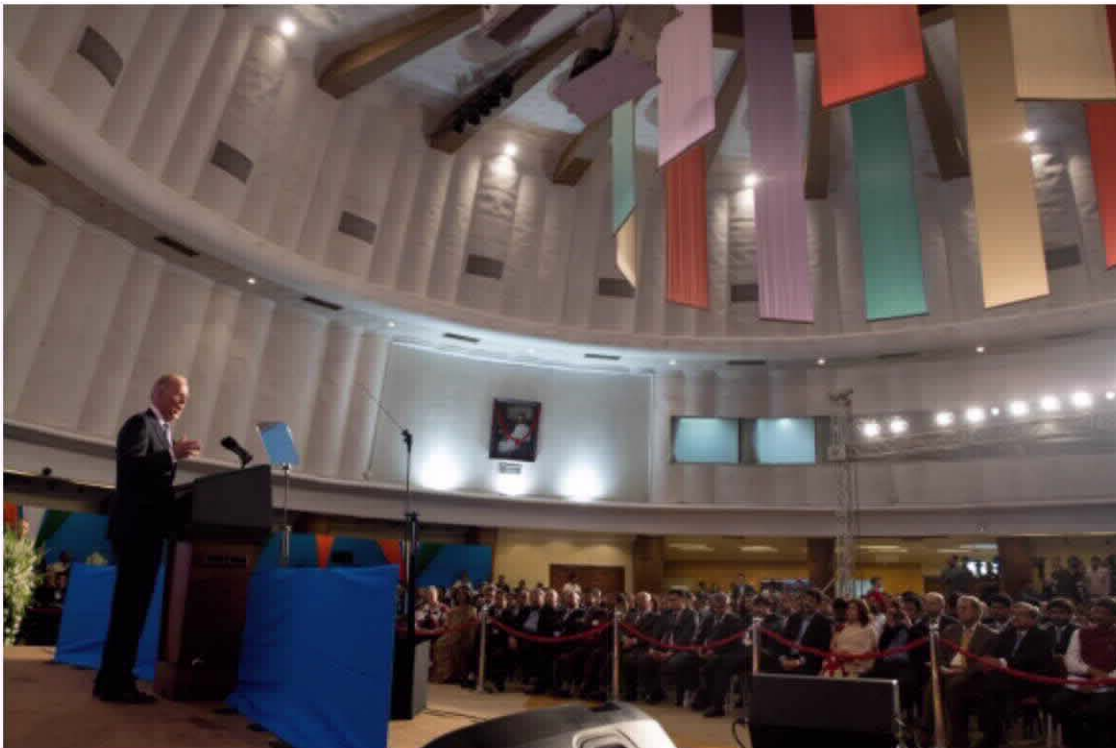
After leaving the roundtable discussion, I continued on to The Dilaasa Crisis Intervention Department for Women in Bandra, an area in Mumbai. The center is the first hospital-based crisis center in India for female survivors of domestic violence and came out of a partnership between the Municipal Corporation of Greater Mumbai, a public entity, and the Center for Enquiry into Health and Allied Themes, a private trust. This relationship illustrates how dedicated both the people and the government are to creating a safe space for the victims of gender based violence and to ensuring that this nightmare ends for so many women.

In Hindi, Dilaasa means "reassurance," and it seems that the center has gone above and beyond that mission for each of the 2,000 women it has cared for so far. Dilaasa provides a safe and anonymous space for women

to seek support, a promise the women I met with were so appreciative of. The center focuses on empowering these women by helping them understand that the cause of violence is external to them. I could see the power of this approach in my conversations with the center's survivors. I am still amazed by the incredible strength of each woman I was able to meet.

Vice President BIDEN Discusses the U.S. Economy While in India

Jeff Prescott
July 24, 2013
04:30 PM EDT



Vice President Joe **BIDEN** delivers remarks on the U.S.-India partnership, at the Bombay Stock Exchange, in Mumbai, India, July 24, 2013. (Official White House Photo by David Lienemann)

This morning, in advance of President Obama's major economic address, Vice President **BIDEN** delivered remarks in Mumbai, India where he discussed how America's partnership with India could improve the economies of both nations.

The speech, at the Bombay Stock Exchange, was part of the administration's effort to focus attention on the progress our economy has

made in the past several years, and the work we must do going forward to build on that progress.

The Vice President began by speaking to the enduring strengths of the U.S. economy. "We are in the midst of the biggest increase in domestic manufacturing in nearly 20 years. The foundations of our economy are stronger than ever. The best research universities in the world and the most vibrant startups. The world's most innovative companies. A hundred-year reserve of natural gas."

He noted that America's interests at home were similar to India's.

"Today...President Obama is going to be giving a major speech outlining the top priority for the Obama-**BIDEN** administration," he explained. "And it's straightforward and simple: how do we continue to shore up America's future and the foundations of middle class life in America with good-paying jobs, affordable health care, housing, education, and the dignity of retirement?"

Similarly, he pointed out, "India's top priority is to lift hundreds of millions of people out of poverty to join the middle class."



A key part of the Administration's efforts to build a stronger middle class involves enhancing trade and investment partnerships overseas so that American workers and businesses can find new opportunities and new markets. That includes the Trans-Pacific Partnership and the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership -- new and ambitious trade negotiations spanning the Asia-Pacific basin and the North Atlantic, respectively. It also means deepening our economic relationships with dynamic emerging economies like India.

Vice President Joe **BIDEN** delivers remarks on the U.S.-India partnership, at the Bombay Stock Exchange, in Mumbai, India, July 24, 2013. (Official White House Photo by David Lienemann)

In that spirit, Vice President **BIDEN** asked that India “consider the historic opportunity that is in front of us. Imagine what our two countries can achieve together in this 21st century, not only for one another, but for economic stability of the region, as well as the world.”

He pointed out that India's removal of barriers to trade and investment could create jobs and opportunities in both countries, allowing American and Indian businesses to reach new markets and new consumers, while exporting their best products around the world.

The Vice President also called for the completion of a Bilateral Investment Treaty, which he explained “would give investors in both countries more certainty and predictability; fair treatment under a single, consistent set of rules for companies small and large, foreign and domestic.”

Like the President later in the day, Vice President **BIDEN** sounded an optimistic note, arguing that there was reason to be hopeful about the economic progress we can achieve. “I am absolutely confident in the future of this relationship. Not because I’m naïve... my confidence is based on the history of the journey of both our countries.”

Empowering Women Through Education

Dr. Jill **BIDEN**
July 25, 2013
10:43 AM EDT

Dr. BIDEN meets with students in an English class at the Anjuman-i-Islam Saif Tyabji Girl's school. (Photo Credit: Carrie Levay)



As an educator, today was a special day for me in Mumbai. I visited the Anjuman-i-Islam Saif Tyabji Girl's school. This all-

girls Muslim school was founded in 1939 and serves 5,500 girls in grades K-12. The school has committed itself to being a dedicated public servant in the Mumbai area - many of the students are from local orphanages. I am happy to report that the US has recognized what an important role this school plays in the Mumbai community - we sponsor English classes and helped establish their computer lab. India and the US both understand the important opportunities education can provide - no matter the gender of the student. When the work force has access to education it creates more experienced workers as well as confident young women.

When I arrived at the school I was greeted by a lively band and then stopped by an English class. In fact, I caught the beginnings of a lesson on "conjunctions!" One of the students, Miss Zafar, was a spirited emcee and gave me a wonderful introduction to all the students at a school assembly.

As a mother of a daughter I want girls to understand that they can do anything they put their mind to. I reminded the students that education will give them the tools they need to succeed on a lifelong path. A good education will give them - and their families - the opportunity to excel regardless of gender. The students that I've met around the world,

especially in India, have shown great passion for learning and this dedication is what will empower women throughout this country and abroad to leave the world better than how we found it.

I'm so excited to see what these special young women do in the future.

Vice President BIDEN Meets India's Future Scientists and Engineers

Megan Slack
July 25, 2013
04:50 PM EDT



Vice President Joe **BIDEN** meets with female students at the Indian Institute of Technology, in Mumbai, India, July 25, 2013. Pictured are Aditi Kothiyal, Shikha Agarwal, Asfiya Contractor, Viha Jayraj, and Rimi Chakrabarti. (Official White House Photo by David Lienemann)

Today at the Indian Institute of Technology, Vice President **BIDEN** met a group of women he called “India’s future”—the country’s next generation of scientists and engineers.

“This is a great university, one of the leading universities in the world in technology, and these women are in the forefront,” he said.

Before a roundtable discussion with students in the Seismology Lab, the Vice President talked with young women conducting nanotechnology research and geochemistry and geochronology experiments. He commended them on “the incredible work they’re doing in a whole range of areas, from devices that may very well fundamentally alter the nature of medicine, to dealing with practical but stark problems like access to transportation.”

Engaging women in science, technology and engineering is something we’re promoting heavily in the US, the Vice President said.

In the United States, more women graduate from college than men, but only about 20percent enter the sciences, the Vice President explained. “We have to take advantage of the collective cognitive capability of our population.”

“The future goes to the country that is the most open and the most representative of the entire population,” he said.

My Day in Singapore

Dr. Jill **BIDEN**
July 26, 2013
10:20 AM EDT



Vice President Joe **BIDEN** and Dr. Jill **BIDEN** receive a book from Dr. Nigel Paul Taylor, Director of National Parks, during a ceremony in which an orchid was named the Joe and Jill **BIDEN** Orchid, at the Singapore Botanic Gardens, in Singapore, July 26, 2013. (Official White House Photo by David Lienemann)

Today was our first full day in Singapore and there could not have been a more beautiful introduction than our tour of the Botanic Gardens. Singapore Botanic Gardens are known for their orchids and in 1957 the country began to name selected orchid hybrids after State Visitors to foster closer ties between nations. As an avid gardener, I am honored that they chose to name a deep purple Dendrobium orchid the “Joe and Jill **BIDEN**” during our visit today. We’ll bring some “Joe and Jill **BIDEN**” orchids back to DC to display at the Vice President’s Residence.

After leaving the Gardens, we drove to Singapore’s new Green Children’s Library, which is made entirely out of recycled materials. Singapore boasts some of the most sophisticated libraries in the world and our partnership with the National Library Board (NLB) has proved to be a wonderful relationship for the U.S. Embassy. Earlier this year the Embassy partnered with the NLB on an e-reader program, allowing library visitors to check out electronic tablets that have access to thousands of book titles. The Embassy has donated over 400 e-readers, emphasizing the importance of education to both of our countries.



Dr. BIDEN and Ashley BIDEN read to children at Singapore's Green Children's Library. (Photo Credit: Jay Pugh)

I visited the Children's Library to read *Make Way for Ducklings* by Robert McCloskey with about 30 local school children. The story of Mr. and Mrs. Mallard and their eight ducklings is one of my favorite children's stories. As an English teacher, I love nothing more than helping kids appreciate reading. I especially relish any opportunity I have to spend time with young children who are just discovering how exciting and eye opening reading can be. Each child was so attentive and interested which reaffirms the importance that Singapore, like the United States, places on early education.

At the end of the day I had the pleasure of joining my husband at Istana, the official residence of the President of Singapore. We were greeted by President Tan Keng Yam and I then enjoyed tea with his wife, Mrs. Mary Tan. Thank you so much for the hospitality!

Thanking Service Members and Military Families Around the World

Dr. Jill **BIDEN**
July 30, 2013
01:03 PM EDT



Dr. Jill **BIDEN** talks with members of the USS Fitzgerald during their stop in Singapore. (Photo Credit: Jay C. Pugh)

Before leaving Singapore this past weekend, I had the opportunity to attend a BBQ with U.S. service members and their families stationed in Singapore, as well as crewmen from the USS Fitzgerald, docked in Singapore at the time. Joe and I also visited with service members, their families, and DOD employees in Hawaii, at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. When Joe and I travel, we love nothing more than to meet with our men and women in uniform and their families to thank them for their service and sacrifice.

Military families face so many challenges, as spouses get deployed and families move around. When I was in Singapore, I met a woman who was in the Navy and she told me that this was her 14th move. As a military mom, I understand a bit of what these families are going through. Our son Beau was deployed for a year to Iraq as a member of the Delaware Army National Guard and our son Hunter is an Ensign in the Navy Reserves.

This experience, as well as the joys and concerns we heard from military families as we traveled around the world led First Lady Michele Obama and I to start Joining Forces. It is our hope that we can rally all Americans to support our veterans and military families. Joining Forces brings together public and private resources to help with the employment, education, and wellness of our veterans, servicemen and women, and their families.

Right now, the VA is hosting mental health summits across the nation. The First Lady and I are so pleased to see these Summits taking place, putting families and communities at the center of mental health treatment. We are working on spousal licensing laws so that nurses or teachers in military families do not need to go through the process for a new certification every time they move. We are encouraged by the progress of the Military Interstate Children's Compact so that when children move from state to state there is a uniform policy to help with enrollment, placement, attendance, eligibility, and graduation in both education and extra-curricular activities.

With everything Joining Forces does, there is always more progress to be made. I cherish the opportunity to spend time with our service members and their families to hear how the First Lady and I can continue to learn the best ways to help our military families. And we can never thank them enough for their service and sacrifice. President Kennedy put it best when he said, "As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them." Joining Forces is committed to recognizing the tireless commitment of our military families, and I hope that all Americans will take time to truly thank them for their service to our nation.

Dr. BIDEN Coverage:

Press Trust of India

'Spellbound' Jill BIDEN left craving for more after Taj visit July 23, 2013

Spellbound by the beauty of Taj Mahal, US Second Lady Jill **BIDEN** felt that the little less than an hour she spent in Agra was too brief and wants to visit the monument of love again. As she entered the site, she took a pause for few moments in front of the imposing white-marble complex.

Then she took a 40-minute tour of the monument, accompanied by two guides Shamsuddin Khan and Barun Rawat, who informed her about the finer details of the 17th century monument. The visibly impressed dignitary was seen touching the walls of the magnificent monument to get a feel of the intricate marble carving.

"It is quite amazing. It is so beautiful. We took a drive of three hours to come to Agra and it is so worth it. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the World," Jill **BIDEN** said. Dressed in all blue, the wife of US Vice President Joseph **BIDEN** was accompanied by their daughter Ashley and son-in-law Dr Howard David Krein.

While she was busy capturing the beauty of the monument, the young couple, who were married last year, were busy clicking photographs together. The family also posed to be clicked in front of the marble marvel. And this 45 minutes visit was not enough for Jill **BIDEN**. "She said this is a brief visit and she is not satisfied.

She would like to come again and will give a detailed visit to Taj Mahal," Shamsuddin Khan, one of her guides, said. Built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz Mahal, Taj Mahal has attracted millions of visitors including celebrities across the world.

Jill **BIDEN** is the latest entrant in the long list of admirers of this marble marvel that includes Bill Clinton and his daughter Chelsea, Russian

President Dimitry Medvedev, Vladimir Putin, French President Nicolas Sarkozy along with his wife Carla Bruni, China's President Hu Jintao and his wife Liu Yongqing, Former Pakistan President Pervez Musharraf and his wife and late Princess of Wales Diana.

Earlier in the day, the US Second Lady visited Kachhpura, a small slum community to know about Health for the Urban Poor, a programme aimed at providing basic health-care to the residents focussing on maternal health and community participation. Jill **BIDEN** is accompanying Joe **BIDEN** on his four-day trip to India.

The trip is aimed at bolstering ties in key sectors of trade, energy, defence and security. On Wednesday, Jill **BIDEN** will leave for Mumbai where she will be doing a health and nutrition event in neighbouring Thane district. She will visit the DILAASA Crisis Intervention Center at K B Bhabha Municipal Hospital and next day will visit the Anjuman-i-Islam's Saif Tyabji Girls School, an all-girls Muslim school founded in 1938.

Press Trust of India

Controversy around Jill BIDEN's Taj Mahal visit avoided July 23, 2013

Timely intervention by the US embassy staff prevented a potential controversy around the visit of US Vice President Joe **BIDEN**'s wife Jill to the Taj Mahal here today.

The video cameras are not allowed beyond a point in the Taj Mahal but the White House cameraperson kept shooting Jill **BIDEN** within the prohibited area as she walked towards main building of the 17th-century monument of love.

The embassy staff was quick to realise the potential controversy as some local journalists started clicking White House cameraperson doing videography in the prohibited area.

The cameraperson was asked to come out of the prohibited area by the security and embassy staff to avoid any row.

"This is an old of Supreme Court order wherein video cameras have been banned beyond the stairs of the South Gate as in those days, video cameras were too big and occupied too much space. But even though cameras are now way too smaller, rules are not being changed. So, we do not allow videography after a point and this applies even when Heads of the State visit Taj," a Senior official of the Archaeological Survey of India told PTI.

Jill **BIDEN** undertook a quick visit to the 17th century white marble marvel along with her daughter Ashley and son-in-law Howard Krein.

After coming back, she scribbled on the visitor's book, "An extraordinary sight. Thank you for your hospitality."

The Wall Street Journal
Jill BIDEN visits Taj Mahal Amid India Trip
July 23, 2013

Jill **BIDEN** traveled to the Taj Mahal on Tuesday, accompanied by her daughter Ashley **BIDEN** and son-in-law Howard Krein. Ms. **BIDEN** is travelling with husband Vice President Joe **BIDEN** on a four-day visit to India that began Monday.

"It is quite amazing. It is so beautiful. We took a drive of three hours to come here and it is so worth it. It is one of the Seven Wonders of the World," Ms. **BIDEN** told PTI, which was handling the pool report of her visit.

She later met with a group looking to raise awareness about basic health related issues among the poor. At a child-care center near the Taj Mahal, Ms. **BIDEN** gave the children a basket full of books, including coloring books and story books — and a book on the White House. She also gave two drops of polio vaccine to a baby girl.

During the **BIDENs'** visit, Mr. **BIDEN** is expected to discuss a broad range of issues with Indian leaders including economic growth, trade, energy and climate change, security and investments. On Wednesday, Mr. **BIDEN** will deliver a speech at the Bombay Stock Exchange in Mumbai, the country's

financial capital; he will speak about the U.S.-India partnership and is expected to address the prospect of greater trade and investment between the two countries.

Indo Asian News Service

Jill BIDEN visits Taj -- and Agra slum

July 23, 2013

US Second Lady Jill **BIDEN** Tuesday visited the Taj Mahal and a nearby slum cluster on the bank of the Yamuna.

She spent nearly an hour at the Kachchpura slum opposite the Taj along with representatives of a NGO, members of anganwadis, children and office bearers of the Adarsh Mahila Arogya Samiti.

"She interacted with the kids and took keen interest in the work done by us," Manish Kumar of NGO CURE told IANS.

The USAID supports NGO activities relating to urban health, and mother and child care. She gifted a box of books.

Jill **BIDEN** was accompanied by her daughter Ashley and son in law Howard David Crein.

Kachchpura village is a cluster of slums close to Mehtab Bagh, a key tourist spot. A number of self-help groups, some supported by authorities in Agra, are working in the area.

BIDEN later visited the Taj Mahal, 17th century wonder built by Mughal emperor Shah Jahan in memory of his wife Mumtaz.

Shamshuddin, the guide accompanying her, told IANS that she was in "a great hurry" but promised to come back to Agra with her husband.

"She asked several questions about the architecture, inlay work, and the (nearby) black Taj Mahal," he said.

Press trust of India

US Second Lady Jill BIDEN visits slum dwellers in Agra

By: Abhishek Shukla/ July 23, 2013

It was a memorable day for the slum dwellers of Kachchpura near the Taj Mahal here as they had a VIP visitor -- US second lady Jill **BIDEN** who spent nearly an hour with them.

Known for her interest in education and healthcare issues, Jill braved the sultry weather and walked the half-a-kilometre unpaved mud road to reach the place. She was accompanied by her daughter Ashley **BIDEN** and son-in-law Howard David Krein (rpt) Krein.

Her visit to Kachhpura was to take stock about the Health for the Urban Poor programme, funded by US-AID which is aimed at providing basic healthcare to urban poor focusing on maternal health and community participation.

She was greeted by Machla Devi, president of Adarsh Mahila Arogra Samity, its secretary Manju and other members. Adarsh Mahila Arogra Samity is a group of local women who are working to raise awareness among the women and children about basic health related issues.

After interacting with the members she visited the pre-school cum anganwadi centre and met children there. Jill, a Ph.D. in education who has been an educator for over two decades, had her special gift for the children there -- a basket full of books ranging from colour books to storybooks and book on the White House.

She interacted with the workers there about the work on community centre and various maternal and healthcare programmes run by the centre. She also gave two drops of polio to a small girl child of one-and-a-half months.

Her son-in-law Howard asked about vaccination program run in India. Jill also inquired about the nearest delivery centre for pregnant women in the area.

Kachhpura is one of the 46 slums of Agra where the Health for Urban Poor programme is running. A settlement from Mughal empire days, it was

notified as a slum in 1998. Half of over 3200 people are involved in the shoe making while rest are engaged in other occupation such as farming and dairy.

Press Trust India

World a tough place for women, says US second lady

July 25, 2013

Jill **BIDEN**, wife of US Vice President Joe **BIDEN**, today said the world is a tough place for women but insisted that education is the key to success.

BIDEN, an educator for over two decades, visited a girl's school - Anjuman-I-Islam - here this morning.

A bunch of school girls welcomed Jill, who was accompanied by her daughter Ashley, by playing the band. Thereafter, the US second lady briefly toured the school and met the girls studying in tenth standard, interacted with them, motivated them to study hard and wished good luck.

"The world is a tough place for women everywhere including work place. It feels good to see young girls getting educated.

Education is a powerful weapon, it helps in some or the other way," said Jill.

"Everyone wants to pursue their dreams and do better in life. I think all this is possible because of education. I love teaching young women," she said.

Clad in an orange dress teamed with an off white jacket, **BIDEN** covered her head with a scarf when the girls started reciting a verse, having a universal message of peace, love and harmony, from the holy Quran.

Jill said she feels lucky as she gets to tour around different places because of her husband.

"We are happy to have come to India and it is my favourite thing to visit schools as I am an educator."

Wall Street Journal: India Real Time
Jill BIDEN at Muslim Girls School
By: Khushita Vasant/July 25, 2013

The second lady of the United States, Jill **BIDEN**, showed up at a Muslim girls' school in Mumbai Thursday morning to praise their focus on education, urging them to draw inspiration from the courage of Malala Yousafzai, the Pakistani teenager who was shot by the Taliban for her outreach on education.

"I know you just saw Malala's remarkable speech in front of the UN. And wasn't she so brave?" Ms. **BIDEN** said. "We all want the opportunity to pursue our dreams and be treated with respect, regardless of our gender. We want to be able to take care of our families... The thing that makes that all possible is education," she added.

This is Ms. **BIDEN's** maiden visit to India, where she finished up a four-day tour of India with her husband, Vice President Joe **BIDEN**. They left Thursday for Singapore after visiting New Delhi and Mumbai for a strategic visit with policymakers and business executives to discuss trade, regional security and maritime cooperation.

Their daughter, Ashley, accompanied Ms. **BIDEN** to the school. She and the **BIDENS'** son-in-law, Howard Krein, toured India with them.

At the Anjuman-I-Islam school on Thursday, Ms. **BIDEN**, an educator herself, teaching English at a community college, first stopped by a couple of classrooms, where she chatted with students, shaking hands with each one in the room of about 60.

She then proceeded to address a hall packed with about 400 students in eleventh and twelfth grades.

"I'm very lucky because I get to travel around the world with my husband, the vice president of the United States and we were very fortunate that my daughter and I could come on this trip to India," Ms. **BIDEN** said in a speech.

She said one of her favorite things to do while travelling is to visit schools and meet young women.

“You know the world can be a tough place for young women, but you are doing exactly what needs to happen... you all are putting your education first,” Ms. **BIDEN** said.

The second lady spoke about Ms. Yousafzai, the 16-year-old Pakistani student targeted by the Taliban for her activism on education.

Quoting from Ms. Yousafzai’s speech on free compulsory education earlier this month at the United Nations, Ms. **BIDEN** said education is the only solution for a better world.

Ms. Yousafzai’s passion is ensuring women around the world have access to educational opportunities, just like yours, Ms. **BIDEN** said.

“As Malala said, ‘Let us pick up our books and our pens, they are the most powerful weapons. One child, one teacher, one book and one pen can change the world. Education is the only solution. Education first,’” Ms. **BIDEN** said.

“You know there is a tendency to think about how big the world is but as I travel around and as I hear speeches like Malala’s, you realize how small the world is and how similar we all are,” she said.

Zufishan Zafar, a 16-year old science student, was the emcee at the school function. Ms. **BIDEN** spontaneously gave Ms. Zafar a long hug on the dais, which drew thunderous applause from the students.

When Ms. **BIDEN** finished her speech, she stepped down to mingle with the students, drawing them, one by one, into her arms, as they stood up from their seats to greet her.

At that, a reporter whispered to a U.S. consulate press attaché, asking, “Do we also get hugs?” To which he said, “Of course not! I know you just want to ask her a question.”

From: Person, Fran <fran_person@ovp.eop.gov>
Sent on: Wednesday, July 31, 2013 2:21:29 PM
To: [P6/b(6)]; [P6/b(6)]; "'hurricane5155@gmail.com' (hurricane5155@gmail.com) <hurricane5155@gmail.com>; "robinware456@gmail.com"; "BEAU (261penn@gmail.com) <261penn@gmail.com>; "Hunter Biden (hbiden@senecaga.com) <hbiden@senecaga.com>; "Jill Biden (Jill.tracy2@gmail.com) <jill.tracy2@gmail.com>; [P6/b(6)]
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