

1999

Kosovo War: Operation Joint Guardian begins when a NATO-led United Nations peace-keeping force (KFOR) enters the province of Kosovo in Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

2009

A disputed presidential election in **Iran** leads to wide-ranging local and international protests.

2016

Forty-nine civilians are killed and 58 others injured in an attack on a gay nightclub in Orlando, **Florida**; the gunman, Omar Mateen, is killed in a gunfight with police.



2017

American student **Otto Warmbier** returns home in a coma after spending 17 months in a North Korean prison and dies a week later.



Mr Orban may be duly and legally elected but it says something about Ms Suu Kyi's current standing that a woman who was once a human rights icon now seeks an alliance with a far-right populist accused of subverting his country's democratic institutions.

world thought she was in the first place.

It is not just that she was an accidental politician. Married to an English academic, she spent much of her life abroad; the only reason she was in Myanmar and ended up leading protests against the military dictatorship in 1988 was to take care of her elderly mother. While she immediately became the face of the opposition that finally came to power in 2015, in the country's first democratic elections for decades, she suffered years of house arrest and separation from her family. As her reputation grew, her political skills did not – a flaw that has long been widely acknowledged.

Far more damaging is the growing suspicion that Ms Suu Kyi's post-1988 career has not, in fact, been all about democracy and freedom for the people of Myanmar. Instead, say some, it has been driven by a deep sense of entitlement that, as the daughter of the country's greatest independence hero, it is her destiny to lead Myanmar.

(Sholto Byrnes is a leading columnist with many newspapers.)

who was a "symbol of righteousness".

At one point apologists urged understanding. Ms Suu Kyi could not speak out, they said, because she had to deal with the political realities of an overwhelmingly Buddhist country in which anti-Muslim sentiment was strong. Further, they pointed out, she could not overrule the military, which is protected and granted considerable powers by the 2008 constitution the generals themselves drafted. No one attempts that defence

any more and Ms Suu Kyi has nailed her colours to the mast by embracing Mr Orban's Islamophobic rhetoric.

For those who wonder how a woman who was once regularly compared to Mahatma Gandhi and Nelson Mandela could change so shockingly – defending the jailing of journalists, behaving autocratically, refusing to stop slaughter and ethnic cleansing, and now pandering to the basest of prejudices – perhaps the answer is that she was never the person the

Foreign policy?

To get a sense of what might be in store, consider Mr Jaishankar's policy prescription just five weeks before his surprise elevation to one of the four great offices of the Indian state.



Bimstec and Saarc are significant organisations".

This may have ramifications for a related strand of the Modi 2.0 foreign policy agenda – the "neighbourhood first" policy. It took the Indian prime minister to the Maldives and Sri Lanka at the weekend, his first overseas trip since re-election. The reason for their preferment was obvious. India is trying hard to counter China's influence in both countries, which are key to Beijing's new Silk Road project. What is unexpected is the realpolitik with which Mr Modi's India is approaching the task. On Saturday, Mr Modi, a Hindu

nationalist, declared that India would contribute to conservation of the Maldives' oldest mosque, an ornate, 17th-century building made of coral.

This, just like Mr Modi's choice of foreign minister, seems to suggest new pragmatism in pursuit of India's goals. These are grand and overarching, a re-imagining of India's place regionally and in the wider world, in order to move from a nation that follows global rules to a force that helps to establish them.

All of the above, not least the outreach to Central Asia, adds up to an ambitious plan to enhance India's diplomatic and economic profile. It's certainly hard-headed. Before he became foreign minister, Mr Jaishankar offered a pithy response when US General David Petraeus told an international conference in Delhi that India "has to decide, has to take a side in the new world order shaped by rising China [and] resurgent Russia". Yes, indeed, Mr Jaishankar replied, India must take a side – its own.

Truly, as the saying goes, there is no diplomacy like candour.

(Rashmee Roshan Lall is a senior journalist and an expert on India's foreign policy.)



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TWEETS

01



Donald Trump is the best president ever. I love him so much that I have a photo of him and his wonderful wife as my header picture. It is so exciting to be living during these great times. If Trump doesn't win in 2020, I will go into a deep depression. I know he'll win, though.

@JeffreyGuterman

02



For many years modern slavery seldom captured the world's attention or outrage. Throughout my time in government I have fought to change that and to put the issue firmly on the domestic and international agenda. Today I gladly continue that fight.

@theresa_may

03



I have been briefed on the helicopter crash in New York City. Phenomenal job by our GREAT First Responders who are currently on the scene. THANK YOU for all you do 24/7/365! The Trump Administration stands ready should you need anything at all.

@realDonaldTrump

04



Asked about Biden theory that GOP will change after Trump leaves office, Durbin deadpans: "A thousand flowers will bloom, children will smile, and America will be happy again."

@igorbobic

Disclaimer: (Views expressed by columnists are personal and need not necessarily reflect our editorial stances)

Wide Angle

The growing e-waste problem: Who is responsible?



JOEL INDRUPATI

Do you have old electronic equipment at home? That which is unused or no longer usable? And, is it occupying unnecessary space?

From old mobile phones to televisions, from laptops to DVD players, from headphones to gaming consoles, from CDs and video cassettes to wires and plugs, many electronic items must be lying in our houses.

Throwing them into municipal garbage bins is not a recommended option. And, sadly, there are not many e-waste collection facilities available to us to dispose them of, safely. So, despite our reluctance, ultimately, much of our electronic stuff might end up in a garbage heap, or in a junkyard. From there, it may go into an incinerator.

Electronic waste that goes into landfills and incinerators will not only cause environmental pollution but also extreme health hazards.

Harmful diseases have been found to result from the burning of e-waste.

A great deal of scientific evidence is available today that proves - without a doubt - that unsafe e-waste disposal is a major health hazard.

And that is why we should hold the producers of electronic equipment responsible - at least partially responsible - for this nightmare they are creating in the form of newer and newer electronic gadgets.

Every enhancement in the new models of mobile phones is making old mobile phones obsolete. Every increase in speed and memory of computers is making old laptops and desktops obsolete.

Every development in HD, UHD, and 3D television technology is making the old TVs obsolete. Every development in wireless technology is making all the wired technology obsolete.

Today, instead of making long-term durable electronics - on the pretext of advancing technology, and with greed for more profits - electronics product manufacturers are inundating our markets with new gadgets which are no longer compatible with old hardware. They force us to upgrade and to buy new gadgets, by deliberately reducing the product life cycles.

The TIME magazine says, "...dozens of televisions from the 1970s and 1980s have stopped working only recently. Yet instead, technology companies are speeding the pace of obsolescence. Most smartphone batteries can't be easily replaced when they stop holding a charge, new laptops don't accept old cables, and software companies push upgrades that won't run on old devices." (The World Has an E-Waste Problem, TIME, 23 May 2019).

The main reason is this. The existing global Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) laws, which require manufacturers to establish and fund systems to recycle or collect obsolete products, are not being effectively implemented.

Recently, I found a news-item from India which said: "Premium smartphones and electronic merchandise worth 5000 crore rupees (720 million US dollars) of 10 tech companies including Apple, Samsung, Vivo, HP, and Motorola are stranded with customs after the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) suspended their import permits for not complying with e-waste rules." (Apple, Samsung in a jam with imports held up at customs, Economic Times, 12 Apr 2019).

According to the news item, the Indian government suspended the import permits of the 10 companies for violating Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) clauses.

The companies had not re-collected e-waste they had promised they would.

By 2025, Singapore will have extended producer responsibility (EPR) laws in place for both packaging and electronic waste (e-waste) which will make it difficult for manufacturers to dump new products on us, without taking back some old ones.

The USA, the UK, and most European countries have already had legislation to make producers re-buy, recollect and re-use their products, for two decades now. But implementation is still a challenge.

As responsible consumers, we must push our governments to insist that producers comply with Extended Producer Responsibility laws, and show us how much e-waste the producers are taking back. Only then can we curtail the growing e-waste problem.

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