



Indo-U.S. Cooperation on Global Tech and AI Governance

06 October 2020 - 11 February 2021

India has been seeing a formidable amount of growth in developing its digital footprint. The Indian government has been encouraging various departments, institutes and sectors affiliated to technology and its usage in adapting to Artificial Intelligence (AI) and the Internet of Things (IoT) to adapt to the changing world. Considered nascent, the Indian AI sector can ace the challenge of becoming a global partner by imbibing the technology in our daily lives. This edition of CUTS ONW reflects upon developments in this front among other developments in Global Tech and AI Governance space while underpinning the potential for the Indo-U.S. cooperation.

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>U.S.–India Artificial Intelligence Cooperation <i>By Katherine B. Hadda</i> Center for Strategic and International Studies February 11, 2021</p>	<p>The Biden Administration has planned to prioritize federal funding for research and development on artificial intelligence and other advanced technologies. While India is not a major player in the AI sphere yet, it has a talented workforce and a strategic plan to develop its capacity. India is well placed to be a key member for advocating the use of AI. However, a successful partnership would require the resolution of existing bilateral disagreements that impact digital trade and investments. With the current pandemic shedding light on the potential benefits of AI across varied sectors, a U.S.–India partnership will enable development of the technology and mitigate its downsides.</p>
<p>U.S. must impose cost on China for threats towards Taiwan, Hong Kong, Xinjiang: NSA Sullivan The Times of India January 31, 2021</p>	<p>The United States National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan, in an online discussion recently was mentioning that the country should be prepared to impose a cost on China for constantly threatening Taiwan, for its actions in Hong Kong and Xinjiang. China has been identified as a challenge for its increasingly assertive approach towards Taiwan, Hong Kong and in the South China Sea. In the same discussion, Sullivan also listed out four steps for the U.S. to take in contending the threats put forth by China.</p>

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Strong India–U.S. partnership key to address challenges impacting global community</p> <p>Business Line</p> <p>January 21, 2021</p>	<p>Recently, the U.S. India Strategic Partnership Forum submitted a series of recommendations in order to help take the Biden administration’s relationship with India to new heights. Apart from urging Biden to recommit to the bilateral dialogues such as the India-U.S. 2 plus 2 strategic dialogues, it also recommended the restarting of the Pivot to Asia. According to the Forum, to make the best use of this strategic relationship, there are three main priorities: restoring long term financial ties, bilateral engagement and strengthening digital finance and commerce. This relationship also gives both countries to explore partnership models for healthcare development.</p>
<p>Chinese tech giants patent tools that can detect, track Uighurs</p> <p>Deccan Herald</p> <p>January 14, 2021</p>	<p>IPVM, a video surveillance research firm has found that a series of patents were filed from as far back as 2017, registering tools that can detect, track, and monitor Uighurs, increasing the oppression faced by the Muslim minority. IVPM reported that a cluster of patents were filed for systems that could be used to analyse images for the presence of Uighur people, and hook it into surveillance cameras and other facial recognition networks. The United Nations have identified that China has been transforming the Xinjiang region where many Uighurs are based into a massive internment camp. The UN also estimates that about a million Chinese Muslims have been detained, and that rampant crimes against humanity and genocide is taking place.</p>
<p>The Future of U.S.-India Digital Relations</p> <p><i>By Justin Sherman</i></p> <p>The Diplomat</p> <p>January 01, 2021</p>	<p>Through the former United States’ President’s administration, the country has had limited success in banning the Chinese company Huawei from participating in the development of India’s infrastructure growth; and most definitely failed in building a strong bilateral partnership with India in primarily addressing China’s strong technological rise. The Biden-Harris administration therefore has many challenges and opportunities for growth at hand in the India–U.S. relationship, with particular focus on the technological sphere. Data localisation, internet governance, 5G telecommunications, artificial intelligence norms-development, and supply chain security are important areas for the United States to bring a design and implement a more comprehensive agenda than the one put forward by the Trump administration.</p>
<p>China launches antitrust probe into tech giant Alibaba</p> <p>Reuters</p> <p>December 24, 2020</p>	<p>In one of the latest blows to Jack Ma’s e-commerce and fintech empire, the Chinese government has launched an investigation into Alibaba and will summon the Ant Group affiliate to meet. This probe is a part of cracking down on anticompetitive behaviour in the booming internet space. China also previously suspended the Ant Group’s initial \$37 billion initial public offering just two days before its shares were due for trading in Shanghai and Hong Kong. In an editorial published in the Communist Party’s People’s Daily, it was said that if monopoly is tolerated and if companies are allowed to expand in a disorderly manner, the industry will not develop in a healthy and sustainable manner.</p>

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>2020: A milestone in India-U.S. ties The Hindu December 22, 2020</p>	<p>In 2020, when former American President Donald Trump visited India, the India–U.S. ties were elevated to a comprehensive global strategic partnership. The relationship between both nations was solidified at an unprecedented scale and pace despite the pandemic and also the domestic political stalemate. In reflecting the maturity of the bilateral ties, both countries held the U.S.-India 2+2 framework, just days before the presidential elections in the U.S., making India only the second country to have this kind of a dialogue. India and U.S. also signed the Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement for Geo - Spatial Cooperation through which the nations have inked all the four foundational agreements in bolstering defence ties. President Joe Biden has also spoke at length about his vision for the U.S.-India partnership.</p>
<p>Delhi must actively participate in new technology coalitions to secure its geopolitical interests <i>By C. Raja Mohan</i> The Indian Express December 15, 2020</p>	<p>India has always known to rely on multilateral approaches in governing advanced technologies, and with the Biden-Harris administration in power, the time is ripe for India to consider building a strong mutually co-dependent relationship of tech - diplomacy. This discourse is not taking place in a vacuum, but is taking place amidst the growing tensions and concerns surrounding China’s use of newly acquired technology supporting its expansionist aims. What makes India a good partner to the U.S. is not just its repeated features in the western discourse, but also the size of our market, and the effort to build technological coalitions. India also has a lot to gain from the Democracy Summit as proposed by Biden, which would deal with multiple objectives.</p>
<p>Eric Schmidt calls for ‘strong’ India-U.S. tie-up Business Line December 12, 2020</p>	<p>Eric Schmidt, the Chairman of the United States National Security Commission on AI proposed an alliance between India and the United States focussed towards addressing challenges - both geopolitical and social, using tools of artificial intelligence. Addressing the 93rd FICCI Annual Convention, Dr. Schmidt highlighted that India is a natural central piece of a coalition of democracy, one that possesses a thriving economy, and shares a common interest against authoritarianism in the Indo-Pacific region. By identifying China and Russia as a rapidly growing contender for AI in many areas - including disinformation, the Chairman suggested that a strong partnership between India and the U.S. is imperative to tackle the challenges, and tapping on the existing technological partnership.</p>
<p>World Economic Forum Announces Global Technology Governance Summit and Flagship Report WEF Press Release December 02, 2020</p>	<p>To be held virtually and in Tokyo, the World Economic Forum announced their inaugural Global Technology Governance Summit expected to be held on 6th and 7th of April, 2021. Having a focus on four core areas of industry transformation, government transformation, global technology governance and frontier technologies, the report will be a focal point that identifies governance gaps across technology areas of blockchain, artificial intelligence, drones, unmanned air systems and the internet of things.</p>

News/Op-ed	Key Takeaway
<p>Artificial Intelligence for the Indo-Pacific: A Blueprint for 2030 By Abhijnan Rej The Diplomat November 27, 2020</p>	<p>In June 2020, a Global Partnership on Artificial Intelligence of 14 states, along with the European Union was launched to encourage collective research and implementation on Artificial Intelligence. With technological competition and the construct of Indo-Pacific coming to the fore, critical players such as Australia, Japan, India and the United States have identified for the importance of the region being free, open, resilient and inclusive, i.e. free of Chinese coercion - both economic and otherwise. The author identifies three technologies around AI for collaboration that can strengthen the open and inclusive nature of the Indo-Pacific, up until at least 2030.</p>
<p>Government leaders share their vision on the next frontier of tech innovation in governance at the Microsoft Digital Governance Cloud & AI Summit Microsoft News Center India November 06, 2020</p>	<p>At the Microsoft Digital Governance Cloud and AI Summit, that celebrated the innovation and digital transformation in the public sector, government and public sector leaders were present. These experts deliberated on the roles of services such as Artificial Intelligence and the Internet of Things in industries like healthcare, governance and education. Ajay Prakash Sawhney, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology, Government of India spoke about the importance of building long term value and resilience in times of change. The Chief Guest Sanjat Dhotre, Union Minister of State for Education, Communications and Electronics & IT, Government of India shared that India has been at the forefront of digital acceleration.</p>
<p>U.S. body on artificial intelligence calls for creating strategic tech alliance The Economic Times October 14, 2020</p>	<p>The newly created National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence in its report recommended that the American Department of State and Department of Defence negotiate on AI cooperation agreements with India, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, South Korea and Vietnam. The commission also underlined that it is imperative for America to build on the strengths of its allies and partners, building on the growing support for the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue to focus on AI cooperation for defence and security purposes. The commission importantly highlighted that the Department of State works in partnership with the Indian Ministry of External Affairs for the implementation of strategy for emerging technology in the Indo-Pacific region.</p>
<p>India set to become global AI hub through tech-based skilling: PM Modi Business Standard October 06, 2020</p>	<p>Prime Minister Narendra Modi recently spoke at the Responsible AI for Social Empowerment Summit (RAISE) 2020, where he highlighted that India will use technology-based learning and skilling its students and work force in solving long term challenges of climate change and pollution. By doing so, India will aim to become a global hub for artificial intelligence, he said. The Prime Minister also emphasised on the importance of using AI in a responsible manner and its protection against weaponisation by non-state actors. He also added that to widen the reach for reskilling the youth, programs will be developed in regional languages and dialects.</p>

Message for our Readers

CUTS Occasional News Wrap (ONW) contains copyrighted material whose use may not been specifically authorised by the copyright owners. Consumer Unity & Trust Society (CUTS) is making these articles available in our efforts to advance understanding of bilateral trade and economic issues. We believe that this constitutes a 'fair use' of the copyrighted material as provided for in Article 10 of the Berne Convention for the Protection of Literary and Artistic Works (Paris Text 1971) and in section 107 of the U.S. Copyright Law. If anybody wishes to use materials from this publication for purposes that go beyond 'fair use', s/he must obtain permission from the copyright owner. CUTS will not draw any profit from this publication, since it is solely for informative and educational purposes.

Readers are encouraged to send their own views and suggestions at:

cuts-washington@cuts.org
