



Promoting Cooperative Solutions for Space Sustainability

U.S.-India Space Cooperation: An American View

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A Path Toward Cooperation

- Snapshot of current USG policies for space and security
- U.S. space situational awareness (SSA) and exchanging data with India
- Bilateral, multilateral space security discussions
- Space-based maritime domain awareness (MDA)
- Importance of India formally creating a national space policy/strategy



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USG Policies for Space and Security

- Still officially following Obama National Space Policy from June 2010
- Trump administration has chosen to issue Space Policy Directives (SPDs) to give guidance and indicate priorities
- Space now officially designated a war-fighting domain
- Space Force vs. Space Command



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SSA Sharing

- What it is and why this is important
- STRATCOM has signed 100 SSA sharing agreements – not done one with India yet
- Indian SSA capabilities: nascent but growing



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Continue Bilateral Discussions

- Good history of coordinating on civil space efforts via the US-India Civil Space Joint Working Group
- March 2019: 3rd iteration of U.S.-India Space Dialogue
 - Held in conjunction with U.S.-India Strategy Security Dialogue
- U.S.-India 2+2 Dialogue another possibility for incorporating space security issues

Coordinate in Multilateral Fora

- Multilateral orgs have recently been completely stymied in achieving momentum on space security-related issues
 - Traditional arms control language and efforts not reflect today's space security environment
 - More helpful to discuss responsible behavior and intent and do so via non-legally binding efforts
- Forward movement has ground to a halt over the past several years
- Important to participate even in flawed discussions – where India can show leadership
 - Indian FM: “India remains committed to playing a leading and constructive role together with other partners, in deliberations and negotiations on prevention of an arms race in outer space”



Feasible Efforts for Multilateral Negotiations

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- Implementation of the Long-term Sustainability Guidelines from UN Committee on the Peaceful Uses of Outer Space
- Kinetic-energy anti-satellite test ban
 - Need for one: China in 2007; United States in 2008; India in 2019
 - Long-lived debris can be extremely destabilizing
 - India is well-positioned to lead discussions for a KE-ASAT ban



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Space-based Maritime Domain Awareness

- MDA: effective understanding of anything associated with the maritime domain that could impact security, safety, economy, and environment
 - Space plays a large role for enhancing MDA
- U.S. MDA Policy: largely guided by the National Strategy for Maritime Security (NSMS)
 - Maritime security in the Indo-Pacific long been an interest of the United States
- Potential Indian Contributions to Shared MDA Efforts
 - ISRO has large constellation of imaging satellites
 - Upcoming launch of SAR satellites Risat-2BR1 and Risat-2BR2
 - Basic Exchange and Cooperation Agreement (BECA)



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Need for a Documented Indian Space Policy

- India has been in space for over five decades but no official space policy
- Shifting how it uses space to become more militarized
- Important to signal intent – a national space policy key for messaging priorities and plans
 - Will also help strategic partners like the United States identify areas of common interest and expedite cooperative efforts in strategic space



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Questions?

Thanks.

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