

8th US-INDIA CONFERENCE
Beyond Deals: Can the US-India compact deliver?
UC Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley Campus, 3175 Bowers Ave, Santa Clara, CA
Tuesday, 7th October 2025: 2:30 pm onwards

Conference Agenda

(as on 14 August, 2025)

02:30 pm

Registration

03:00 pm – 03:55 pm
Inaugural Session

Beyond Deals: Can the US-India COMPACT deliver?

The art of deal is now central to the US-India relations. There is a growing mutual urgency to open each other's markets further, partner in technology, and to work together to enforce security. The forging of the grand US-India COMPACT of 2025 for the 21st century is another marker of the compatibility of the two governments' beliefs and ambitions. However, while the COMPACT is rich in intent, it is largely focused on the near term. Its ability to deliver beyond the immediate deals is circumscribed by different domestic realities and international considerations. The leaders of the US and India need to find ways to make deals that would ensure an enduring flow of produce and people and reliance in security and technology.

- *Is making tactical mini-deals the best way forward for the US-India partnership?*
- *How can tariffs be reconciled with US-India cooperation in reordering the world?*
- *How can the US and India achieve a balance of interest in agriculture, energy and automobiles?*

Welcome Address

Cynthia Larive
Chancellor, University of California, Santa Cruz

Introductory Remarks

Rekha Sethi
Director General, All India Management Association

Address

TV Narendran
President Designate, AIMA and CEO & Managing Director, Tata Steel Ltd.

Address

Sunil Kant Munjal
Chairman, AIMA International and Chairman, Hero Enterprise

Keynote Address

K. Srikar Reddy
Consul General of India at San Francisco

Concluding Remarks

John MacMillan
Vice Chancellor for Research, UC Santa Cruz

04:00 pm – 04:45 pm
Panel Discussion 1

The Great AI Race: Who Sets the Rules

Artificial intelligence is at the cusp of becoming the dominant technology for the visible future, and there is a no holds barred race among countries and companies to control AI-enabling chips, data, expertise, standards and regulations. The leading producers and users of AI are trying to set their own separate norms for creating, using and policing AI. AI rivalry is raising new iron curtains as the AI powers are trying to deprive each other of the necessary materials, machines and data. While the race is encouraging rapid and radical AI innovations, the lack of global standards and regulations are becoming a concern. The world needs to come up with consensual and enforceable rules for AI for business, governance and wars.

- *How is AI shaping geopolitics and how is it being shaped in turn?*
- *How can the AI rivalries be reconciled to have global AI standards and regulations for international business and security?*
- *What can be done to ensure that all economies and regions are AI compatible?*

Moderator

Alexander L. Wolf

Dean of the Baskin School of Engineering and
Distinguished Professor of Computer Science and Engineering, UC Santa Cruz

Panellists

Ravi Rajamani

Managing Director, Global Head of AI Blackbelts, Google

Vineet Agarwal

Vice President Designate, AIMA &
Managing Director, Transport Corporation of India Ltd

Yi Zhang

Director, Center for Generative AI, UC Santa Cruz

Sharad Singh

CEO, Trivium

Interaction with audience

04:50 pm – 05:45 pm
Panel Discussion 2

War Games and Peace Plans: Geopolitics of a World on Edge

The world is gravitating towards muscular resolution of territorial, economic and ethnic confrontations and peace is increasingly being sought through punishment instead of compromise. In the contemporary geopolitics, disorder is a strategy and hit and bargain a policy. International cooperation is growing more in war games than in peace and prosperity, and the peace plans are taking the form of ultimatums. Economic freedoms and technology advancements are hemmed in by bitter rivalries, anxieties and polarization, which have only increased the risk of more and larger wars. The world needs pulling back from the edge and a big effort is required to make peace great again.

- *How can the world avoid violent fixes to international confrontations in the 21st century?*
- *How can superpower competition be tempered to prevent new kinds of iron curtains?*

- *How can the US and India collaborate in stopping the shift to a balance of terror?*

Moderator

Vikram Chandra

Founder, Editorji Technologies Pvt Ltd

Panellists

Nikhil Sawhney

Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Triveni Turbine Ltd

Vishal Kampani*

Sr Vice President Designate AIMA &

Vice Chairman and Managing Director, J M Financial Ltd

R Mukundan

Managing Director & CEO, Tata Chemicals Ltd

Mariano Florentino (Tino) Cuéllar *

President, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

Navneet S. Chugh

Managing Partner, Chugh, LLP

Banu Bargu

Professor, History of Consciousness and an Affiliated Faculty member in the Department of Politics and the Center for the Middle East and North Africa, and Editor of Political Theory, UC Santa Cruz

Interaction with audience

05:50 pm – 06:35 pm

Panel Discussion 3

Biohacking Human Health

Past scientific efforts have focused on increasing the human lifespan through breakthroughs in our fundamental understanding of biology and disease. Is it now time to shift that focus to improving the human health span through a better understanding of the factors that contribute to healthy aging? Can a deeper understanding of our individual genomes, metabolism and immunology augmented by AI help us bio hack our personal health span?

Moderator

Robert M. Kaplan

Senior Scholar, Clinical Excellence Research Center (CERC)
Stanford School of Medicine

Panellists

David Haussler

Distinguished Professor of Biomolecular Engineering and
Founding Scientific Director of the Genomics Institute, UC Santa Cruz

Yi Zuo

Professor of Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology, UC Santa Cruz

Vinita Bajoria
Chairperson, NICCO Cables Ltd

Alexander Ioannidis
Assistant Professor of Biomedical Engineering, UC Santa Cruz

Interaction with audience

Concluding Remarks **Cynthia Larive**
Chancellor, University of California, Santa Cruz

06:35 pm onwards **Networking Reception**

** Confirmation awaited*