

9th US-INDIA CONFERENCE

US–India: Shaping the Next Global Turn

UC Santa Cruz, Silicon Valley Campus, 3175 Bowers Ave, Santa Clara, CA

Thursday, 8th October 2026: 2:30 pm onwards

Conference Agenda

(as on 02 September, 2026)

02:30 pm

Registration

Conference Emcee

John MacMillan

Vice Chancellor for Research, UC Santa Cruz

03:00 pm – 03:55 pm

Inaugural Session

A Partnership Back in Motion: Converting Momentum into Outcomes

The US–India relationship has entered a defining phase. Strategic trust is stronger than ever, technology partnerships are expanding rapidly, and businesses on both sides see unprecedented opportunities for collaboration. Yet the real challenge is turning goodwill into measurable outcomes. This inaugural session will explore how governments, academia and industry can work together to build resilient supply chains, deepen innovation partnerships, accelerate investment and create long-term value. It sets the context for a conference focused on practical cooperation rather than aspiration.

- What are the biggest opportunities that will define the next decade of US–India collaboration?
- How can business and academia convert strategic intent into tangible partnerships?
- What actions should leaders prioritize to sustain the momentum in bilateral relations?

Welcome Address

Cynthia Larive

Chancellor, University of California, Santa Cruz

Introductory Remarks

Rekha Sethi

Director General, All India Management Association

Address

Vineet Agarwal

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

Theme Address

Sunil Kant Munjal

Past President, AIMA and Chairman, AIMA International and
Chairman, The Hero Enterprise

Keynote Address

Satish Sivan

Consul General of India in San Francisco

Concluding Remarks

Cynthia Larive

Chancellor, University of California, Santa Cruz

04:00 pm – 04:50 pm

Panel Discussion 1

Panel Discussion

Scaling Innovation: Capabilities, Collaboration and Competitive Edge

Innovation is no longer defined by breakthrough ideas alone—it is determined by the ability to scale them rapidly. As artificial intelligence, semiconductors, automation and

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advanced manufacturing reshape industries, competitive advantage will increasingly depend on talent, research ecosystems, trusted partnerships and execution at scale. This session brings together technology leaders, industry executives and academia to discuss how organisations and nations can build innovation capabilities that translate into sustained economic leadership.

- *How can India and the United States jointly build the innovation ecosystems needed for the AI era?*
- *What capabilities will distinguish tomorrow's globally competitive enterprises?*
- *How can companies collaborate across borders to accelerate innovation while protecting resilience and trust?*

Moderator

Galina Hale

Faculty Director, Professor of Economics and Coastal Science and Policy, Co-Director of the Center for Analytical Finance (CAFIN), UC Santa Cruz

Panellists

Mihir Shukla

Co-Founder, Chairman & CEO, Automation Anywhere

Anand Ramamoorthy

Managing Director, Micron India

Madhavkrishna Singhania

Joint Managing Director and CEO, JK Cement Ltd

Shari Liss

Vice President, Global Workforce Development & Initiatives, SEMI

Ziyang David Fan

SVP, Technology & Innovation, Silicon Valley Leadership Group & Executive Director, Institute for California AI Policy

Interaction with audience

04:55 pm – 05:45 pm

Panel Discussion 2

Panel Discussion

A Rewired World: Security, Power and Possibility

The global order is being reshaped by geopolitical competition, technological rivalry, shifting alliances and economic fragmentation. Decisions made in boardrooms are increasingly influenced by developments in diplomacy, national security and global supply chains. This session explores how business leaders can navigate an environment where geopolitics is no longer a distant concern but a core strategic variable, while identifying new opportunities emerging from this transformation.

- *How are geopolitical shifts redefining business strategy and global investment?*
- *What new risks and opportunities will emerge from the changing balance of power?*
- *How can organisations build resilience while remaining globally competitive?*

Moderator

Vikram Chandra

Founder, Editorji Technologies Pvt Ltd

Panellists

Arun Kumar

Managing Partner, Celesta Capital

Ian Klaus

Founder Director, Carnegie California

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Navneet S. Chugh

Managing Partner, Chugh, LLP

Nirvikar Singh

Distinguished Professor of Economics and Co-Director of the Center for Analytical Finance, UCSC

Alok S Kirloskar

Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers International B.V. and
Managing Director, SPP Pumps Limited

Interaction with audience

05:50 pm – 06:45 pm

Panel Discussion 3

Panel Discussion

Trade That Works: Balancing Domestic Priorities and Global Integration

Trade is entering a new era where competitiveness must coexist with resilience, national priorities and sustainable growth. Governments are pursuing industrial policies while businesses seek diversified supply chains and expanded market access. This session examines how countries can remain open to global commerce while strengthening domestic capabilities, and how the US–India economic partnership can contribute to a more resilient and inclusive global trading system.

- *How can economies strike the right balance between domestic resilience and global integration?*
- *Which sectors offer the greatest potential for expanding US–India trade and investment?*
- *What reforms and partnerships are needed to create more trusted and resilient global value chains?*

Moderator

Sanjiv Goyal

President, Account360.ai and Droisys Inc.

Panellists

Sanjay Kirloskar

Chairman and Managing Director, Kirloskar Brothers Ltd

Vinita Bajoria

Chairperson, NICCO Cables Ltd

Galina Hale

Faculty Director, Professor of Economics and Coastal Science and Policy, Co-Director of the Center for Analytical Finance (CAFIN), UC Santa Cruz

Richard Rekhy

Vice Chair, Grant Thornton Bharat

Interaction with audience

Concluding Remarks

Cynthia Larive

Chancellor, University of California, Santa Cruz

06:45 pm onwards

Networking Reception

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