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
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
• 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
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

• 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
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)
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
Questions?

Thanks.

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