

Center for Strategic and International Studies

TRANSCRIPT

Event

Exploring Global AI Policy Priorities Ahead of the India AI
Impact Summit

“Closing Keynote and Closing Remarks”

DATE

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CSIS EXPERTS

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Richard M.
Rossow:

Navin Girishankar, of course, is president of the Economic Security and Technology Department. And, Navin, of course, has a phenomenal set – a diverse set of experiences, working for multilaterals at the World Bank, working for the private sector, and, of course, his time in government at the Department of Commerce. So, Navin, thanks for being here to help close down today's AI program.

Navin
Girishankar:

Well, thank you so much, Rick. And thank you, everyone who joined in person, or those who are joined online. I was in my office watching online from the morning, and also was able to get some readouts from the colleagues here, and it seems like a really phenomenal event.

Just a couple of points of reflection. First, I should just really thank Romesh Wadhvani for his comments and his ongoing support, not only globally but, importantly, at home here at CSIS, motivating our thinking, obviously supporting our program with the Wadhvani Center. Two, ambassadors from India and France really, like, bookending the Paris Action Summit and what's coming in India. And just see the evolution of the global AI agenda moving more and more towards development applications, towards the biggest problems that people around the world are facing. Really excited about what India will be showcasing.

I think – I don't know if this is the right way to describe it, but in some ways, Greg was sharing with me, India is kind of in the catbird seat, because it's got the right combination of success factors on the ground, the leadership, the vision, the ability – both with its emerging trade agenda as well as its venture capital environment – to really make a show of this. And not only the summit, but actually the results that we will see in the years ahead. And it will be a powerful example, I think, probably for many countries in the Global South, and for the relationship between developed and developing countries.

The industry panel today was really quite interesting. We have been talking more and more about what's the U.S. tech offer to the Global South? And I think that the description of what's happening around AI really underscores what that potential could be in the U.S.-India context. And I know Rick and his team have been shining a light on this for quite some time.

I would just say this. I've seen – in bringing this to home, our Economic Security and Technology Department – we've seen the evolution of the AI agenda. And we are running very fast to try and keep pace with how the agenda is evolving, and what that means for our research agenda, our engagements with the private sector, with countries and governments around the world. Obviously, you know the – many of you know the phenomenal work of Greg Allen over the years, now moving the center to really expand its focus and work across our department on not only AI

adoption, but AI economic impacts, as Romesh was saying, obviously AI governance. We're really excited about what's coming.

And part of the beauty of this, I should say, is our ability to connect the dots across things like energy, and AI, and workforce, and tariffs, and data centers, and all these different dimensions that we really need to wrap our heads around. We're going to try and do our best. But I hope that you've seen that what the team has been able to do here is what we're trying to aspire to do more and more. And so with that, I'm going to hand over to Greg. But just really, thank you all. And please give us your feedback on what we can keep doing. This is not an area where anyone has the full answer, but we're all groping and sort of grasping for the answer. And that's the challenge and both the beauty of it. So thank you so much. And I'm going to hand it over to my colleague, Greg. Thank you. (Applause.)

Gregory C. Allen: If you will just lend me your ears for a few more minutes I will give you a free lunch, which is right outside and awaiting you. But before we get that, if you would just please listen to me there's a few people who we need to thank for today's event. First, I want to thank Fathom, the organization whose sponsorship made this event possible, and has been a terrific partner for us at CSIS and the Wadhvani AI Center. I want to thank my colleague Rick Rossow, who showed me around India – (applause) – a few months ago, I guess, at this point. And it was really the trip of a lifetime. If you ever have the professional opportunity to travel with this man, say yes immediately. And his connections and his insights made today's conference possible.

Also on Rick's team, I want to thank Kirtika, who I guess is behind the scenes right now, but that's what she's been doing for this whole time, who made a lot – did a lot of work to make this conference possible on the logistics side. Also, Matt and Nicole on the Wadhvani AI Center team did a lot of help in making this conference possible. And I also want to thank the CSIS events and logistics teams who put all this together. If you've been seeing all of this event, I hope you know that the Excel spreadsheet for everything from, like, when to ring the bell to tell people to come back in from the breaks, all of that has already been planned in advance. And the number one planner of all of that is Ms. Sadie McCullough, over to my left – (applause) – who – and this was her first time being the orchestra conductor of a conference of this scale. And I think she knocked it out of the park. So if you could please join me in thanking all those people, and then you can go to lunch. (Applause.)

(END.)

