



ANNUAL REPORT **2021**

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From the Executive Director



It is a special moment for me, personally, to be presenting the first annual report for the Observer Research Foundation America (ORF America). ORF America's establishment is in some ways the culmination of over three years of work. In its first full year of operation, ORF America managed to incorporate itself as a Washington DC-based non-profit public policy institute, grow in size, initiate several international programs, and move into new office space—all amid a global pandemic.

There are by one count almost 400 think tanks in Washington DC. But it is still a relatively rare occasion to be inaugurating a new such institution. ORF America is – as its name suggests – American. But equally, it is defined by its partnership with ORF, one of India's leading policy institutes, with the mission of addressing challenges facing the United States, India, and their partners amid significant global upheaval. The changes that we are witnessing around the world today – geopolitical and technological, economic and environmental – define our agenda and sense of purpose.

“Why ORF America?” It's a good question. The U.S.-India partnership will be a critical one for the foreseeable future: not always without its differences and difficulties, but also with a great deal of convergence and cooperation. Ties between two of the world's three largest populations, two of the world's three largest militaries, and what may soon be two of the world's three largest economies – both of them democracies, one developed and one developing – will naturally have global implications. Generating a better understanding of each other's policies is imperative. This long-term investment in an ‘ideas bridge’ between India and the United States on global issues is, in part, what ORF America is all about. In what are sometimes divisive times, ORF America also hopes to conduct research, convene policymakers, and build networks in the spirit of nonpartisanship, diversity, and international cooperation.

A sample of some of our ongoing efforts illustrates these

objectives and values. We intend through dialogue to engage India, the United States, and their partners in three critical geopolitical theaters: Europe, the Indo-Pacific, and the Middle East (West Asia). We plan to shape the conversation and awareness around cybersecurity and capacity in the developing world, while conducting research on how geopolitics is shaping 5G and semiconductor supply chains through new alliances. We hope to contribute to conversations on development assistance and supply chain resilience between the United States and India. And we aim to elevate cooperation between the two countries on energy and climate policy, including on air quality, energy data, and climate financing. Our growing staff offer expertise in these areas and reflect diverse perspectives.

Much of this would not be possible without our broad-based partnership with ORF and the advice, guidance, and support of our Board of Directors. ORF's signature events such as the Raisina Dialogue and CyFy offer perfect opportunities to highlight Indian and global perspectives to audiences in the United States, and bring American perspectives to the rest of the world. The first year-and-a-half of ORF America's existence proved both challenging and eventful, but it represents just the start for what should hopefully become an important contributor to global policy dialogue and research.

Dhruva Jaishankar

Executive Director

July 2022



About ORF America

The Observer Research Foundation America (ORF America) is an independent, nonpartisan, and nonprofit organization in Washington DC dedicated to addressing policy challenges facing the United States, India, and their partners in a rapidly changing world.

ORF America produces research, curates diverse and inclusive platforms, and develops networks for cooperation between the developed and developing worlds based on common values and shared interests. Its areas of focus are international affairs and security, technology policy, energy and climate, and economic development. Established in 2020, ORF America is an overseas affiliate of the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), India's premier non-government think tank.

Establishing ORF America:

- **September 15, 2019:** Dhruva Jaishankar joins ORF as Director of the U.S. Initiative

- **August 14, 2020:** ORF America incorporates in Washington DC

- **November 6, 2020:** IRS determination of 501(c)(3) status

- **December 2020:** Website and social media platforms launched

- **December 16, 2020:** First employees start

- **December 22, 2020:** First Board of Directors meeting and ratification of bylaws

- **January-September 2021:** Growth to nine full-time employees and two affiliates

- **May 20, 2021:** Intellectual property license agreement with ORF for post-2019 content

- **November 15, 2021:** Lease of permanent office in Washington DC

- **December 17, 2021:** Second annual meeting of Board of Directors

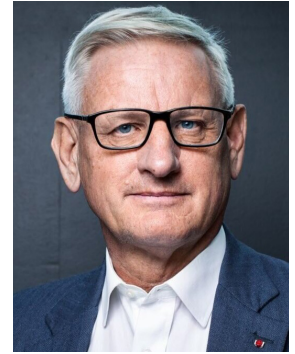
2021 Board of Directors



Sunjoy Joshi
Chair



Jane Holl Lute
Co-Chair



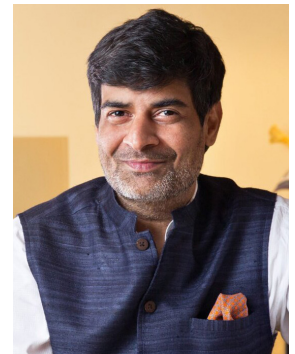
Carl Bildt
Former Prime Minister and
Foreign Minister, Sweden



Mathew Oommen
President, Reliance Jio



Rachel Pritzker
Founder and President,
Pritzker Innovation Fund



Samir Saran
President, Observer
Research Foundation

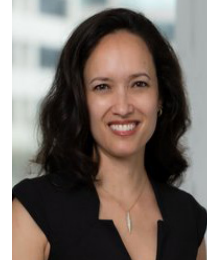


David Victor
Professor, University of
California San Diego

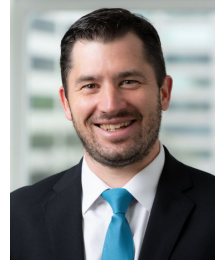
2021 Staff



**Dhruva
Jaishankar**
Executive Director



Sharon Stirling
Chief Operating
Officer



**Dr. Andreas
Kuehn**
Senior Fellow



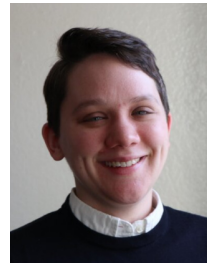
**Anneleen
Roggeman**
Senior Program
Manager



Nikhila Natarajan
Senior Program
Manager



Terri Chapman
Program Manager



Abigail Lawson
Program Manager



Michael Depp
Junior Fellow
and Program
Coordinator



Ammar Nainar
Junior Fellow and
Program Assistant

Non- Resident Fellows



Bruce McConnell
Distinguished
Fellow



Kim Dozier
Visiting Fellow

Major Initiatives in 2020-2021



Signature Event

1. The Raisina Dialogue DC

Partner: ORF

Foreign Policy and Security

1. The India Trilateral Forum

Partners: German Marshall Fund & Sweden Ministry for Foreign Affairs

2. Democracy & Indian Foreign Policy

Tech Policy

1. Global Cyber Policy Dialogues

Partners: Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Netherlands. Local partners in Chile, South Africa, Jordan, Singapore, and North Macedonia

2. CyFy DC

Partner: ORF

Energy and Climate Policy

1. U.S.-India Energy Monitor

Economic Development

1. USA Pavilion @ Expo 2020 Fellows Program

Partners: PepsiCo, PepsiCo Foundation, U.S. Department of State, AstroLabs, and ORF

2. India and Global Value Chains

Partner: ORF

Research and Publications

In 2020 and 2021, ORF America initiated research and publications around its four areas of focus.



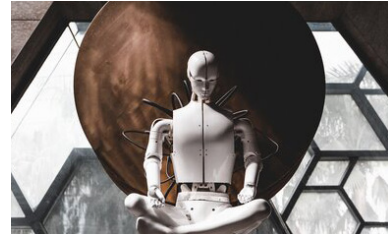
- **THE ELUSIVE WATERSHEDS OF LADAKH**

Background Paper No. 1
By Kyle Gardner
Aug 26, 2020



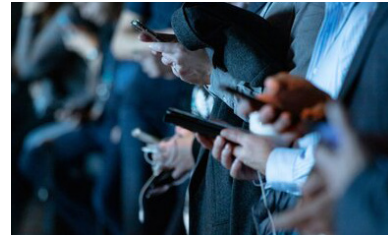
- **RETHINKING THE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE RACE**

Background Paper No. 2
By Michael Depp
Feb 22, 2021



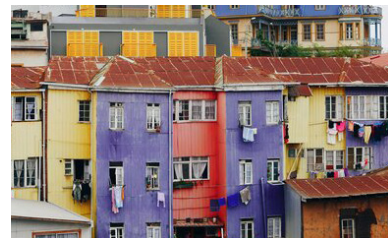
- **MODERATING ONLINE CONTENT IN THE UNITED STATES**

Background Paper No. 3
By Abigail Lawson
Mar 17, 2021



- **SEEKING A RELIABLE ESTIMATE OF GLOBAL POVERTY**

Background Paper No. 4
By Terri B Chapman
Jul 23, 2021



- **THE QUAD, THE MEDIA, AND BIG TECH PLATFORMS**

Background Paper No. 5
By Nikhila Natarajan
Jul 29, 2021



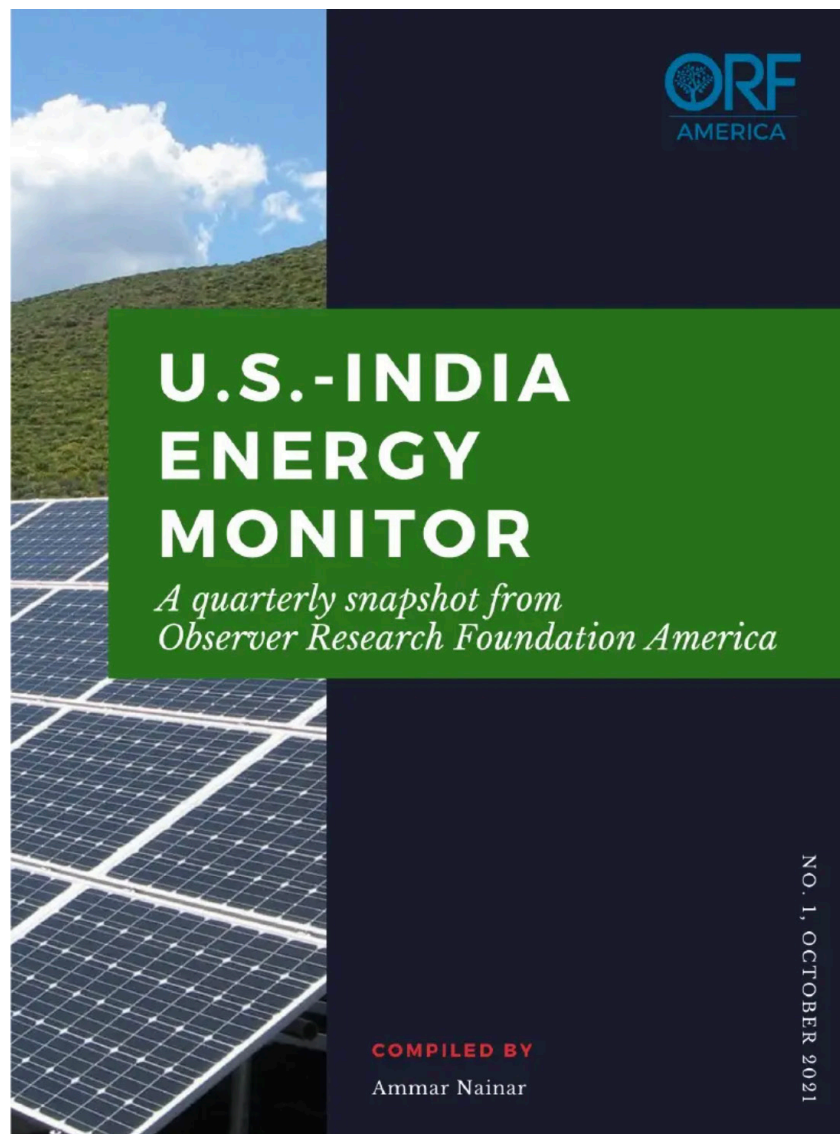
- **BEYOND BORDERS: TRANSNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT IMPACTS**

Background Paper No. 6
By Terri B Chapman
Oct 22, 2021



Research and Publications

ORF America inaugurated its quarterly *U.S.-India Energy Monitor* series



ORF America staff also published commentary and analysis in a range of external publications, including :



Convening

In 2020-2021, ORF America initiated a series of virtual and in-person events, involving every region of the globe.

- **Global Cyber Policy Dialogues:** five regional conversations on building cyber norms and capacity with partners in Latin America, the Western Balkans, Southeast Asia, the Middle East & North Africa, and Southern Africa.
- **The USA Pavilion @ Expo 2020 Fellows Program:** A fellowship program for young entrepreneurs and leaders from the Middle East, North Africa, and South Asia, that met in-person in Dubai on the sidelines of the Expo.
- In 2021, ORF America also began a series of virtual discussions around **democracy in Indian foreign policy and India's integration into global value chains.**
- Virtual panels were organized around ORF's signature annual events: **The Raisina Dialogue, CyFy, and the Colaba Conversation.**
- A virtual edition of the **India Trilateral Forum** was organized in October 2021, along with the German Marshall Fund, with participants from India, the United States, and Europe.
- On the **20th anniversary of the 9/11 terrorist attacks**, Executive Director Dhruva Jaishankar had virtual conversations with Philip Zelikow, Executive Director of the 9/11 Commission, and Michael Chertoff, former Secretary for Homeland Security.
- ORF America organized virtual discussions around:
 - **U.S. cyber policy and implications for Southeast Asia**
 - **Quad Cooperation on Artificial Intelligence**



The UAE's Minister of State for Artificial Intelligence Omar al Olama addresses ORF America's USA Pavilion @ Expo 2020 Fellows Program at the Museum of the Future in Dubai.



Fellows at NYU Abu Dhabi.



Outreach

ORF America experts made presentations and briefings to policymakers, experts, business groups, and at universities, including :

COUNCIL *on*
FOREIGN
RELATIONS



The
Heritage Foundation



COLLEGE *of*
CHARLESTON



SAIS JOHN'S HOPKINS
SCHOOL *of* ADVANCED
INTERNATIONAL STUDIES



Foreign, Commonwealth
& Development Office



**U.S.-India
Business Council**



CZERNIN SECURITY FORUM 2021
ONLINE / 29TH—30TH NOV

ORF America experts were featured
in the media in 2021, including in:

The Washington Post

The CHRISTIAN SCIENCE
MONITOR

**THE
BUSINESS
STANDARD**



ORF America is on:





Operating Income and Expenses

December 31, 2020 – December 31, 2021

| | |
|---|-----------------------|
| Total Income | \$2,481,814.46 |
| • Funding | \$2,481,796.37 |
| • Interest | \$18.09 |
| <hr/> | |
| Total Expenses | \$1,302,499.79 |
| • Salaries, Benefits, and Payroll Taxes | \$963,791.76 |
| • Project Costs | \$193,269.05 |
| • Office Costs & IT | \$80,450.40 |
| • Other Administrative Costs | \$64,988.58 |
| <hr/> | |
| Net Income | \$1,179,314.67 |

ORF America conducts an annual external audit, and has received a clean, unqualified report for FY21. The full audited financials are available on the ORF America website.

Contributions from December 31, 2020 to December 31, 2021

\$500,000 and above

- RIL USA
- PepsiCo Foundation

\$300,000 - \$499,000

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs, The Netherlands
- East West Institute

\$50,000 - \$299,999

- Climate Works
- Microsoft

\$10,000 - \$49,999

- The Asia Group
- Asian Democracy Network
- Netherlands Embassy, South Africa

Funding by Type

