

Report on the Book Discussion

Introduction

This report summarizes a book discussion on Emerging Digital Technologies and India's Security Sector: AI, Blockchain and Quantum Communications. The discussion featured Dr. Arun, Dr. Purnima, and Mr. Vedant contributors to the book "Emerging Digital Technologies and India's Security Sector". The key themes explored during the event were the need for a comprehensive approach to AI, the challenges and opportunities posed by emerging technologies, the need for regulatory framework and the importance of collaboration among military, academia, and industry.

Introduction

Session Introduction by Vanshika Sirohi: Welcomed the participants and introduced the event, highlighting the collaboration between the Jindal India Institute and the Pankaj Kumar Jha Center for Security Studies. She provided an overview of the Jindal India Institute, emphasizing its role as an independent strategic think tank dedicated to promoting India's global achievements and potential in the 21st century.

Introduction to PKJCSS by Harini Vallal J: Harini Vallal J, a final-year student of Global Affairs and Center Coordinator at PKJCSS, introduced the Center. She spoke about the center's founding under Dr. Pankaj Kumar Jha's leadership and its focus on comprehensive security studies, including political, economic, military, environmental, and social dimensions. She paid tribute to Dr. Jha's legacy and contributions to the field.

Opening Remarks by Professor Gitanjali Sinha Roy: Professor Gitanjali Sinha Roy Director of PKJCSS, delivered the opening remarks. She highlighted the key themes of the book, including the impact of AI, blockchain technology, and quantum communication on military affairs and global competition among major powers. She also spoke about India's readiness in adopting these advanced technologies.

Discussion Initiation by Professor Colonel Shashank Ranjan: Professor Colonel Shashank Ranjan, Director of PKJCSS, initiated the discussion. He shared his perspective, based on his 32 years of experience in the army, on the importance of emerging technologies in modern warfare. He emphasized the need for states to adapt to technological advancements and the role of civil-military fusion in ensuring national security. He also discussed the concept of non-state actors in the digital age and the importance of developing a national security doctrine for India.

Key Points from Speaker Presentations

Dr. Arun Teja

- Dr. Arun, a contributor to the book, explained the motivation behind the book's creation, highlighting the lack of comprehensive literature on the intersection of emerging technologies and India's security sector.
- **Lack of Comprehensive Literature:** There is a dearth of comprehensive research on the intersection of emerging digital technologies and India's security sector.
- **State-Centric Approach:** States continue to hold significant power in the digital landscape, despite the growing influence of private companies.

- **Securitization of Data:** The securitization of data is crucial for national security.
- **Policy Implications:** India needs to develop robust policies and frameworks to regulate the use of emerging digital technologies such as AI.

Dr. Purnima

- **Geopolitical Competition:** The global geopolitical landscape is characterized by increasing competition among major powers, particularly in the areas of technology and military capabilities.
- **Emerging Technologies:** Advancements in emerging technologies, such as AI, blockchain, and quantum communications, are reshaping the nature of warfare and international relations.
- **India's Challenges:** India faces significant challenges in developing indigenous capabilities in these technologies and ensuring its security in the face of growing global competition.

Mr. Vedant

- **AI and Military Applications:** AI has the potential to revolutionize military operations, but it also poses significant challenges and risks. AI is the key to battle space superiority in the future.
- **Indian Armed Forces:** The Indian armed forces are actively exploring the use of AI in various domains, including command and control, intelligence, and surveillance.
- **Challenges and Opportunities:** India needs to invest in research and development to harness the potential of AI while mitigating its risks.
- **Joint Command:** The need to form a joint command that can help facilitate greater integration of the defense establishment.

Closing Remarks by Dr. Pooja Bhatt

- **Regulations** – Highlighted some important questions such as who will oversee regulation, why regulation is necessary, how to strike a balance between excessive and insufficient regulation in the field of AI, and who would be affected by the presence or the absence of regulations.
- **Technology and Society** – How will the interaction between society and technology evolve, will it be society with technology or society vs technology.
- **Military Training** – With the coming of technology and AI in the field of warfare how will warfighting change? Will it go from a warfighting military to a tech-fighting military and if so, how will the training methods change?

The discussion highlighted the critical importance of understanding and addressing the challenges and opportunities presented by emerging digital technologies. It emphasized the need for India to develop a comprehensive approach to digital security that involves collaboration among various stakeholders, investment in research and development, and the development of appropriate policies and frameworks.