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AI: TRANSFORMING
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Editorial Note

The current issue of the International Journal of Politics and Media (Vol. 4, Issue 1) brings together compelling research at the intersection of artificial intelligence, global politics, media narratives, and regional dynamics. In an age increasingly shaped by algorithmic influence, virtual economies, and post-truth realities, the contributions in this volume offer timely insights into how information is constructed, contested, and circulated.

Mahamudul Hasan Gayen opens the issue with a focused investigation into AI's role in regulating fake news and misinformation on social media in West Bengal (2014–2024). His study traverses a decade marked by political volatility and digital manipulation, offering a grounded understanding of how machine learning tools and content moderation strategies intersect local political cultures.

In “Vlogs, Ventures and Virtual Guides”, Vishesh Azad shifts the lens to the global travel economy, where AI is revolutionizing both automation and authenticity. Through case studies of digital influencers and AI-powered tourism platforms, Azad highlights how storytelling, trust, and commodification are being redefined in the age of generative content.

The article by Somyajit Sarkar and Dr. Santwan Chattopadhyay, “Elections in the Age of Post-Truth and Artificial Intelligence,” explores the impact of AI-generated misinformation in shaping electoral outcomes in the US and India. Drawing parallels between two of the world's largest democracies, the authors examine how truth has become a casualty in the data-driven arms race of modern campaigning.

In “Recalibrating Emerging Security Architectures in East Asia,” Amaresh Jha and Sanjeev Ratna Singh delve into shifting geopolitical alignments, digital surveillance regimes, and regional cooperation frameworks. Their analysis offers a nuanced reading of how East Asia is responding to an evolving matrix of threats, both traditional and cyber-enabled.

Finally, Rinku Pegu's reflective essay, “All We Imagine As Light,” probes the aesthetic and political power of discourse as soft power. Engaging with cinema, diplomacy, and cultural memory, the piece underscores how imagination itself becomes a tool of influence and identity-making in international relations.

Together, these contributions present a cohesive, critical exploration of how technology, narrative, and power intersect in the shaping of contemporary political and media landscapes. As the boundaries between fact and fiction, machine and human, continue to blur, the role of scholarship in interpreting these transitions becomes ever more essential.

We invite readers, researchers, and practitioners to engage with these essays not only as reflections of the present but also as frameworks for understanding what lies ahead.

Debashis Chakrabarti
Editor-in-Chief
International Journal of Politics and Media

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