

Dear Readers,

**Looking back on 2025, one thing stands out: the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue has matured.**

What began as a set of conversations increasingly took shape this year as a structured platform, anchored in regular exchange, clearer formats, and shared priorities.

The year opened with a defining milestone at the EU–India Trade and Technology Council Ministerial in February in Delhi. Dedicated engagements, including roundtables with member states and industry or the think tank dinner with Executive Vice-President Virkkunen, underscored the value of bringing diverse stakeholders into focused, purposeful dialogue.

That momentum carried through the year as the Dialogue established new rhythms of engagement. The launch of our website, regular newsletters, and a strengthened social media presence helped create continuity and visibility, while Digital Chai Chats emerged as a steady forum for Member States to exchange on evolving EU digital initiatives and their relevance for cooperation with India.

In the second half of the year, thematic engagement deepened further. A think tank roundtable in Brussels in October created space for longer-term reflection on policy trajectories, followed by a semiconductor networking event for industry during the Bengaluru Tech Summit in November, linking policy discussions more closely with industrial ecosystems. In parallel, the contracting of a dedicated study on Digital Public Infrastructure marked a deliberate step towards evidence-based cooperation — with insights to be shared in the year ahead.

Looking ahead, 2026 promises to be just as dynamic. With the AI Summit on the horizon, new digital policy initiatives emerging on both sides, and preparations underway for the next EU–India Summit, we are excited about the opportunities that lie ahead.



# Wishing you a joyful holiday season and a Happy New Year!

Thank you for being part of the EU-India Digital Partnership in 2025. We look forward to continued collaboration in 2026!

The Secretariat of the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue

On behalf of the Secretariat, thank you for walking this path with us. We wish you and your teams a peaceful holiday season and a happy, healthy, and fulfilling New Year.

Özlem Buran  
Head of Secretariat,  
EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue, GIZ India

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## Latest Project Developments

Digital Chai Chat | 11 December 2025

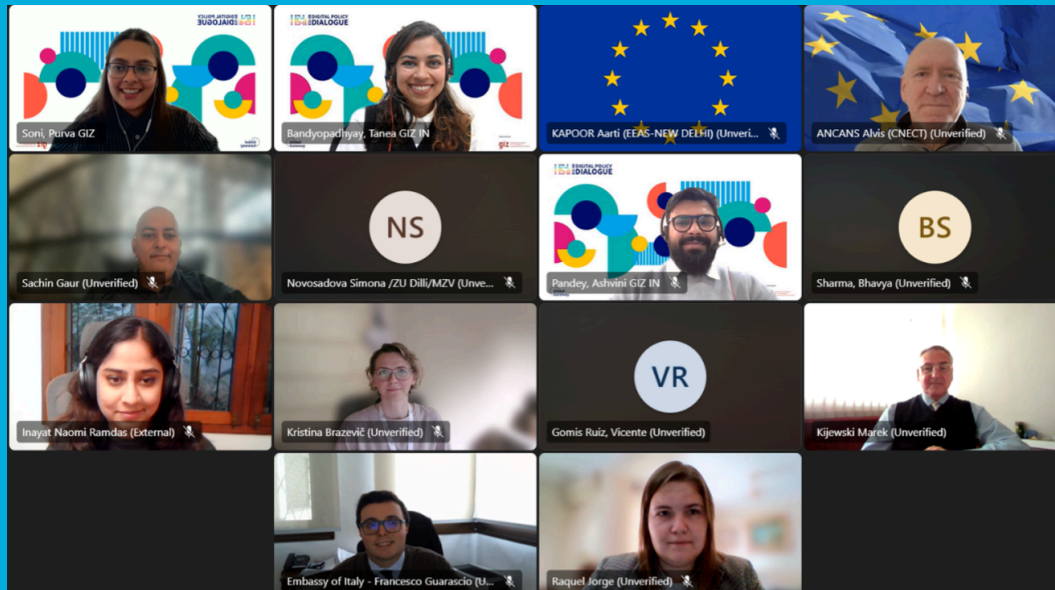
On 11 December, the Secretariat of the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue hosted its final edition of the Digital Chai Chat for the year of 2025, bringing together representatives from France, Poland, Denmark, Slovakia, Lithuania, Italy, and Spain, alongside colleagues from DG CNECT and the EU Delegation in India. The session was moderated by Ms. Tanea, Policy Advisor at the Secretariat.

The discussion opened with an analysis of the European Commission’s newly announced Digital Package, presented by Ms. Purva Soni from the Secretariat, covering the Digital Omnibus, Data Union Strategy, and European Business Wallets, and their relevance for Europe’s digital competitiveness and international partnerships.

A spotlight presentation by the Centre for European Policy Studies (CEPS) placed the EU–India digital partnership within a broader strategic and geopolitical context. Ms. Raquel Jorge Ricart, Associate Research Fellow at CEPS, shared timely insights on the evolving nature of the partnership and highlighted strategic implications, key policy priorities, and emerging opportunities for deeper cooperation between the two regions.

The discussion also provided Member States a chance to share reflections on coordination needs and strategic priorities in the lead-up to the 2026 AI Summit, including visibility opportunities and avenues for high-level EU engagement.

The discussion also provided space for Member State reflections on coordination needs and priorities ahead of the AI Summit 2026, including high-level engagements and visibility opportunities.



## Team Europe Spotlight

### Italy–India Business Forum 2025 strengthens bilateral trade, innovation and strategic economic partnership

11.12.2025 | PIB India

Held in Mumbai during Deputy PM Antonio Tajani’s visit, the Italy–India Business Forum brought together over 150 Indian and Italian firms to deepen cooperation in priority sectors like green energy, automotives, and digital innovation. Key outcomes included MoUs in clean steel, agri-food, and fashion-tech, and the signing of the 22nd JCEC Agreed Minutes. Ministers Goyal and Tajani reaffirmed their commitment to innovation-driven growth, resilient supply chains, and expanded market access—advancing the Strategic Partnership.

## News Update

### India

### **Semicon India Programme developing a complete ecosystem around design, fabrication, assembly, testing and packaging of Semiconductors**

12.12.2025 | PIB India

From chip design to advanced packaging, India is building a full-stack semiconductor ecosystem through major investments, incentives, and skilling programmes. Discover how new policy pushes and talent pipelines are shaping India's role in the global semiconductor race.

### Talks seek to expedite conclusion of India-EU FTA and deepen trade relationship

09.12.2025 | PIB India

High-level discussions between India and the EU, including meetings between Commerce Minister Shri Piyush Goyal and EU Commissioner Maroš Šefčovič, marked renewed momentum in advancing the Free Trade Agreement. Both sides reaffirmed their commitment to a timely, fair, and ambitious deal.

### NITI Aayog releases a Roadmap on "Transforming India into a leading Quantum-Powered Economy"

04.12.2025 | PIB India

NITI Aayog launched a national roadmap to position India as a global quantum leader, outlining strategies for R&D, commercialization, and talent development. Developed with IBM, the plan leverages the National Quantum Mission and emphasizes collaborative action to build a secure, innovation-driven economy.

### Simplified compliance framework for start-ups and certain data fiduciaries under DPDP Act and Rules

03.12.2025 | PIB India

The Government has notified the DPDP Act, 2023 and DPDP Rules, 2025, introducing simplified compliance for startups and specific data fiduciaries. Implementation timelines have been issued, along with plans to raise citizen awareness and build capacity through workshops and digital outreach.

### Hundred 5G labs established at academic institutions across India

03.12.2025 | PIB India

The Government has set up 100 5G labs at academic institutions nationwide to develop socio-economic use cases and foster a future-ready digital ecosystem. With 5G now available in 99.9% of districts, these initiatives aim to accelerate innovation and 6G preparedness.

## Women In Tech - Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo

Amaia Sánchez-Cacicedo is currently Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Asia Program, at Institut Montaigne. She is also Academic Co-ordinator at the Global Policy Center (GPC) at IE University in Madrid.

Prior to this, she was Non-Resident Associate Analyst in charge of the South Asia portfolio at the EUISS. She contributes to the analysis of South Asian security and foreign policy with an emphasis on geo-economic and security developments across the Indian Ocean. She further monitors EU relations with emerging powers.



She is a graduate of Georgetown University and completed her PhD at the School of Oriental & African Studies (SOAS), University of London, which culminated in her book *Building States, Building Peace: Global and Regional Involvement in Sri Lanka and Myanmar* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2014). Amaia has taught courses on security, as well as on the international relations of Asia at IE University, SOAS and the University of Zurich. She has also worked for the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) in Costa Rica, Kenya and Sri Lanka.

Most recently, she co-authored "[The EU-India Partnership: A Window of Opportunity for Our Ambitions?](#)" – a timely reflection on the evolving strategic partnership between the two regions.

She will also feature as a guest in our upcoming **Tech-à-Tête** podcast, launching soon.

# Upcoming Events

## [India Digital Summit 2025 | 16–17 January 2025 | New Delhi](#)

Now in its 19th edition, the India Digital Summit (IDS) is the flagship annual conference of the [Internet and Mobile Association of India \(IAMAI\)](#), and one of the country's most prominent platforms for digital dialogue. The 2025 Summit will take place in New Delhi, and is set to bring together policymakers, regulators, industry leaders, and innovators from across sectors.

Over two days, participants will engage in keynotes, panels, and workshops across 17 dedicated tracks, including AI, data and security, gig economy, healthtech, rural tech, and digital public services, offering a comprehensive view of the opportunities and challenges shaping India's digital future.

[LEARN MORE](#)

## Meet Our Team

At the heart of the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue is a team working quietly but strategically to connect dots across continents, policies, and people. In this new section, we take you behind the scenes to meet the people driving the Dialogue forward. From policy coordination to programme design, each team member brings a unique perspective and commitment to digital cooperation—so you know who to reach out to, and for what, as we continue building this partnership together.



Ashvini Pandey is an Advisor at the Secretariat for the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue, leading work across semiconductors, next-generation telecommunications (5G/6G), digital skills, and industry engagement between European and Indian stakeholders. His experience spans digital transformation, service and enterprise design, and public policy research, with close collaboration alongside governments and social development institutions to shape large-scale digital initiatives and governance frameworks.

With academic training in Digital Society, Ashvini applies a life-centered design approach that prioritizes usability, accessibility, and lived experience alongside policy and technology considerations.

In his words, “Digital cooperation becomes truly impactful when systems are designed around people’s lives—balancing technology, policy, and human experience at scale”.

Reach out to him via [LinkedIn](#) or at [ashvini.pandey@giz.de](mailto:ashvini.pandey@giz.de).

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