

 DIGITAL POLICY
DIALOGUE

THE BRIEF

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Dear Readers,

February was an intense yet rewarding month for EU-India digital partnerships. The India AI Impact Summit brought together policymakers, industry leaders, and researchers from across the world to explore how artificial intelligence can drive innovation, competitiveness, and inclusive growth.

My heartfelt congratulations to everyone who took part in the Summit, and a sincere thank you to all who contributed to our events with such insight, energy, and generosity.

For our team, the Summit provided an important opportunity to deepen dialogue and bring European and Indian stakeholders together around some of the most pressing questions shaping the digital transition—from AI governance and skills mobility to trusted digital infrastructure.

Technical cooperation is also moving forward. In February, we launched the first stakeholder workshop for our feasibility study on interoperability between the European Digital Identity Wallet (EUDI) and India's digital identity ecosystem. At the policy level, recent progress such as the MeitY–DG CONNECT Administrative Arrangement on advanced electronic signatures and seals is helping to lay the groundwork for trusted cross-border digital transactions.

In this edition, we share highlights from our Summit activities, the launch of the European Legal Gateway Office in India, and other developments shaping EU-India digital cooperation.

Looking ahead, momentum is already building for the next phase. In the coming months, we will convene the 4th Team Europe Digital Policy Advisory Roundtable, followed by a multi-stakeholder forum introducing the **EU Tech Business Offer in India** ahead of the next EU–India Trade and Technology Council Ministerial.

More details will follow soon — stay tuned.

Warm regards from Delhi,
Özlem Buran
Head of Secretariat,
EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue, GIZ India

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Latest Project Developments

Business Roundtable: Side-Event | Pathways for EU-India AI Skills and Talent Mobility **18 February 2026 | 16:30–17:30 IST**

In the afternoon, we hosted a Business Roundtable discussing “Pathways for EU–India AI Skills & Talent Mobility”, held during the recess of the AI Impact Summit and in the presence of the Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen. EU Executive Vice President, Henna Virkkunen, Polish Deputy Minister Rafal Rosiński, senior European Commission leadership, and 24 participants – including 15 C-suite executives – from across Europe and India’s AI, semiconductor, telecom, manufacturing, and digital ecosystems attended the closed-door, Chatham House session.

Acknowledging that skills supply and skills utilisation are two sides of the same coin, the focus moved to implementable solutions: harmonised mobility frameworks and competency-based recognition systems, trusted validation mechanisms and pilot models for cross-border talent deployment, particularly for SMEs.

The roundtable’s momentum translated quickly into institutional action. Immediately following the session, the European Union launched the first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in India, establishing a unified entry point for safe, legal, and transparent ICT mobility across all 27 Member States.

The discussion built on the AI Skills & Talent Mobility Workshop organised by the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue and the EU AI Office in November 2025 — signalling a clear progression from structured dialogue to institutional delivery.



Think Tank Breakfast Side-Event | AI Governance in the EU and India **18 February 2026, 9:00 – 12:00 pm IST**

On the sidelines of the India AI Impact Summit 2026, the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue, together with the ICRIER–Prosus Centre for Internet and Digital Economy, convened a Think Tank Breakfast Roundtable on “AI Governance in the EU and India: Aligning Approaches in Law, Inclusion, and Digital Competition.” The session was hosted under Chatham House Rule and was attended by Roberto Viola (Director-General, DG CONNECT), Rafal Rosiński (Deputy Minister of Digital Affairs, Poland), Lucilla Sioli (Director, EU AI Office), representatives from EU Member States, and 15 leading experts from both regions.

Participants explored three themes of AI governance: legal approaches, inclusion, and digital competitions. During the discussion, participants shared the importance of EU and India approach digital sovereignty through interoperability rather than isolation. Participants also discussed who should be brought under the ambit of regulations, the role of the state, and whether they should be voluntary or hard coded. Risks to unequal access to compute were flagged, and the importance of a participatory approach to AI was also discussed. Furthermore, participants also spoke about the

importance of open-source technologies and the complexity of defining open source as it requires higher levels of transparency on weights, datasets, source code, among others.

The session underscored that EU–India cooperation is becoming an important anchor in global AI governance debates, where sovereignty is shaped by interoperability and shared capacity, and where regulatory ambition must be matched by industrial strength to ensure competitiveness and public trust.



Panel at the AI Impact Summit 2026 | Opportunities for EU-India Collaboration for Twin Transition (Co-organised with FEBI)

In collaboration with the Federation of European Businesses in India (FEBI) we organised a Business Roundtable discussing "Opportunities for EU-India Collaboration on Twin Transition", Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

DG Roberto Viola, senior European Commission leadership, and participants including Olivier Blum, Jürgen Westermeier, Clas Neumann, Christian Wickert, Magnus Ewerbring, Sonia Prashar, Deepak Sharma, and Dr. Lovneesh Chanana and C-suite executives from across Europe and India's AI, energy, technology, and sustainability ecosystems attended the closed-door session.

Acknowledging that AI transformation and sustainability are two sides of the same coin, the focus moved to implementable solutions: embedding an AI-first mindset to quantify, analyse, and optimise operations for measurable environmental impact, leveraging India's engineering talent and digital-native ecosystem to complement EU technological strengths, and anchoring AI adoption in trust, ethics, and human-centric governance.

The roundtable's energy was captured in four clear imperatives: an AI-first mindset before optimisation, sustainable infrastructure to meet AI's growing energy demands, trust as a prerequisite for ethical AI integration, and bilateral benchmarking to align regulatory frameworks and co-create resilient solutions.

The discussion built on the recent conclusion of EU–India FTA negotiations, signalling a clear progression from structured dialogue to actionable partnership, with AI positioned as a vital bridge to net-zero ambitions and innovation driven by sustainability.



DPI Stakeholder Workshop

26 February 2026 | 14:30 – 17:00

The EU–India DPI Interoperability Study, has officially kicked off with its first stakeholder workshop. Over 20 European and Indian experts on digital ID joined invite-only workshop to examine the feasibility of interoperability between the EU Digital Identity Wallet and India’s Aadhaar and DigiLocker systems. They shared inputs on the definition of interoperability, trust frameworks and data security across the two regions.

These inputs take us closer to our objective to produce actionable recommendations and lay the groundwork for future pilots and sandbox environments. Over the next six months, a series of virtual and in-person workshops in Brussels and Delhi will engage stakeholders to compare ecosystems, refine recommendations, and shape an EU–India interoperability sandbox.

If you are an expert in the European or Indian Digital ID space who would like to share your inputs on this study, please contact us at tanea.bandyopadhyay@giz.de/ namritha.murali@giz.de

IESA Vision Summit

Under the theme “Design to Manufacturing — Synergy of Product, Production and Skills”, the Indian Electronics and Semiconductor Association invited the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue to its annual flagship event in Bengaluru on 25-26 February.

The summit made the ambitions of India’s semicon industry clear: Taking greater space in global semiconductor value chains. IESA aims to position the country as a global hub for electronics system design and manufacturing.

A key pillar to turn these ambitions into reality is through skills and talent development. India is rapidly emerging as a global semiconductor hub where innovation, manufacturing, and skills converge to shape the future through IESA’s Workforce Development mission.

Under these premises, the Digital Policy Dialogue was invited to speak at the EU-India Roundtable hosted by IESA. It explored how the upcoming Free Trade Agreement can support the scaling of joint manufacturing of semiconductors. Representatives from the Indian private sector clearly outlined their

eagerness to advance in joint manufacturing. European counterparts, among them representatives of FEBI, the Embassy of the Netherlands, Business Sweden, highlighted how the FTA will increase certainty and improve the ease of doing business in the Semicon field.

Topics that were discussed more deeply included talent mobility, existing B2B programmes, and sustainable production of semiconductors. Under the FTA – that is aimed to be signed by early 2027 – these initiatives could easily be scaled. The FTA is also seen as gamechanger when it comes to questions on intellectual property and the involvement of small- and medium-sized enterprises in the semiconductor value chains.

Overall, the summit once more highlighted the potential of greater collaboration and outlined the pathway to increase joint production under the framework of the FTA. We look forward continuing the conversation at Semicon India!

In The Works

Digital Chai Chat

Our next edition of Digital Chai Chat will explore one of the most significant new developments in EU–India cooperation: the launch of the European Legal Gateway Office in India, the first of its kind outside the EU. This new initiative aims to provide clear, reliable, and accessible pathways for Indian students, researchers, and ICT professionals seeking opportunities across the 27 EU Member States—strengthening mobility, competitiveness, and innovation links between both regions.

To deepen the conversation, we are pleased to feature data from the OECD whose representative will share insights from the OECD’s work on AI in work, labour markets, and skills, including how AI is reshaping job quality, automation risks, and evolving skilling needs. Their perspective will help contextualise the importance of trusted mobility frameworks as AI accelerates global demand for specialised talent.

More details and registration information will follow soon. Stay tuned for the confirmed date.

EU Business Tech Offer

Our upcoming event will spotlight the EU Tech Business Offer; a Team Europe initiative aimed at strengthening Europe’s digital partnership with India. Designed to bring together European expertise, innovation, and investment, the EU Tech Business Offer provides a platform to support secure, sustainable, and inclusive digital development while creating new opportunities for collaboration between European and Indian stakeholders.

The session will bring together policymakers, industry representatives, and ecosystem partners to explore how European technologies, standards, and partnerships can contribute to India’s rapidly evolving digital landscape. The discussion will also highlight opportunities for deeper cooperation across key areas such as digital infrastructure, emerging technologies, and trusted digital ecosystems.

More details and registration information will follow soon. Stay tuned for the confirmed date.

Team Europe Spotlight

EU Launches the First European Legal Gateway Office in India

On 18 February 2026, the European Union launched the first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in India, inaugurated in New Delhi by Executive Vice-President Henna Virkkunen and External Affairs Minister Dr S. Jaishankar, alongside EU Member State representatives.

The Legal Gateway Office, announced at the EU–India Summit in January, will make mobility to the EU simpler, safer, and more transparent for Indian students, researchers, and ICT professionals. It will provide clear guidance on work, study, and research pathways across all 27 Member States while supporting EU employers and universities in engaging with Indian talent.

Operating through a Legal Gateway Office in India, a Support Office in the EU, and a digital one-stop information tool, the pilot represents a new milestone in EU–India cooperation on skills and innovation.

EVP Virkkunen emphasised that the initiative will “strengthen European competitiveness,” while Commissioner Brunner highlighted its role in expanding “mutually beneficial mobility pathways.”

News Update

India

MeitY signs Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals with DG CONNECT of European Commission **6 February 2026, European Commission**

India and the EU signed an arrangement on advanced electronic signatures and seals, enabling interoperable, trusted digital documents and simplifying cross-border trade—reducing costs, speeding verification, and strengthening digital cooperation

India's Quantum Future Begins from Amaravati as "National Quantum Mission" Positions the State as Strategic Springboard: Dr Jitendra Singh **8 February 2026, PIB India**

India launched the Amaravati Quantum Valley, marking a major step in its ₹6,000-crore National Quantum Mission. The initiative targets 1,000 qubits, a 2,000 km quantum network, and stronger industry–academia collaboration.

Yotta and BHASHINI Collaborate to Enable Sovereign AI Cloud, Showcasing India's Readiness for Population-Scale AI **9 February 2026, PIB India**

BHASHINI has fully migrated to India's sovereign AI cloud on Yotta's GCC and Shakti Cloud, boosting performance and security while keeping all data within India—advancing IndiaAI Mission goals for scalable, sovereign AI infrastructure.

India and Ireland Hold Bilateral Meeting to Deepen Cooperation in Telecom and Emerging Digital Technologies in New Delhi **17 February 2026, PIB India**

India's Jyotiraditya Scindia and Ireland's Jack Chambers met in New Delhi to deepen cooperation on telecom, digital infrastructure, emerging technologies, and regulatory collaboration, reaffirming a shared commitment to secure, inclusive, and future-ready digital ecosystems.

India and Germany Reaffirm Cooperation in Telecommunications and Digital Transformation Following Signing of Joint Declaration of Intent **18 February 2026, PIB India**

India's Jyotiraditya Scindia and Germany's Dr. Karsten Wildberger met in New Delhi, reaffirming cooperation on 5G/6G, secure networks, quantum communication, and global telecom standards under the new Indo-German Joint Declaration of Intent.

India – France Joint Statement **18 February 2026, PIB India**

France's Emmanuel Macron visited India for the AI Impact Summit 2026, where he and Narendra Modi elevated ties to a Special Global Strategic Partnership and launched the India–France Year of

Innovation.

New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact signatories reach 91 as three more nations join
24 February 2026, The Economic Times

The New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact has expanded to 91 signatories, joining the global commitment to advance safe, trusted, and inclusive AI development and governance.

Partnership Through SITAC Framework
25 February 2026, PIB India

IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden signed a Statement of Intent to deepen India–Sweden cooperation on AI and digital technologies, launching the Sweden–India Technology and AI Corridor to drive joint innovation and investment.

New Indian Railways reforms unveiled; new rail tech portal, railway claim tribunal goes digital
26 February 2026, The Times of India

Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw unveiled major Indian Railways reforms, including a new Rail Tech Portal and full digitalisation of the Railway Claims Tribunal to streamline services, improve transparency, and enhance passenger convenience.

Women in Tech



Dr. Virginia Dignum
Professor in Responsible Artificial Intelligence and the Director of the AI Policy Lab, Umeå University, Sweden

Virginia Dignum is Professor of Responsible Artificial Intelligence at Umeå University, Sweden, where she leads the AI Policy Lab. She is a leading voice in global AI policy, chairing the ACM Technology Policy Council, co-chairing the IEEE Global Initiative on the Ethics of Autonomous Systems, and advising the Wallenberg Foundations in Sweden.

She is a member of expert groups at UNESCO, OECD, and was part of the EU's High-Level Expert Group on AI, the UN's High Level Advisory Body on AI, and World Economic Forum Global Future Council on Artificial Intelligence. She also founded ALLAI, the Dutch AI Alliance. As part of her work for UNESCO's AI Ethics Experts Without Borders, she is advising governments around the world on the development and operationalization of their national AI strategies. Her new book, *The AI Paradox*, is published by Princeton University Press.

Umeå University advances interdisciplinary research and policy frameworks for ethical, human-centred AI.

Upcoming Events

Raisina Dialogue

The Raisina Dialogue, India's premier forum on geopolitics and geoeconomics, returns with the theme *Samskāra*, reflecting a world reshaping itself through sovereignty, new coalitions, and technological transformation. As global power dynamics shift, the Dialogue explores how nations assert their identities, accommodate differences, and advance toward a more balanced and resilient international order.

NSC 2026 | The Reset: Future of India's Tech SMEs & Growth
13 – 24 March | Hyderabad, Delhi, Mumbai

Unveiled at NSC 2026 through nine roadshows across three cities, The Reset offers a sharp assessment of how India's tech SMEs are adapting to tighter macroeconomic conditions, AI-driven

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.



Ms. Akriti Bopanna
Advisor, EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue

Akriti is a Policy Advisor at the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue Secretariat. Her work over the past decade has pertained to issues of internet governance. She is passionate about the power of digital to help advance civil rights.

Most recently, she was the Technical Standards Lead at Global Partners Digital.

Prior to which she was a Policy Specialist in India's G20 Secretariat at their Ministry of External Affairs. She has also served as the Global Policy and Advocacy Manager at Internet Society where she led their project on Digital Sovereignty. She was also the Chair of the Cross-Community Working Party on Human Rights at ICANN.

A lawyer by training, she studied her LLM in International Trade and Investment Law at Maastricht University in the Netherlands and did her undergraduation from Symbiosis Law School, Pune.

Reach out to her at akriti.bopanna@giz.de and connect with her on LinkedIn at [Akriti Bopanna](#)

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