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EU-IN DIGITAL POLICY DIALOGUE

THE BRIEF

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Dear Readers,

The real test of the EU–India partnership is no longer just what it can agree on, but what it can make possible.

With the EU–India Free Trade Agreement moving towards formal approval and implementation, attention is turning to the opportunities closer economic ties could unlock. In the digital and technology sectors, this means looking beyond shared ambitions to the partnerships, investments and practical cooperation that can bring them to life.

From semiconductors to artificial intelligence and digital identity, the past months have offered plenty of opportunities to explore what this could look like in practice. Through exchanges with EU Member States, engagement with industry and research on emerging policy questions, the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue continues to contribute to the conversations shaping this cooperation.

As the partnership evolves, the challenge is to build on complementary strengths, connect the right stakeholders and identify where working together can make a tangible difference. In this edition, we take a closer look at some of the ideas, developments and people shaping the EU–India digital relationship.

I hope you enjoy reading it.

Warm regards from Delhi,

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

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In the works

White Paper on AI Governance | September 2026

Building on the AI Non-Paper we released, we are evaluating bids for an AI Governance White Paper. The paper will examine the India and EU's approaches to trustworthy and innovation-friendly AI governance and identify areas for future EU–India cooperation on AI.

Digital Chai Chat on EU–India Digital Cooperation Conference | October 2026

The upcoming Digital Chai Chat will introduce the EU-India Digital Cooperation Conference 2026, taking place on 2–3 November at South Asian University, New Delhi. The session will highlight key conference themes, including AI, digital public infrastructure, semiconductors, 6G, and Horizon Europe funding opportunities. It will also provide a platform for EU Member State embassies to explore participation opportunities and exchange perspectives on strengthening EU–India research and innovation cooperation.

Latest Project Developments

EU Member State Roundtable | September 2026

The EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue recently convened a closed-door roundtable with EU Member States, alongside the Delegation of the European Union to India and Bhutan, at the GIZ India office. Representatives from Italy, Germany, Lithuania, Denmark, Finland, Hungary and Estonia joined us to exchange perspectives on strengthening EU–India cooperation in the digital sector.

The discussion covered several areas of shared interest, including business-led cooperation and market access, cybersecurity, talent mobility and skills development, as well as partnerships with think tanks and innovation hubs.

Member States shared experiences from existing initiatives and explored opportunities to strengthen connections between European and Indian stakeholders, building on the work already taking place across the partnership.

The roundtable also provided an opportunity to share preliminary findings from our EU–India Digital ID Interoperability Feasibility Study.



EU Member States at Semicon India 2026 | September 2026

Several EU Member States participated in the Europe–India Roundtable at SEMICON 2026 in New Delhi, bringing together European businesses, Indian industry representatives, national and state government representatives to discuss opportunities for strengthening semiconductor cooperation.

The discussions highlighted the diverse strengths and capabilities of Indian states and explored opportunities for investment, partnerships and greater engagement between European and Indian stakeholders.

Organised by IESA and ISM at MeitY, the roundtable provided a valuable platform for dialogue and exchange towards advancing EU–India collaboration in the semiconductor ecosystem

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EU – India AI Governance Non-Paper | August 2026

The AI Impact Summit may have wrapped up in February, but the work it sparked continues. Following up on our Think Tank Breakfast Roundtable with ICRIER, we are pleased to share a non-paper that synthesises the expert inputs from the discussion.

By examining EU and Indian approaches to AI governance, legal approaches, inclusion and digital competition, the non-paper highlights areas for further structured inquiry.

This non-paper is an example of our work that underscores the value of EU-India cooperation as a platform for exchanging experiences, identifying shared challenges, and developing practical approaches to responsible AI governances. It also serves as a precursor to a forthcoming white paper on EU-India approaches to AI governance.

READ THE PAPER HERE

We have been busy preparing two new podcast episodes. In this edition, we are pleased to present one episode on semiconductors and another on artificial intelligence. We invite you to listen and explore both topics.

Tune In: Podcast on the EU-India Chip Agenda: From Diplomacy to Delivery

The latest episode of the Tech-à-Tête Podcast explores a critical pillar of the EU–India technology partnership: semiconductors. As chips become increasingly central to AI, digital infrastructure, advanced manufacturing, mobility and energy systems, both Europe and India are looking to strengthen their semiconductor ecosystems and build more resilient, trusted and diversified supply chains.

In this episode, we speak with Dr. Mathieu Duchâtel, Director of the Asia Program at Institut Montaigne and Mr. Navin Bishnoi, VP and Country Manager at Marvell India to examine how EU–India semiconductor cooperation can move from shared ambition to concrete industrial and innovation partnerships, drawing on the complementary strengths of both ecosystems across chip design, manufacturing, advanced packaging, talent, supply chains and AI compute infrastructure.

Listen to this episode to find out:
-- What are Europe's and India's evolving ambitions in semiconductor diplomacy?
-- Where do the strongest complementarities between the EU and India lie across the semiconductor and AI compute ecosystem?
-- Which areas could deliver the most tangible impact for EU–India cooperation over the next three to five years?
-- How can existing frameworks, including the Trade and Technology Council, Semiconductor MoU and Member State partnerships, translate into concrete industrial partnerships and pilots?

Whether you are interested in technology policy, industrial strategy, semiconductors, or the future of EU–India cooperation, this episode offers insights into how both ecosystems can work together to build stronger and more resilient semiconductor value chains.

SPOTIFY

APPLE



Tune In: Podcast on EU–India: Approaches to Governing Sovereign AI

The latest episode of the Tech-à-Tête Podcast explores a defining question in today's technology landscape: how should the EU and India approach the governance of sovereign AI? As AI becomes increasingly intertwined with technological sovereignty, economic resilience and global geopolitics, both sides are developing distinct approaches to governing one of the most disruptive technologies of our times.

In this episode, we speak with Dr. Payal Malik (ICRIER) and Prof. Dr. Martin Ebers (University of Tartu, RAILS) to examine the EU and India's evolving approaches to AI governance, including India's shift towards AI resilience, the EU's regulatory framework, and the implications of growing concentration in compute, data and foundational models.

Listen to this episode to find out:
-- Why is India shifting from a focus on comparative advantage towards resilience in foundational AI models?
-- What could the extraterritorial reach of the EU AI Act mean, and is a "Brussels effect" likely to follow?
-- How does India's techno-legal, wait-and-see approach compare with the EU's top-down risk-based regulatory framework?

Can competition law keep pace with growing concentration in compute, data and AI models?
What do compliance costs and the experience of GDPR mean for SMEs?
How does regulatory capacity factor into debates around the sequencing of AI governance?
This episode builds on the EU–India roundtable hosted on the margins of the AI Impact Summit 2026, exploring key questions around AI governance, digital sovereignty and the future of EU–India technology cooperation.

Whether you are interested in AI governance, technology policy, digital sovereignty, or the future of EU–India cooperation, this episode offers insights into how both sides are approaching the governance of sovereign AI.

LINK TO OUR NON PAPER

SPOTIFY

APPLE



India Mobile Congress 2026 | 07–10 October 2026 | New Delhi

We attended India Mobile Congress (IMC), Asia's leading digital technology and telecom forum, connecting with industry leaders and exploring emerging innovations in 5G, 6G, AI, and beyond.

The event was a great opportunity to exchange ideas, gain fresh perspectives, and engage with the latest developments shaping the telecom and digital technology landscape. The insightful discussions and innovative showcases highlighted the exciting possibilities ahead for the industry.

Overall, IMC was a valuable experience, offering new insights and inspiration as we continue to explore opportunities in the evolving digital ecosystem.

Building Bridges for India-EU ICT Talent Mobility: Highlights from the Gateway Partnership Workshop

The European Legal Gateway Office in India held its Partnership Building Workshop at Delhi on 13 October 2026, bringing together central and state government bodies, EU Member State representatives, industry associations, skilling regulators and higher education institutions. The Gateway aims to promote safe and legal ICT mobility between India and the EU. It responds to Europe's shortage of ICT specialists and India's large talent pool and tackles fragmented information and misinformation through a rule-based digital tool and on-ground outreach. Stakeholders were invited to partner in three ways: signposting the Gateway on their portals, co-hosting events such as roadshows and job fairs, and formalising longer-term institutional cooperation. The EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue will support the Gateway to bridge the gap between India on EU on ICT talent mobility.

Advancing Trustworthy Open-Source AI at Trust and Safety India Festival | 14–15 October 2026 | New Delhi

We hosted a panel discussion at the Trust and Safety India Festival (TASI) 2026 in New Delhi, titled "Open-Source AI: Standards, Safeguards and Shared Responsibility," in collaboration with the Centre for Social Research.

The session brought together experts from government, industry, and civil society to discuss the opportunities and risks of open-source AI, the importance of transparency and accountability, and the safeguards needed to support responsible AI development.

The discussion also explored opportunities for Indo-German cooperation on trustworthy AI, building on the Indo-German AI Pact, and highlighted the importance of shared responsibility in fostering a safer and more inclusive AI ecosystem.

TASI 2026 offered a valuable platform for cross-sector dialogue and knowledge-sharing, advancing conversations on digital trust, safety, and responsible innovation.

FEBI's 3rd Annual General Meeting

The Federation of European Business in India (FEBI) held its 3rd Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 24 September 2026 in Delhi. With the EU–India Free Trade Agreement moving towards entry into force, the conversation in the room focused on turning negotiation to implementation — and how businesses can translate the agreement into tangible opportunities.



Team Europe Spotlight

EU-India Free Trade Agreement: From Negotiation to Implementation

The EU-India Free Trade Agreement (FTA) has entered an important new phase. Following the conclusion of negotiations on 27 January 2026, the European Commission presented proposals to the Council of the European Union on 11 September for the signature and conclusion of the agreement. The next steps are now focused on formal approval, signature, and the respective internal procedures required for the agreement to enter into force.

The agreement creates a major new platform for trade and investment between two of the world's largest economies. The EU and India already trade more than €180 billion in goods and services annually, supporting around 800,000 EU jobs. The agreement is expected to increase EU annual goods and services exports to India by around €58 billion, while European exporters could save approximately €4 billion annually in duties.

The FTA will eliminate or reduce tariffs covering 96.6% of EU goods exports to India, while overall liberalisation will cover 99.3% of EU trade. For Indian exporters, the agreement will also provide significantly improved access to the EU market.

For European businesses, some of the most significant opportunities are in machinery, chemicals, pharmaceuticals, medical equipment, automotive and agri-food. For example, tariffs of up to 44% on machinery and up to 22% on chemicals will be substantially reduced, while tariffs on most machinery and electrical equipment will ultimately fall to zero. Automotive tariffs will progressively decline, with car tariffs reducing from as high as 110% to as low as 10%.

The agreement also strengthens opportunities in services, including financial services and maritime transport, while providing greater predictability for services suppliers, improved rules on professional mobility and stronger intellectual property protection. A dedicated SME chapter is designed to help smaller companies understand and use the new opportunities.

The Council will consider the Commission's proposals, followed by signature, European Parliament consent and the Council's formal conclusion of the agreement. Once India has also completed its internal procedures, the FTA can enter into force.

For businesses, the message is clear: the EU-India FTA is moving from negotiation towards implementation, opening a significantly more integrated and predictable trading environment for companies on both sides.

News Update

Commission presents landmark India trade deal to Council for signature
11 September 2026, European Commission

The European Commission has formally presented its proposal to the Council for the signature and conclusion of the EU–India Free Trade Agreement, marking a major procedural step towards the agreement's adoption. The Commission says the deal would eliminate or reduce tariffs on 96% of EU goods exports to India, while creating more predictable conditions for trade and investment. The agreement will now require approval by the Council before it can proceed to signature.

India and Belgium Strengthen Cooperation on Semiconductors, Critical Minerals and Research
03 September 2026, Reuters

India and Belgium have agreed to deepen cooperation across trade, clean energy, critical minerals, semiconductors, research and talent mobility. During Belgian Prime Minister Bart De Wever's visit to India, the two countries also announced an Investment Fast-Track Mechanism to facilitate Belgian investment in India and set an ambition to double bilateral trade over the next five years. The discussions add a new bilateral dimension to the broader EU–India agenda on resilient technology and industrial value chains.

India and Europe Renew Cooperation on Robotics and Space through 2032
10 September 2026, The Indian Express

India's ISRO and the European Space Agency have renewed their cooperation agreement until 2032, reinforcing long-term collaboration in areas including space weather and robotic space exploration. The agreement was renewed during the International Space Summit in Paris and builds on a long history of joint work, including cooperation around India's Aditya-L1 mission.

Semicon 2.0 Attracts New Investment Proposals from Global Semiconductor Companies
17 September 2026, PIB

India's semiconductor push is gaining further momentum following the country's Semicon India 2026 event. Electronics and IT Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said the government had received investment proposals worth around US$11–12 billion under Semicon 2.0, covering semiconductor equipment, materials, gases, chemicals and substrates. The developments highlight India's growing focus on building a broader domestic semiconductor ecosystem and strengthening supply-chain capabilities.

AI Safety and Child Protection Take Centre Stage at TASI 2026
16 October 2026

The Trust and Safety India Festival (TASI) 2026 in New Delhi brought together industry leaders, researchers and safety experts to explore challenges in AI safety, online child protection, privacy and digital wellbeing. The festival's diplomatic engagement was reinforced through an opening reception jointly hosted by the Embassies of France and Germany, featuring discussions and safety-focused presentations, followed by a closing reception hosted by the Embassy of the Netherlands. These partnerships highlighted the importance of international collaboration and cross-sector dialogue in advancing digital trust, online safety and responsible technology governance.

Women in Tech



Sonia Jorge
Founder & Executive Director, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership

Sonia Jorge is the Founder and Executive Director of the Global Digital Inclusion Partnership (GDIP) and an experienced international digital policy expert. She leads global coalitions bringing together governments, the private sector and civil society to develop policies that reduce the cost of connectivity and advance universal, meaningful connectivity across Global Majority countries.

Her work focuses on digital policy, affordable and inclusive connectivity, gender equality, and digital development. With experience across more than 50 countries, she has advised and led digital policy and development initiatives with organisations including the World Bank, UNDP, UN Women and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU), as well as private-sector companies and industry associations.

Prior to founding GDIP, Jorge co-founded and served as Executive Director of the Alliance for Affordable Internet (A4AI). She has served on several international advisory bodies, including the EU-AU Digital Economy Task Force and the ITU-UN Women EQUALS Partnership, and was recognised by Apolitical among the World's 100 Most Influential People in Digital Government in 2019. She holds a Master's in Public Policy from Tufts University and degrees in Economics and Business Finance from the University of Massachusetts.

Upcoming Events

New Delhi to Host EU-India Digital Cooperation Conference 2026
New Delhi, India - 2-3 November 2026

The EU-India Digital Cooperation Conference 2026 will bring together policymakers, researchers, innovators, and business leaders on 2–3 November 2026 at South Asian University in New Delhi to discuss and advance the cooperation between the European Union and India in the field of digital technologies and their application.

The event supports the Trade and Technology Council between the EU and India, particularly the work on Strategic Technologies, Digital Governance, and Digital Connectivity, and places these discussions within the broader context of EU collaboration with the Indo-Pacific countries. Organised in the framework of the EU-funded INPACE initiative, the conference contributes to INPACE's mission to foster long-term cooperation in key digital technologies between Europe and the Indo-Pacific region and to support the implementation of the Digital Partnerships between the European Union and Japan, South Korea, Singapore, as well as the Trade and Technology Council with India.

Event information
Date: 2-3 November 2026
Venue: South Asian University, New Delhi, India
Registration: Attendance is free, but advance registration is required. Register here.

Technical themes of the conference will include Digital Trust and Digital Innovation, Digital Public Infrastructure, Artificial Intelligence, Semiconductors, 6G, High-Performance Computing, Standardisation, Upskilling, and Scaling of Technologies.

Bengaluru Tech Summit 2026 | 17–19 November 2026 | Bengaluru

Bengaluru Tech Summit will bring together startups, investors, industry leaders, researchers and policymakers to explore developments in AI, deep tech, semiconductors, biotechnology, quantum technologies and digital innovation. The summit regularly hosts international delegations, including participants from Europe, making it an important platform for global technology collaboration.

REGISTER NOW

Global Tech Summit 2026 | 02-04 December 2026 | New Delhi

The tenth edition of the Global Technology Summit, Carnegie India's flagship annual forum co-hosted with the Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India, will bring together policymakers, industry leaders, researchers and experts to explore the evolving relationship between technology and geopolitics. Under the theme "Pravaah", meaning "flow", the summit will focus on AI at scale, strategic technology partnerships, security and geopolitics, and digital governance and society. The event will provide a platform for international dialogue on emerging technologies, cross-border cooperation and the role of technology in shaping global partnerships

REGISTER NOW

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Curious about what is shaping the next chapter of EU-India digital cooperation?
From upcoming events and fresh policy conversations to our latest publications and episodes of *Tech-à-Tête*, our website brings it all together in one place.

Discover the ideas and partnerships driving collaboration across AI, Digital Public Infrastructure, semiconductors, digital skills, connectivity and more.

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