

 DIGITAL POLICY
DIALOGUE

THE BRIEF

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29 May, 2026

Dear Readers,

May has been a defining month for the EU-India digital partnership – marked not only by continued engagement across key technology tracks, but also by a growing sense of strategic convergence between both sides.

Over the past weeks, our work on digital identity interoperability has continued to advance in leaps through the April Chai Chat, expert workshops, and the podcast episode we recorded. On that note, we also just wrapped our May Digital Chai Chat on semiconductor cooperation. These discussions help us translate shared ambitions into more practical and implementation-oriented cooperation across trusted digital infrastructure, emerging technologies and resilient value chains.

This broader momentum was also reflected in Prime Minister Narendra Modi's engagements across Europe this month; where discussions further underscored many of the themes that have also shaped our work so far, with technology and innovation featuring centrally in discussions with European leaders.

It is against this backdrop that preparations are now in full swing for the **EU-India TTC Business Forum, taking place on 4 June in New Delhi**. At a particularly important moment in the EU-India relationship, the Forum will bring together key public and private sector leaders from both regions to help shape a concrete agenda ahead of the next EU-India Trade and Technology Council Ministerial — with a strong focus on actionable partnerships and long-term cooperation across digital public infrastructure, AI, connectivity, semiconductors, cybersecurity, and talent.

In this edition, we share highlights from our recent activities, along with a closer look at the discussions shaping the upcoming Forum and the broader evolution of the EU-India digital partnership.

We look forward to continuing this journey with you and hope to see you in Delhi in June.

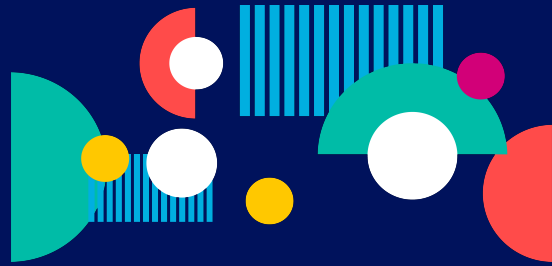
Warm regards from Delhi,
Namritha Murali
Advisor,
EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue

In this Issue

- [In the Works](#)
- [Latest Project Developments](#)
- [EU-IN TTC Business Forum](#)
- [Team EU Spotlight](#)
- [News Update](#)
- [Women in Tech: Spotlight on a Digital Pioneer](#)

In the works

EU-India TTC Business Forum



EU-IN Trade and Technology Council (TTC) Business Forum **4 June 2026 | New Delhi**

With the EU–India Free Trade Agreement concluded, and the Strategic Agenda 2030 endorsed, the conditions for a more ambitious digital partnership are in place. The EU-IN Tech Business Forum is designed to turn that moment into a concrete agenda — ahead of the next EU–India Trade and Technology Council Ministerial.

Organised by the Secretariat of the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue together with the EU Delegation to India and Bhutan, the Forum will bring together European and Indian policymakers, industry leaders, and research institutions for a full day of substantive discussion across six areas: digital public infrastructure, AI and compute, connectivity and 6G, semiconductors, cybersecurity, and talent.

The event is invite-only. If your organisation is working at the intersection of EU–India technology cooperation, we warmly invite you to register your interest.

Distinguished Panel: Digital Sovereignty, Strategic Trust and the EU–India Partnership

9:30 am – 10:30 am

This panel will explore how the EU and India are deepening their digital partnership amid shifting global dynamics. Through an Ambassador-level dialogue, this session will examine questions of strategic trust, regulatory divergence, and joint investment, while reflecting on how both partners can move from dialogue to implementation and continue to shape global digital governance frameworks together.

01. Plenary Session I: Building Together: Strengthening EU–India Ties through ICT Talent Cooperation

10:45 am – 11:30 am

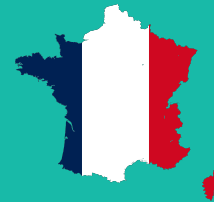


The opening plenary puts talent at the centre of EU–India digital cooperation. Moderated by the German Embassy in New Delhi, the session will explore how both sides can better align education, industry, and mobility pathways to meet rising demand in AI, semiconductors, cybersecurity, and 6G—unlocking India’s talent potential to power Europe’s next wave of innovation.

Bringing together senior industry leaders with deep experience across global capability centres, skilling ecosystems, and enterprise transformation, the discussion will offer practical insights into what industry needs—and how collaboration can deliver it at scale.

02. Plenary Session II: AI and Compute Ecosystems: Scaling Trusted, Market-Ready Innovation

11 : 30 am – 12:15 pm



This plenary examines how EU–India AI alignment can translate into concrete, market-ready outcomes. Moderated by the French Embassy in New Delhi, the session explores how to turn that complementarity into concrete business and research partnerships, co-developed applications, shared compute access, joint governance frameworks and a pipeline of AI products that work across the EU–India corridor.

With participation from key industry players across AI, enterprise technology, and innovation ecosystems, the discussion will offer practical insights into how partnerships are already taking shape—and what is needed to scale them further.

03. Plenary Session III: Secure Connectivity and Global Standards: 5G, 6G and Open RAN

1:15 pm – 2:00 pm



This plenary explores how EU–India collaboration in connectivity is translating into real business opportunities across 5G, Open RAN, and emerging 6G ecosystems. Moderated by the Embassy of Sweden in New Delhi, the session will bring together leading industry players to examine how joint innovation, standards-setting, and network deployment can shape secure, open, and interoperable digital infrastructure for the future. With participation from key actors across telecom, standards, and digital infrastructure, the discussion will offer practical insights into where cooperation is already advancing and what will be needed to scale it further.

04. Plenary Session IV: Building the EU–India Semiconductor Corridor: From Policy to Investment

2:00 pm – 2:45 pm



The session on semiconductors dives into the EU-India semiconductor corridor—from fabs and packaging units to the partnerships shaping the value chain. Moderated by the Embassy of Italy in New Delhi and hosted in collaboration with the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA), it brings together leading industry and research players to examine how ongoing investments and joint efforts are connecting Europe’s deep-tech strengths with India’s rapidly scaling semiconductor ecosystem.

05. Plenary Session V: Cybersecurity and Data Governance: The Trust Layer for Cross Border Business

3:00 pm – 3:45 pm



This plenary turns to the trust architecture that makes digital cooperation possible. Moderated by the Embassy of Lithuania in New Delhi, the session will examine how cybersecurity, privacy, and regulatory compliance are becoming core business questions as EU and Indian companies expand across each other's markets. With India's DPDP Act and the EU's GDPR, AI Act, NIS2, and Cybersecurity Act shaping the regulatory environment, the discussion will focus on where alignment is already creating opportunity, where compliance remains a barrier, and how trusted frameworks can give businesses a competitive edge in cross-border digital trade.

With participation from key voices across cybersecurity, digital governance, and industry, the session will offer practical perspectives on how businesses can navigate evolving regulatory landscapes and build the trust needed to scale secure cross-border partnerships.

06. Plenary Session VI: Trusted Digital Public Infrastructure for Business: Enabling Trusted Digital Trade and Cross-Border Business

3:45 pm – 4:30 pm



**EU-INDIA DIGITAL POLICY
DIALOGUE**

Building on discussions across infrastructure, AI, connectivity, and semiconductors, this session turns to the trust layer that underpins them all—digital public infrastructure for cross-border business. Hosted by the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue and moderated by Steve Pannifer, Senior Vice President – Digital Identity at FIME, it will bring together key practitioners to examine how recent progress, including the Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals, is enabling interoperability between EU and Indian systems.

The discussion will explore how elements such as digital identity, electronic signatures, e-invoicing, and trusted data-sharing frameworks can reduce transaction friction and enhance business confidence. Drawing on practical experience, it will also assess how alignment between the EU Digital Identity Wallet and India's DPI ecosystem can accelerate integration, while laying the foundation for scalable and globally interoperable digital trade.

The plenary sessions will be followed by a networking reception, offering participants an opportunity to build connections, exchange ideas, and explore potential partnerships.

If your organisation is working at the intersection of EU–India technology and business, we invite you to register your interest to attend the Forum

REGISTER YOUR INTEREST HERE

Latest Project Developments

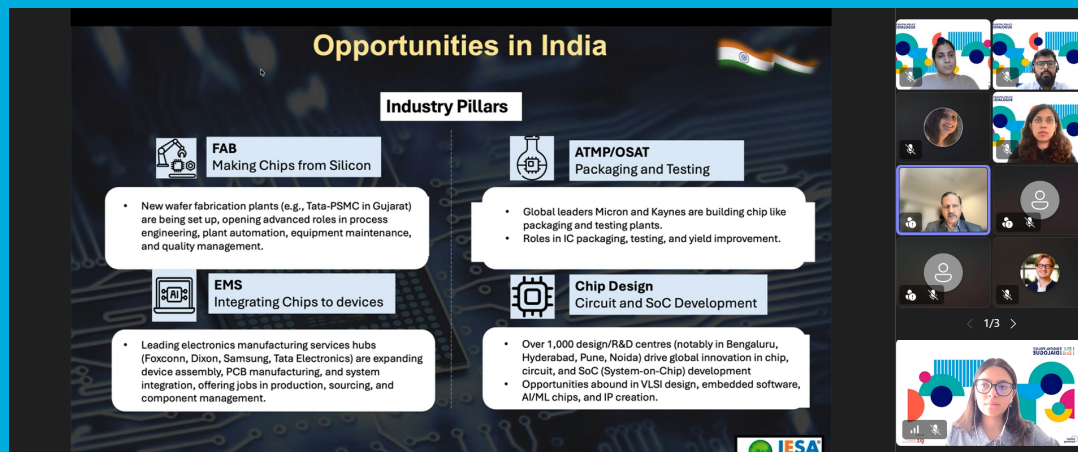
Digital Chai Chat | EU-India Semiconductor Cooperation

28 May 2026 | 13:45 – 14:30 IST

The May *Digital Chai Chat* focused on EU-India cooperation in semiconductors, bringing together EU Member States for an informal exchange on one of the most strategic areas of digital partnership.

Organised in collaboration with the India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) and the India Electronics and Semiconductor Association (IESA), the session provided an overview of India's current policy priorities and industry outlook, alongside insights from IESA's Vision Summit 2026 and upcoming engagement opportunities, including Semicon India 2026.

The discussion explored key areas such as supply chain resilience, joint R&D, and talent development, while also creating space for Member States to exchange views on their priorities for semiconductor collaboration with India.



Digital Chai Chat | April 2026

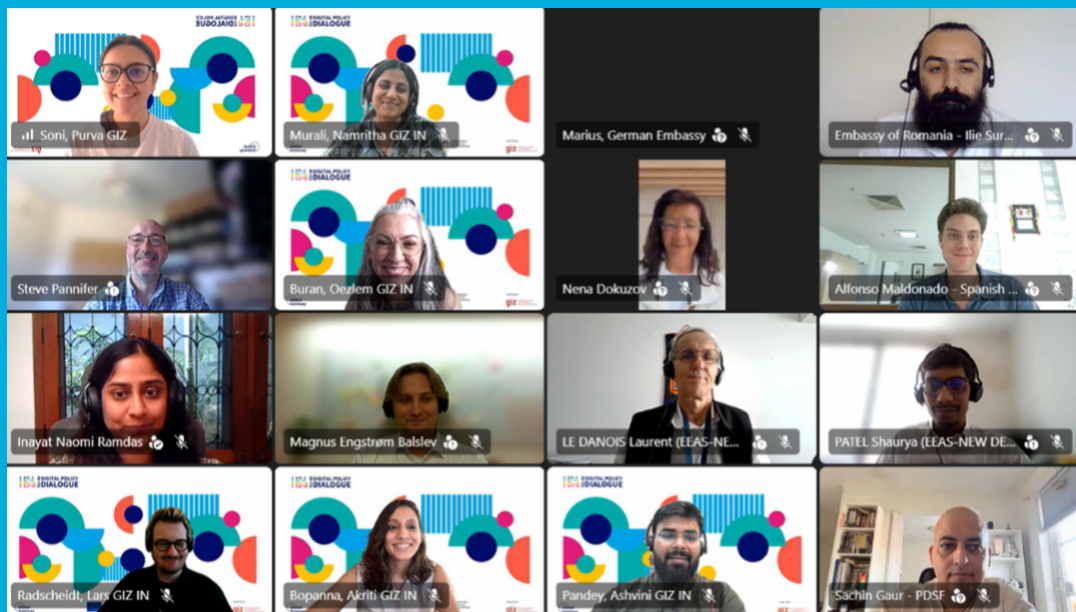
The April edition of the Digital Chai Chat brought EU Member States together to continue discussions on the ongoing EU–India Digital ID Interoperability Feasibility Study, led by the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue in collaboration with digital identity experts at FIME.

Launched in November 2025 and commissioned on behalf of DG CONNECT, the study explores how interoperability between European and Indian digital identity ecosystems could function in practice. During the session, Steve Pannifer (FIME) presented key insights, focusing on systems such as the European Digital Identity Wallet, the emerging European Business Wallet, and India’s Aadhaar, DigiLocker, and EntityLocker frameworks.

The discussion highlighted key differences in approach—Europe’s federated wallet model and India’s large-scale centralised infrastructure—while emphasising that interoperability extends beyond identity to a broader set of digital credentials. Participants also underscored the importance of data protection, trust frameworks, and levels of assurance, as well as the potential of verifiable credentials as an area of technical convergence.

Looking ahead, sandbox-based approaches were identified as a promising pathway to move from feasibility analysis to practical implementation.

The study remains ongoing. Stakeholders interested in engaging further are invited to reach out to the Secretariat.



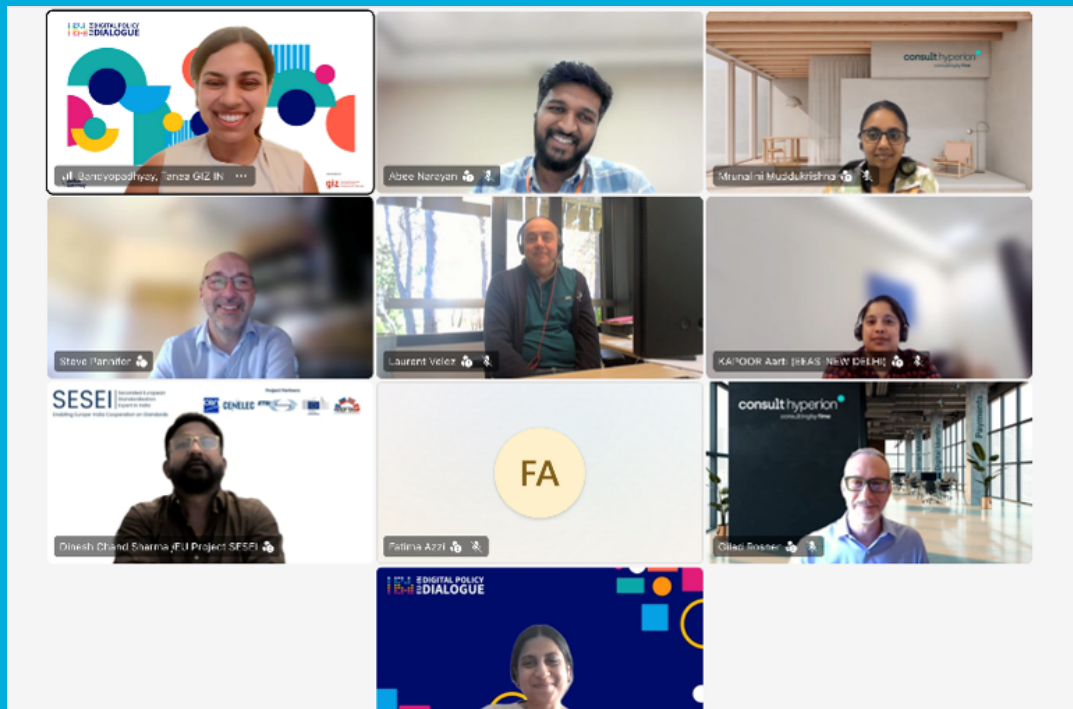
EU-India Digital ID Interoperability Study

The EU-India Digital ID Interoperability Study, commissioned on behalf of DG CONNECT and carried out by the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue in collaboration with Fime, continues to advance through a series of expert workshops exploring how European and Indian digital identity systems could work together in practice.

Workshop 4, held on 30 April, marked the start of the next phase of the study by focusing on a practical blueprint for interoperability sandboxes. Contributions from ANTS/Unfold Playground, UIDAI, FIDES Global Ecosystem Explorer, and Sahamati highlighted three key insights: trust list simulation remains largely ad hoc, existing sandbox models already show strong potential for cross-border applications such as wallet compatibility and airport testing, and the “one-leg out” model from payments could offer a useful pathway for testing digital identity interoperability.

Workshop 5, held in May 2026, turned to the practical use cases that could shape a future EU–India interoperability sandbox. Participants examined seven priority areas: trade facilitation, trade finance, talent mobility, bank account opening, payments, education, and air travel. The workshop assessed these use cases in terms of both complexity and potential value, while also introducing a broader sandbox blueprint covering governance, tooling, and phased implementation.

Together, these discussions are helping move the study from conceptual analysis towards more concrete and testable pathways for interoperability.



Tech-à-Tête Podcast | Episode 3 Out Now

Following the April Digital Chai Chat on the EU–India Digital ID Interoperability Feasibility Study, the latest episode of Tech-à-Tête continues the conversation—this time with experts closely involved in shaping the work.

Hosted by Tanea Bandyopadhyay, the episode features Tanusree Deb Barma (UIDAI) and Steve Pannifer (Fime), who explore what digital identity interoperability could look like in practice. The discussion covers key topics including verifiable credentials, common standards, data protection, and levels of assurance, alongside practical use cases across sectors such as education, tourism, financial services, and business verification.

The episode also reflects on how India's Aadhaar ecosystem and the European Digital Identity Wallet could work together across borders, and the role of early pilots in moving from feasibility to real-world implementation.

Tune in on Spotify and Apple Podcasts to learn more.

SPOTIFY

APPLE

Trusting Across Borders: Digital Identity Interoperability Between the EU and India

GUEST SPEAKERS



Tanusree Deb Barma,
Deputy Director General, Technology Division,
Unique Identification Authority of India (UIDAI)



Steve Pannifer,
Senior Vice President, FIME

HOSTED BY



Tanea Bandyopadhyay
Policy Advisor,
EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue

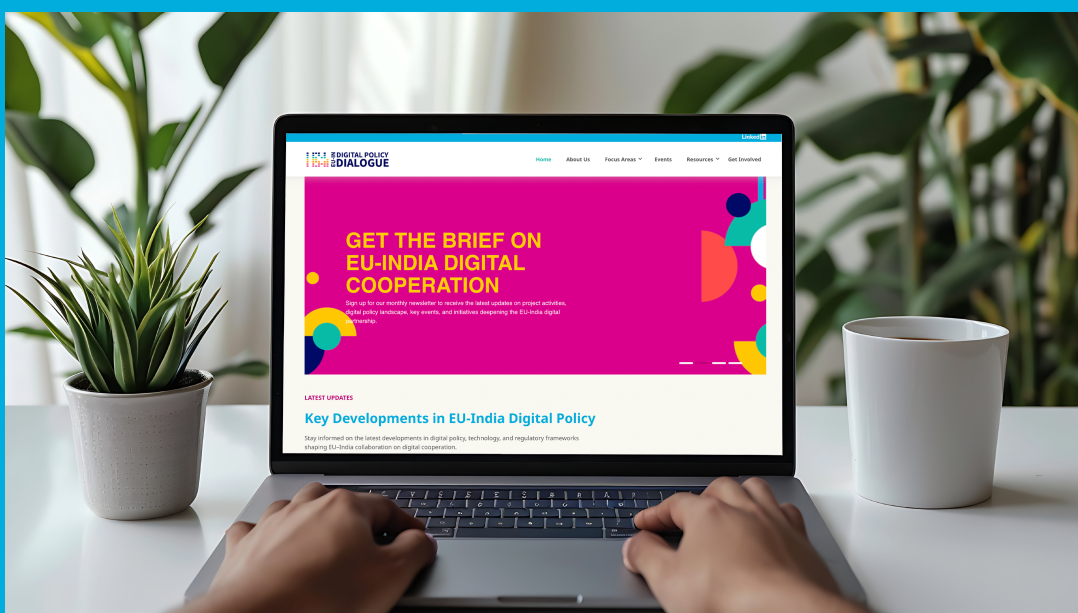


Explore Our New Website | EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue

We are excited to share that the EU-India Digital Policy Dialogue website is now live — your new go-to space for everything happening across our work.

Designed as a dynamic hub, the platform brings together information on our key focus areas, events, and communications outputs. You can explore our latest publications, podcast episodes, newsletters and ongoing initiatives, all in one place.

Whether you're looking to stay updated, dive deeper into our work, or discover opportunities to engage, the website is built to make EU-India digital cooperation more accessible, transparent, and connected.

[VISIT OUR WEBSITE](#)

Team Europe Spotlight

Modi's Europe Visit Signals Boost in EU-India Ties **May 2026**

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's recent engagements across Europe, including participation in the India–Nordic Summit in Oslo and his visit to Sweden, reflect a deepening and increasingly strategic phase in EU–India relations. European leaders highlighted a “dynamic new era” in the partnership, underpinned by the FTA and a stronger alignment across trade, technology, and innovation.

Digital cooperation featured prominently across discussions. Leaders reaffirmed their commitment to advancing collaboration in emerging technologies, digital infrastructure, cybersecurity, and innovation ecosystems, while recognising the growing importance of trusted and resilient digital value chains. The India–Nordic Summit further emphasised cooperation in AI, digitalisation, green technologies, and future skills, highlighting the role of technology in driving sustainable and inclusive growth.

These engagements reinforce a broader shift: EU–India relations are moving beyond dialogue towards implementation-oriented partnerships, particularly in areas such as digital public infrastructure, AI, and secure connectivity. As both sides look to strengthen technological sovereignty while remaining open and interoperable, the digital dimension is emerging as a central pillar of this evolving partnership.



News Update

India-Netherlands Partnership Gains New Momentum in Digital and Semiconductor Cooperation

16.05.2026, Government of Netherlands

Prime Minister Modi's visit to the Netherlands on 16–17 May 2026 gave fresh momentum to bilateral digital cooperation, with both sides elevating ties to a Strategic Partnership and adopting a 2026–2030 Roadmap. Concrete outcomes included renewed cooperation on semiconductors and related emerging technologies, closer links between the Dutch Semicon Competence Centre and the India Semiconductor Mission, and a new academic–industry “brain bridge” connecting Dutch universities, leading Indian technical institutes, and companies such as NXP, ASML, Tata, and CG Semi. The roadmap also sets the basis for deeper collaboration in AI, cybersecurity, and telecom innovation, signalling a more implementation-focused phase in India–Netherlands digital engagement.

India–Italy Ties Gain Strategic Weight in Europe's Tech and Connectivity Landscape

19 May 2026, Reuters

European analysis points to Italy's growing importance in India's wider Europe strategy, particularly across technology, semiconductors, supply chains, and connectivity. Modi's visit to Rome, following stops in the Netherlands, Sweden, and Norway, highlighted how India is building denser partnerships with key European powers. Italy's role in manufacturing, design, and the broader Indo-Mediterranean connectivity vision positions it as a significant partner for India's next phase of strategic and technological cooperation.

Women in Tech



Siddhi Pal | Interface's research on Artificial Intelligence & Labour Markets

Siddhi Pal is leading interface's research on Artificial Intelligence & Labour Markets, with a focus on global talent flows, innovation and inclusion.

Siddhi holds a Master's in Public Policy from the University of Oxford and an MSc in Organizational and Social Psychology from the London School of Economics.

Prior to her role at Interface, she served as a Policy Advisor at the UK Government's Department for Science, Innovation, and Technology. There, she provided strategic policy recommendations to bridge the advanced digital skills gap and foster an inclusive, digitally skilled workforce in the United Kingdom. Siddhi also led programs for the United Nations Foundation's gender justice campaign, Girl Up, in India. As a seasoned speaker and consultant, she has represented youth perspectives at global forums such as Davos during the World Economic Forum, and the United Nations General Assembly.

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