Strengthening EU-India Digital Agenda 2020 – Trade, Technology and Innovation

REPORT
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Key Discussants

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HoD - Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi
Prof. Gupta has undertaken extensive research in the areas of e-commerce & e-governance. He co-authored the book "Government Online" and several papers that appeared in National and International Journals/Conference Proceedings. He is involved in several policy making committees on ICT in the Center and State Governments in India (CBI, DIT, NIC, CDSCO, IGNOU, MP and Jharkhand Govt). From the Indian research perspective, he is also steering the ‘EU-India Fi-MEDIA’ project along with India industry member, Abhishek Sharma (CEO-Beyond Evolution of Technology, Gurgaon), and with EU project coordinator, James Clarke (Waterford Institute of Technology, Ireland). This four year project (2014 - 2018), funded by the Delegation of the EU to India, aims to provide a platform for facilitating cluster to cluster (C2C) partnerships among EU and Indian organization dedicated to the deployment of ICT and related technologies for a better society.

Dr. Ajay Kumar Garg
MeitY, Government of India
Dr. Garg is a Scientist at the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. He is part of the e-Governance Group in the Ministry and is also the Office-In charge for International Cooperation - Bilateral Trade Division.

Dr. Vipin Tyagi
Executive Director, C-DOT
Dr. Tyagi is an innovation and Business Leader from Information Technology and Telecommunication Industry for over 3 decades. As the Executive Director at the Center for Department of Telematics (CDOT), Dr. Tyagi is engaged in development of various projects at the frontier of Telecom technology in the areas of Optical communications, Next Generation Networks and Wireless technologies.

1 http://www.bic-fimedia.eu/
**Dr. Klaus Pendl**  
*First Counsellor - ICT; Trade and Economic Section*  
*Delegation of the European Union to India*

Dr. Pendl is ICT Counsellor at the Delegation of the European Union to India. He is responsible for ICT matters (market access, standardisation, research and innovation, Internet Governance). He previously worked in the European Commission’s Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) in Brussels. Prior to that, he was a head of unit in the Austrian Prime Minister’s Office, and worked at Danube University Krems and at the EFTA Surveillance Authority.

**Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya**  
*Partner, KPMG India*

Dr. Bhattacharya is a noted Government transformation expert and is Partner at KPMG. He is also President of Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research (C-DEP) and Adjunct Professor at IIT Delhi. He has been responsible for the creation of the next generation of solutions for governments, based on open standards. Dr. Bhattacharya advises governments on e-governance strategies.

**Dr. Ram Upendra Das**  
*RIS*

Dr. Das is Professor at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi. With over 25 years of research experience, Dr. Das has contributed to various studies, including inter-governmental Joint Study Groups (JSGs), and international negotiating processes on behalf of Government of India in the context of India’s economic engagements with other countries.

**Mr. Ravi Shingari**  
*Partner Taxation, KPMG India*

Ravi Shingari is a Partner of International Tax and Regulatory practice of KPMG in India. He has rich experience in diverse matters of international trade, regulation and emerging areas of taxation.

**Ms. Subi Chaturvedi**  
*Director Public Affairs and Communication, COAI*

Ms. Chaturvedi is Director Public Affairs and Communication at Cellular Operators Association of India (COAI). She is a thought leader and Communications Strategist with extensive experience and leadership in Internet Governance and Government Affairs.

**Dr. B. K. Gairola**  
*Former Director General, National Informatics Centre (NIC)*

Dr. Gairola has played a key role in shaping some of the most crucial and far reaching initiatives in e-governance in the country and decades in propagating IT culture among the top level decision makers, both political and executive of this country. He is responsible for evolving the concept of a common National super highway in Cyber space in India with the objective of helping the nation to leap frog into the ‘Knowledge Society’.
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Summary

Mr. Donald Tusk, President of the European Council, Mr. Jean-Claude Juncker, President of the European Commission, and Mr. Narendra Modi, Prime Minister of the Republic of India met in Brussels on 30th March, 2016 for the 13th European Union - India Summit. They endorsed the EU-India Agenda for Action-2020 as a common roadmap to jointly guide and strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership in the coming years. The agenda was further built upon the shared objectives and outcomes of the Joint Action Plans of 2005 and 2008. Besides water management, energy and climate cooperation, urban development, migration and mobility, the EU-India Agenda for Action 2020 also includes a key thematic focus related to “Information and communication technologies (ICT)”, such as:

Create synergies between the "Digital India" initiative and the EU’s “Digital Single Market”, in particular by cooperating on economic and regulatory issues (e.g. market access), ICT standardization, Internet Governance, research and innovation as well as innovative start-up companies (“Startup Europe India Network”) and by making good use of the annual Joint ICT Working Group and Business Dialogue.

In this context, a Workshop was organised on October 1, 2016, jointly by the Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi; The Centre for Digital Economy Policy Research; KPMG in India and the Delegation of the European Union to India to discuss and strengthen ties with EU - “Strengthening EU India Digital- Trade, Technology and Innovation”. The workshop sought to focus on the future prospects and arenas where India and EU can work together in the sphere of Trade, Technology and Innovation.

The key points that emerged during the workshop were:

- The aim of digital agenda is to empower people and this can be achieved by focusing on three key components i.e. infrastructure, information and digital awareness.
- Technology is labor displacing, however, scale expansion can ease the tension between technology and labor.
- Digital economy taxation is a worrisome matter as there is no defined physical location of the business. Taxes will henceforth be activity based.
- Opportunities of collaboration includes transfer of technology, capacity building, cybersecurity and policy observatory among others.
- The next gen 5G will give potential power to business people to use mobile for all sorts of authenticated services that are possible.
- Industry 4.0 will combine hardware power with software power which will enable manufacturing based on digital capabilities.
‘Cyber Security’ – The need of the hour

A fully functional cyber command is the need of the hour, given that India’s digital and cyber capabilities lag significantly behind global and regional players.

In today’s world, a number of countries possess state of the art cyber capabilities, such as the United States, China, North Korea and Russia. The range and sophistication of these cyber capabilities vary hugely as no two cyber weapons are the same since they are devised and utilized for a specific purpose. As no Asian country has declared its cyber capabilities till date, there is a need for the Indian military and policy planners to assess whether geopolitical tensions in Asia can spill over into the cyberspace giving rise to a cyberwar. The inter-connectedness of digital networks further raises key questions related to the future of cyber governance.

Recently, India has launched a series of cybersecurity programs and initiatives to digitally empower its people and safeguard the cyberspace. E-governance was introduced to simplify government processes using IT thereby making it more efficient for the general public. It is critical in transforming the delivery of government services in a more effective way across various government domains.
However, in the past few years cyber-attacks have increased in frequency. In light of these increasing cyber-threats, India appointed its first chief information security officer. The appointment underlines India’s commitment to combat attacks in the field of cyber space and manage cybersecurity in an effective manner. India is also in the middle of setting up a national cyber-security architecture. This architecture will provide a framework for assigned agencies to monitor, verify and fortify India’s cyber networks in accordance with the laws.

In this respect, **Prof. MP Gupta**, HoD - Department of Management Studies at IIT Delhi outlined the EU-India Digital Agenda 2020 as a common roadmap to jointly guide and strengthen the India-EU Strategic Partnership in the coming years. He stressed on identifying opportunities for strengthening cooperation and collaboration in international fora, with focus on issues such as development of cyber and cyber-physical weapons as India’s grand strategic and diplomatic goal in the coming years. It is noted that an EU-India WG on prioritizing research and innovation topics related to cybersecurity was set up as part of the EU Framework programme 7 (FP7) BIC project\(^2\) (2011 - 2013), and this effort is encouraged to continue.

**Dr. Vipin Tyagi**, Executive Director, C-DOT also highlighted the importance of cyber security given the recent developments in internet and wireless networks while placing emphasis on creation of security standards in India.

### Policy Issues of Digital India, Make In India & Digital Trade

The Government of India has introduced a multitude of initiatives with regards to digital coverage and inclusion, such as “Make in India”, “Digital India”, “Smart Cities”, “Skill India” and “Start-up India”. They collectively invoke an image of India as a high-functioning economy focused on industry, inclusive innovation and sustainable entrepreneurship. The end objective is to promote investor confidence, improve unemployment, enhance infrastructure development and achieve total digital connectivity.

The effectiveness of these programs would be fully evaluated when they mature over the next several years. However, some preliminary assessments can be undertaken based on

industry projections, level of collaboration between Central and State governments, commitment of private sector participants in form of PPPs, and FDI flows in India.

India has more than 1 billion mobile phones and 480 million broadband users in India, next only to China. However, despite huge interventions by the Government of India, it still faces a massive challenge in terms of connectivity and coverage. The government is in the process of addressing this imbalance through its Digital India initiative as outlined by Dr. Ajay Kumar Garg, Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India. The initiative focuses on three key areas - the creation of digital infrastructure, delivery of e-governance and spread of digital literacy. Aimed for completion by 2019 using public-private-partnership (PPP) model, Digital India targets to connect 250,000 gram panchayats in three years, build national information infrastructure by 2017 (around US $2.3 billion cost) and establish public Wi-Fi hotspots.

Dr. Garg outlined that the Digital Agenda of India is a potential game changer, wherein, more than 1 billion people have registered with the Unique Digital Identity provided by India. The “Jan Dhan Yojana” initiative of the Government of India which focuses on financial inclusion has enabled 1.3 billion people to transact through a digital platform. India has a huge potential of intellectual capital as it creates 5 million IT engineers every year, of which, a few thousands are potential innovators. As a result, prestigious global corporations have established their research and development (R&D) centers in India. Dr. Garg outlined that the digital economies of India & the EU need to be leveraged for value addition in any trade emerging from the IT sector and thereby create the optimum conditions for ushering in IT 2.0.

Policy issues which can further digital growth in India, such as formulating a mandatory legal framework for e-governance is an essential focus for government in addition to privacy and cyber security.

Also, Efforts are ongoing to digitalize businesses in India. Dr. Garg pointed out that EU is focused on using the next generation connectivity, 5G, which will enable businesses to use mobile phones for all sorts of authenticated services in future. He emphasized on facilitation by the Government of India, next generation solutions for consumers, Internet of Things (IoT), Industry 4.0 with a special focus on data privacy. He emphasized that IoT and Industry 4.0 are predicted to usher in sweeping changes with the potential to fundamentally reconfigure industry. It is being called the next Industrial Revolution and will combine digital with traditional manufacturing, thereby giving a boost to the digital trade between India and the EU.
The EU-India Digital Agenda – Opportunities and Challenges

The 13th EU-India summit held on 30 March, 2016 in Brussels reaffirmed the commitment to strengthen the EU-India Strategic Partnership based on shared values and principles. Subsequently, the “EU-India Agenda for Action-2020” set out a concrete road-map for the EU-India Strategic Partnership for the coming years. Besides water management, energy and climate cooperation, urban development, migration and mobility, the EU-India 2020 Agenda also includes a key thematic focus related to “Information and communications technology (ICT)” such as:

Create synergies between the “Digital India” initiative and the EU’s “Digital Single Market”, in particular by cooperating on economic and regulatory issues (e.g. market access), ICT standardization, Internet Governance, research and innovation as well as innovative start-up companies (“Startup Europe India Network”) and by making good use of the annual Joint ICT Working Group and Business Dialogue.

Dr Klaus Pendl, First Counsellor - ICT; Trade and Economic Section, Delegation of the European Union to India discussed the opportunities and challenges of the EU-India Digital Agenda. He outlined that India and the EU have a lot in common. EU is India’s biggest trading partner with €100 billion of trade in goods and services in the previous year. Topics of common interest and priority areas in ICT standardization are Intelligent Transportation System (ITS), 5G, NFV/SDN as the future of networks and security as a cross cutting topic for the above mentioned topics. Work towards the finalization of a Joint Declaration for cooperation on the next generation of global communication networks (5G) is ongoing. There is cooperation also on Smart Cities, the Startup Europe India Network, bilateral meetings on Internet Governance, the EU-India Cyber Security Consultations, or the offer to exchange best practices on the use of social media in e-Gov.

He further added that the research networks of India and EU are interconnected via a link between GEANT and NKN. Opportunities for participation by India were highlighted, including under the Horizon 2020 program (€80 billion program), Marie Curie and Erasmus fellowships supporting the mobility of researchers/students, and the “Euraxess Science Slam” (Hyderabad on November 18, 2016).

The last EU-India ICT Working Group in Brussels in June focused on ICT market access issues on both sides, Internet Governance, and cooperation on ICT research and innovation (e.g. startups, Internet of Things, high performance computing, language technologies and e-
Infrastructures). Discussions were held on a simplified co-financing mechanism for Research and Innovation in mutually agreed areas of IT & electronics.

Progress has been achieved post the summit in terms of a new cooperation project on ICT standardization (launched on 1 November) and cluster to cluster partnership cooperation projects on Future Internet and television white space technology (TVWS). A Future Internet project, entitled FI-MEDIA\(^3\), is coordinated by Mr. James Clarke of Waterford Institute of Technology (Ireland) and has Indian Partners IIT-Delhi (Prof MP Gupta) and Beyond Evolution Tech Solutions (Gurgaon). The TVWS project, entitled REACH\(^4\), is on rural broadband Internet access using cooperative mash networking in white space spectrum. It is coordinated by Prof M Rajarajan of City University London (UK). The Indian partners are IIT Bombay, IIM Ahmedabad and IIIT Bangalore.

**Technology for Last Mile**

The Digital India initiative launched by the Government of India is based on the ambitious dreams of connecting every single Indian to a broadband pipe. As such, technology is seen as the main enabler of access to quality education, healthcare facilities and financial services in empowering people at the bottom of the pyramid by slowly connecting non-urban and rural India with the mainstream.

The government is focused on bridging the digital divide in the country by enabling digital transformation and increasing technology adoption in India. This is made possible by inculcating a temperament of innovation in our education system to enable sustainable technological development in solving local problems.

The Digital India program is looking towards the National Optical Fibre Network (NOFN) as a backbone for connecting all villages in India. In 2011, the NOFN was given a task to connect 2,50,000 village panchayats with a fibre optic network in the first phase by 2016 and then extending it to 3,90,000 village panchayats in the second phase.

Presently, there are 6,40,000 villages in India and only 13 percent of India’s population is connected with internet. Of this, less than 10 crore users are from non-urban areas. The broadband reach is further lower with only 7 crore subscribers in the country as on July 2014, with over 80 percent of them being the residents of the urban areas.

The government is also planning to involve private companies in providing last mile connectivity in rural India in lines with the flagship BharatNet\(^5\) program under the Digital India initiative. In February 2016, the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) recommended the use of public-private-partnership (PPP) model for the BharatNet project roll out. The

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4 [http://www.eu-india.net/](http://www.eu-india.net/)
5 BharatNet is a project of national importance to establish, by 2017, a highly scalable network infrastructure accessible on a non-discriminatory basis, to provide on demand, affordable broadband connectivity of 2 Mbps to 20 Mbps for all households and on demand capacity to all institutions, to realise the vision of Digital India, in partnership with States and the private sector. [http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/digital-india/national-optical-fibre-network-nofn](http://vikaspedia.in/e-governance/digital-india/national-optical-fibre-network-nofn)
BharatNet program was initially estimated to cost Rs20,000 crores but it has been revised to Rs75,000 crore to include more regions and ensure proper digital connectivity in India.

Also various other schemes are being launched to bridge digital gap and provide technology to the last mile. India is soon going to launch a Rs. 1,800 crore Digital Literacy Mission for 60 million people in the rural areas as an initiative to bridge the gap between those who have access to and can use computer and the internet and those who don't. These 60 million people form about 40 per cent of the rural population. The government’s target is to make each of these 60 million rural people digitally literate in the next three years.

On these lines, Dr. B.K. Gairola, Former Director General, National Informatics Centre (NIC) identified the similarities between Digital India and the initiatives undertaken by Europe in terms of reaching the bottom of the pyramid. He also structured the digital initiatives into 3 basic components:

i) Infrastructure - standards/technology which is low cost and can reach the last mile using the fiber optic model
(ii) Information – open data policy to easily access information which is not confidential and
(iii) Digital Awareness – to ensure proper use of the above two.

He emphasized that ‘Technology for last mile’ should be the prime focus for governments and information should be liberated from the domain of government and easily accessible to all citizens.

Taxation and Digital Agenda

Digital economy has led to the emergence of new business models like app stores, digital trade, cloud computing, etc. With the advancement in technology, it is has become possible for businesses to carry on economic activities with almost negligible physical presence in different jurisdictions. As this digital economy will continue to evolve in the coming years, new challenges will also emerge along with it. The core features of a digital economy relevant from the tax perspective are as following:

— Unprecedented reliance on intangible assets
— Massive use of data and technology
— Greater mobility of intangibles, users and business functions
— Extensive adoption of multiple business models including user-participation
— Complications in determining the jurisdiction where value creation takes place
The above features give rise to the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) risks and also affect the effectiveness of existing tax frameworks in dealing with the challenges of digital economy. The traditional rules of a brick and mortar system possess challenges to levy source-based taxation, where the treaty provides for such income to be taxed only in the home country.

In this year’s budget proposal, the Government of India introduced equalization levy (EQL) to tax digital economy (DE) transactions as an action on the part of India under the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) agenda. EQL is currently applicable on matters relating to online advertisement particularly provision of digital advertising space and other services for purpose of online advertisement.

Most of the other digital services like online marketing and advertisements, cloud computing, website designing, operating and maintenance, provision of digital space, advertising on radio or television, digital platforms, and services relating to digital sale of goods and services, and online use/download of software and applications have been identified by the Central Board of Direct Taxes (CBDT) committee. These services will also be added over a period of time through notifications by the government.

Equalization Levy is introduced under a separate code under Finance Bill 2016 and not under the Income-tax Act, 1961 of India. EQL is currently introduced at 6%, however it is believed that over a period of time it could be increased to 8% or more.

Mr. Ravi Shingari, Partner of Taxation at KPMG India outlined the challenges of tax laws for monitoring movement of goods and services across borders. He proposed that digital economy taxation is the new game changer as there is no physical location to do business. He underlined the importance of equalization levy (or Google tax) on online advertising revenue by non-resident e-commerce companies earned in India, which became effective on June 1, 2016. He further explored into the arena of advent of GST, a consequent remedial for dual taxation and subsequent impact on ecommerce companies. As such, Creative businesses to evade taxes is a matter of history. Tax will be activity based now.

Additionally, the concepts of ‘significant digital presence’ and ‘fully dematerialized activities’ would revamp the international tax framework making it necessary to relook at business models and the tax implications of such digital transactions. This should be defined in an objective manner so as to avoid ambiguity for the taxpayers in the future.

Brexit: Impact on India’s Trade and Economy
Brexit has been one of the major disruptors of 2016. It has not only shaken the global economy at large, but has also forced institutions worldwide to rethink their future strategies. Organizations are preparing themselves for the potential scenarios once the details of Brexit are formulized.

For majority of the Indian companies, United Kingdom has been the ‘window to Europe’ for a long time. Therefore, Brexit is going to have a massive impact on many Indian firms having exposure to UK and Europe. However, this opens up opportunities for Indian businesses to invest and collaborate within the EU especially with regards to digital trade and economy.

According to Tomasz Kozlowski, EU envoy to India, the European Union is entirely committed to further strengthen the partnership with India, give new impetus to the strategic partnership based on the last Summit in Brussels late March. The action plan for India and European Union will remain intact. EU would remain the largest investor in India as a bloc. EU is also the largest single market for Indian goods.

On the other hand, Brexit is also expected to affect Europe’s digital single market, as UK is disproportionately influential in Europe’s digital economy. UK had the highest birth rates in terms of new enterprises in Europe, and a third of the total venture capital investments in Europe were made in UK in the first quarter of 2016. However, Brexit can fragment this innovation hub. UK businesses may no longer have free access to the EU’s Single Market (DSM) and Digital Single Market, intended to eliminate remaining restrictions on digital trade. All of this can have a direct and indirect effect on the other non-European economies worldwide.

Dr. Jaijit Bhattacharya, Partner at KPMG India outlined the opportunities and challenges with respect to Brexit and India’s trade and economy. He pointed out that numerous agreements between India and the EU in regards to digitalization have jurisdiction of UK codes. In the aftermath of Brexit, there is an imminent need for a new discourse on future collaboration between India and the EU.

Telecommunications, ICT and E-commerce

E-Commerce is becoming a key driver in creating new markets in erstwhile unreachable geographies. The Indian population is rapidly moving towards adopting technology. The overall tele-density is 81.8% and the mobile tele-density is also as high as 79.8% as on

November, 2015. Also, during the same time, India overpast the USA to become the 2nd largest market for smartphones after China, with 220 Million users. This was mainly due to the availability of highly affordable smartphones inbuilt with easy-to-use features that helped the first-time users take a leap from the desktop/laptop era. Internet penetration is also increasingly rising with the number of users pegged at 354 Million as of September 2015.

The e-commerce sector is expected to be the largest segment of the Indian Internet market with a value of approximately USD 100 Billion by 2020. The e-commerce industry has transformed and revolutionized the retail sector in India, along with facilitating MSMEs by providing them with means of financing, technology and training. Growth of technology driven innovations like Digital Payments, Analytics driven Customer Engagement, Hyper-local Logistics and Digital Advertisements have further enabled the e-commerce sector to grow at a much faster rate. This has also been made possible by the government’s Digital Agenda.

According to Dr. Bhattacharya, Digital Agenda has to do anything and everything related to telecommunications, electronic trade, e-commerce, export of computing, sale of digital equipment, movement of people, issues around IPR and trade of digital content.

With the objective to tap the huge potential in the B2B e-commerce segment in India, apart from the already existing B2B companies, the leading B2C companies have also started building their own platforms for small businesses. This is supported by rising expectations among companies to conduct buying and selling online and shifting procurement transactions through internet rather than the erstwhile Electronic Data Interchange. In lines with this untapped potential of the B2B e-commerce market, the Government of India has allowed 100% FDI in B2B e-commerce that will enabled global B2B e-commerce companies like Walmart and Alibaba to showcase interest in the India B2B e-commerce market.

Besides the conventional services such as utilities, fashion and lifestyle, electronics, etc. there is an emerging trend of new e-Commerce aggregators that are aiming to digitalize several other offline services and creating an easy and convenient ecosystem for the consumers.

Further, the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) is an ever growing segment in India which makes it a very attractive segment for both domestic and foreign investors.

In the field of ICT standardization, Danish Management Group (a Danish consulting firm) was recently awarded a 3-year contract for an EU-funded project supporting EU-India cooperation on ICT related standardization, policy and legislation. The broad objective of this is to promote close EU-India alignment regarding future ICT standards. This will also focus on standardizing the exchange of statistical data. This cooperation can facilitate trade, increase

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8 India, the second largest smartphone market. http://www.counterpointresearch.com/indiahandsetmarket2015
9 Mobile Internet in India 2015, by IAMAI and IMRB
interoperability and ease of doing business, and strengthen European and Indian ICT standardization efforts at a global level.

**Innovation & Start-ups: Lessons from EU**

EU is running flagship programs such as Digital Single Market and Startup Europe which can be a source of great learning for India as we move towards the next generation. Startup Europe is aimed at strengthening the business environment for web and ICT entrepreneurs so as to initiate their ideas and business to grow in the EU.

Startup Europe’s objectives are:

— to reinforce links between people, businesses and associations to build and scale up the startup ecosystem
— to inspire young entrepreneurs and provide role models
— to celebrate new and innovative startups, help them in expanding their business, and giving them access to funding under Horizon 2020 initiative

According to a study published by the Innovation Directorate of the Enterprise Directorate-General on “Entrepreneurial innovation in Europe”, there are three aspects of the drive to create innovative firms and thereby employment. The first study concludes that innovative enterprises, especially small and medium-sized ones, tend to add jobs at the expense of less innovative competitors. The second study highlights the crucial role of regional networks in supporting the creation of new technology-based firms (NTBFs). The last study proposes a typology of academic spin-outs, and argues that public as well as private sector resources be focused on those with clearly defined growth strategies.

On similar lines, India has also been focusing on its programs like Startup India to encourage young leaders and entrepreneurs to set up businesses in India. The Government of India had announced lucrative policies to attract budding entrepreneurs, such as exemption from paying income tax for the first three years on profits made my startups, eighty percent exemption in patent fee for startups, fast-tracking of startup patent applications and easy exit policies.

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Alongside, innovation is also given prime importance. The Atal Innovation Mission will be launched to give a boost to innovation. Innovation in fields of ICT, digitalization, internet arena are building scope in India.

Dr. Vipin Tyagi, Executive Director, Center for Department of Telematics (CDOT) emphasized on the achievements, roadblocks and aspirations of C-DOT to build a center for excellence in the area of telecom technology in respect of innovation and the above mentioned initiatives. C-DOT has evolved, from a single mission oriented organization to an R&D center, working on several important, cutting edge technologies. And, with the support it has been receiving from the Government, especially in Projects of National Importance, the Centre will strive to maintain its National relevance. His discussion included key concepts of security collaboration, lawful interception, social media and digital manufacturing.

Dr. Tyagi also emphasized on the importance of working with the semiconductor players for ecosystem generation and how collaboration with the EU could usher in potential change. He outlined key aspects of cyber security, wealth creation from digital trade, the recent developments in internet and wireless networks, and development of security standards.

The STARTUP EU-INDIA SUMMIT ("SEIS", Bangalore, 20 October) is a step towards bringing together the European and Indian Startup ecosystems - Startups, Scaleups, Investors, Corporates, and Policy Makers. It explores the growth, investment opportunities and insights about the European and Indian digital markets.  

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12 https://startupeuindiasummit.com/