

The online inaugural meeting of

***The India Innovation Initiative***

**15-17 June 2021 4pm – p.m. IST**

(As of 15 April 2021)

<b><i>Tuesday 15 June 2021</i></b>	
16:00 – 16:05	<b><i>Welcome to participants and introduction</i></b>
16:05 -16:55	<p><b><i>Leveraging the Covid-19 boost to innovation and digitalization</i></b></p> <p>The dislocations brought by the pandemic have spurred a burst of innovation with many startups coming up with new technological responses to the constraints and changing needs of individual customers as well as of corporations which, in many cases, have been compelled to accelerate the pace towards the digitalization of their activities. New products and services have emerged from the country’s startup ecosystem which have already found their market and have the potential for international expansion in areas such as nanotechnology, digital healthcare, industrial IoT etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ What are the durable changes that the pandemic and the need to adapt to it have brought to India’s startup ecosystem?</li> <li>✓ What is needed to expand and leverage more optimally this new burst of innovation?</li> </ul>
17:00 – 17:55	<p><b><i>India as the new Deep Tech hub: How startups are grabbing the new opportunities?</i></b></p> <p>India is now close to an inflection point where it will be emerging as the next global DeepTech hub. A NASSCOM report evaluates that close to 20% of all the country’s start-ups are now involved in deep tech developments, coming up with new services and products in a wide range of domains of corporate activity and consumer life such as financial services, healthcare, education, manufacturing and agriculture. As Indian and foreign VCs are now developing their portfolio of deep-tech startups they are betting on some positive factors for the expansion of the sector such as accelerating digital adoption, the broadening of the national skills and talent pool, the more pressing need of corporations for advanced solutions that will allow them to remain competitive and a strong policy support, exemplified by the “Atmanirbhar » - self-reliance - policy promoted by Prime Minister Modi aiming at the development of an ecosystem propitious to research and innovation</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Given the generally long gestation period for DeepTech products and services the technology commercialization, what is required to create partnerships between corporations, DeepTech VC funds, academia and Government to develop open innovation and promote mentorship for deep-tech development?</li> <li>✓ What assets/comparative advantages can Indian startups leverage more to expand their footprint in the deep-tech domain?</li> <li>✓ What is the potential for the emergence of Indian deep-tech unicorns given the still present difficulty in deep-tech startups funding and the tendency of established corporations to acquire a promising deep tech startup rather than going through the uncertainties of trying to develop in-house technology ?</li> </ul>
18:00 – 18:55	<p><b><i>Showcasing startup founders shaking up their sector</i></b></p> <p>Four startup founders take turn to present their company, highlighting the innovative, transformational impact of what they are creating and answering some questions from the participants</p>
19:00 – 20:00 <b><i>Sign-up bilateral one-on-one discussions</i></b>	<p><b><i>Connecting startup founders with investors</i></b></p> <p>Entrepreneurs and investors initiate contact and engage in on-demand, bilateral, “behind virtual closed door” discussions to explore potential collaboration.</p>
19:00 – 20:00	<p><b><i>Additional sign-up roundtables</i></b></p> <p>Small, dedicated, roundtable discussions between specific group of participants/speakers wanting to share experiences or explore potential synergies</p>
<b><i>Wednesday 16 June 2021</i></b>	
16:00 – 17:00	<p><b><i>Betting on India’s startup story: How Global VCs and Indian VCs can complement one another?</i></b></p> <p>After the drastic decrease of deals activity induced by the pandemic in the middle of 2020, the launch of new India-focused funds by global VCs and the resurgence of investments from domestic VCs have shown that India’s startup story is not only alive but is more vibrant than ever. The business risks created by the US-China confrontation and technological de-coupling, India’s specific advantages of population size, fast increasing mobile phone internet penetration and digitalization as well as the dynamism of the country’s startup ecosystem create an attractive proposition that no VC or PE company can afford to ignore.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Comparing perspectives between Global and Indian VCs</li> <li>✓ Assessing the dynamics of complementary/competition</li> </ul>

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18:05 – 18:55	<p><b>Global regulations are coming fast: What impact on startups ‘activity and innovation</b></p> <p>As the digitalization of activities moves ahead worldwide and the impact of new technologies on corporate activity as well as on consumer behavior keeps growing the trend towards tighter government oversight and more regulations to govern the use of those technologies is becoming more pronounced whether it is in the EU, the US, India, China and many other countries. Whether it is privacy and consumer protection, data use and cybersecurity resilience, digital competition practices, no element of the digital world is now escaping the attention of the regulators.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ How should startup founders look at regulatory trends and adjust to them, especially if they want to expand their activities internationally?</li> <li>✓ What regulations could create compliance risks for startups?</li> <li>✓ What regulations could help startups as they try to elbow their way in markets dominated high-tech giants?</li> </ul>
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<p><b>Thursday 17 June 2021</b></p>	
16:00 – 16:55	<p><b>The trends shaping the future of India’s startup ecosystem</b></p> <p>The India’s startup ecosystem has proved its resilience and dynamism being not only able to go through the difficult times of 2020 but adding about 1800 new startups and twelve unicorns during that year and coming up with innovative products and services meeting the new needs and adapted to the new context created by the pandemic. What will be the factors shaping the next phase of evolution of what is now the world’s third largest startup ecosystem?</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ The transformational role of 5G</li> <li>✓ The impact of India's expanding shift to online and the expansion of SaaS-based solutions</li> <li>✓ Ever increasing number of startups targeting the overseas market for growth and business expansion.</li> <li>✓ The accelerating pace of technology adoption by consumers and businesses, for instance in digital health.</li> <li>✓ Increasing engagement between corporations and startups</li> <li>✓ .....</li> </ul>
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18:00 – 18:50	<p><b><i>India as the land of the Super App?</i></b></p> <p>The race for super app dominance is well under way in India with heavyweight players such as Jio Reliance, Tata, Paytm and Flipkart on their way to grab huge shares of the potentially immense Indian market, with an already close to a trillion-dollar digital economy an ever expanding smartphone and internet penetration and many of the characteristics that were behind the rise of China's Super Apps giants..</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Leveraging some key national assets</li> <li>✓ The size un-tapped market potential</li> <li>✓ What competition/collaboration interplay between startups and the big players?</li> </ul>
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