

The 5th meeting of the India Global Innovation Connect
New Delhi, 6-7 May 2026

INDIA'S PLACE IN THE SHIFTING GLOBAL TECHNOLOGY LANDSCAPE

Preliminary program as of 09 December 2025

<i>Wednesday 6 May 2026</i>	
08:30 - Ongoing	<i>Registration</i>
09:30 - 10:00	<i>Official Opening Ceremony</i>
10:15 - 11:30	<p><i>Surveying the global technology innovation landscape. Where does India fit?</i></p> <p>As time to knowledge keeps shrinking, an increasingly multipolar technology innovation landscape is evolving under our eyes, with major economic, geopolitical, societal implications.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What is the new balance of technology capabilities between the US and China? ✓ Is Europe remaining in the AI race? ✓ Which medium countries' innovation ecosystems are punching above their weight and in what technologies? ✓ <i>AND</i>, where does India fit into this moving landscape? <p>A panel of leading experts scan this moving landscape and assess the next phase(s) of the evolution.</p>
11:45 - 12:30	<u>One-on-One conversation</u>
12:30 - 13:45	<i>Buffet lunch</i>

13:45 - 15:00	<p><i>Innovating for the world: From national technology ecosystem to global technology innovator</i></p> <p>With its expanding talent and skills base and a huge market allowing economies of scale, a vibrant technology innovation ecosystem, a fast-expanding digital infrastructure and targeted public policies support India has what it takes to innovate for the world and is moving towards becoming the next global technology innovator.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ What technology strategic clusters to prioritize for their accelerating potential towards becoming a global technology innovator? ➤ How to develop a Research culture – increasing the share of GDP devoted to R&D, enhancing the capabilities of academic and corporate Deep Tech research, expanding international collaborations on R&D ➤ What is required to support the long-term funding critical for the development of fundamental Deep Tech sectors? ➤ What are the technology domains where India is already leading globally and what are the potential next ones? ➤ What to learn from success stories from global technology innovator countries?
13:45 - 15:00	<p><i>Building cross-ecosystems innovation synergies: Semiconductors</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Which countries can provide the best opportunities for cross-border partnerships that will accelerate the development of India's semiconductors sectors in a context of very fierce and resourceful global competition? ➤ How to leverage the capabilities of international research institutions to support research and tech entrepreneurs and help move from a technology concept to higher-end chips manufacturing? ➤ What models for public-private partnerships have proved to be efficient in other countries for developing the semiconductor sector?
15:15 - 16:30	<p><i>Creating a strategic fit for innovation complementarities between corporations and startups</i></p>

	<p>An increasing number of corporations, worldwide, are turning to startups to help them keep pace with fast technological changes that need to be leveraged and integrated to maintain competitiveness and meet evolving market expectations. However, many collaborations between corporations and startups fail. Creating innovation synergies and getting optimum benefits from both parties involve more than corporate funding or acquisition of startups.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the key elements of a strategic fit that would increase the chances of success in creating innovation complementarities between corporations and startups? ✓ How to ensure a full alignment from both parties on what success of the collaboration will mean, how it will be measured and on what will be in it for each party? ✓ What pitfalls to avoid?
15:15 - 16:30	<p><i>Building cross-ecosystems innovation synergies : Sustainability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How to leverage open innovation ecosystems to boost sustainability technologies innovation? ✓ What role can cross-ecosystems collaboration play in accelerating India's sustainability transition over the next decade? ✓ What initiatives would most effectively promote international R&D cross-border partnerships in sustainable technologies?
16:30 - 17:00	<i>Networking break</i>
17:00 - 17:45	<u>One-on-One conversation</u>
17:00 – 19:00	<p><u>Sign-up session</u></p> <p><i>What possibility of recreating synergies between Indian and Chinese startups ecosystems?</i></p> <p>Before the Galwan Valley clash between Indian and Chinese forces on the "line of Actual Control" a significant collaboration had existed between the startup/VC ecosystems of the two countries with Chinese VCs investing substantially in Indian startups which have become celebrated unicorns. This relationship dried up post Galwan as the India-China relationship</p>

	<p>entered a tense period. As the process of normalization and recalibration of the bilateral relationship has moved ahead, what are the prerequisites for re-building between the two startups ecosystems?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Where to start from looking at trust, investment barriers, regulatory issues.etc.? ✓ What differences and complementarities could be leveraged? ✓ What frameworks to address issues such as IP protection, technology transfers, balance of the relationship avoiding any over-reliance?
18:00 - 19:15	<p><i>Optimizing the Triple Helix model of innovation</i></p> <p>Silicon Valley represents the most recognized illustration of the Triple Helix model of innovation. There is also - among other examples - Singapore's Biopolis & Fusionopolis, Israel's Start-up Nation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What lessons can India learn from these models of innovation? ✓ How to ensure a full alignment of incentives and objectives for collaboration between academia, business and government? ✓ What does an "optimized" Triple Helix ecosystem for India would look like in practice?
18:00 - 19:15	<p><i>Building cross-ecosystems innovation synergies: Fintech</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How can fintech startups scale across borders while navigating vastly different regulatory and licensing regimes? ✓ What models of cross-border venture funding and partnerships would help fintech innovators reach under-served markets? ✓ How might AI, blockchain, and embedded finance together reshape cross-border financial ecosystems over the next few years?
19:15 - 19:45	<p><i>Cocktail Reception</i></p>
19:45 - 21:30	<p><u>Sit-down gala dinner</u></p> <p>Featuring a keynote speaker</p>

Thursday 7 May 2026	
09:00 - 10:15	<p><i>Startups funding: Where is the money coming from now ... And on what criteria?</i></p> <p>As the scope of funding options for startups is broadening as new financing sources are gaining more importance, we are also witnessing a significant evolution in the traditional sources. VC Funds are for instance increasingly focused on specific technology sectors – AI, Deep Tech, Bio-Tech – while corporate VCs are increasingly looking at strategic value creation in their collaboration with startups, instead of just financial returns. At the same time, new forms of funding are gaining ground such as blended ones combining different sources of funding, or cross-border crowdfunding with the emergence of global platforms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What does this diversification and evolution of funding sources mean for startup founders looking at forms of financing that will best support their development while protecting their long-term interest? ✓ While some investors are now relying on Data or/and AI to decide on which startups to support, what are the limits of this approach? ✓ As startup founders have now wider funding options, how is the role and value of investors evolving beyond being a capital provider?
09:00 – 11:15	<p><u>Sign-up workshop on sustainability</u> <i>Leveraging technology for maximum sustainability impact</i></p>
10:30 - 11:10	<p><u>One-on-One conversation</u></p>
11:10 - 11:40	<p><i>Networking break</i></p>
11:40 - 12:45	<p><i>From startup to company status: Managing the mutation from Pre-IPO to Post-IPO</i></p>

	<p>Moving from startup to corporation status represents one of the most challenging moments in the company's life. This implies a change of mindset, the blending of the entrepreneurial driven with corporate governance discipline and operational rigor, a permanent attention to financial markets expectations, the acquisition of some key financial knowledge, etc.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the biggest cultural and/or operational shifts startups face after going public? ✓ How to manage post-IPO development effectively? ✓ What lessons do companies typically learn within their first year post-IPO?
11:40 - 12:45	<p><i>Building cross-ecosystems innovation synergies : Defense and Aerospace</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What models of international defense R&D collaboration have proved to be effective without compromising nation security imperatives? • Which dual-use technologies applications (AI, robotics, cybersecurity) present the most realistic opportunities for cross-border innovation in the defense and aerospace sectors? • How is the "Make in India" policy being translated into actions when it comes to the Aerospace and Defense sectors
12:45 - 14:00	<p><i>Buffet lunch</i></p>
14:00 - 15:15	<p><i>What the fusion of geopolitics and technology means for public and corporate policies... as well as for frontier technology startups,</i></p> <p>As we transition towards a new global balance of forces and the tremendous potential of frontier technologies keeps expanding, geopolitics and technology innovation will get ever more intertwined. Technology and is increasingly weaponized as a tool of power in the economic and geopolitical domains. Crucial strategic interests are at stake in the battle for digital sovereignty, especially for a fast-rising technology power such as India, but also for a more established one like Europe – whose future prosperity, security and standing in the world will depend on their ability to avoid technology dependency on one of the two existing tech giants and to develop a technology</p>

	<p>capability that will shelter it from technology-focused pressures or even coercion.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ What are the implications of the fragmentation of the global technology landscape given the US-China geo-technological rivalry? ✓ How to look at digital sovereignty beyond the ability for a country to control and govern its own digital infrastructure, data, and technologies? ✓ What techno-economic alliances will help strengthen the position of a middle technology power in world where geopolitics and technology innovation are now intertwined? ✓ What initiatives to secure a place at the international institutions where rules on the governance of frontier technologies are being discussed?
14:00 - 15:15	<p><i>Building cross-ecosystems innovation synergies : Biotech</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What role can cross-ecosystems collaboration play in accelerating India's biotechnology growth over the next decade? • What regulatory changes would make international biotech collaboration with India smoother and faster? • What would make foreign universities and research institutes collaborate more effectively with Indian labs in frontier biotechnology areas? • How can India leverage cross-ecosystems collaborations to expand its bio-manufacturing capacity?
15:30 - 16:45	<p><i>AI: Fighting against the giants for a place in the sun</i></p> <p>As it entered the AI race later than the US and China, India is facing the challenge of catching up and asserting its position in a critical strategic domain dominated by two powers able to mobilize bigger financial and skills resources. The country's AI drive has been accelerating, with the country's total investment on AI above the US\$ 20 billion mark, and with the India AI Mission created in May 2024 focused on developing sovereign AI capabilities. There are, however, significant challenges to be addressed for bridging the gap with respect to foundational AI models, to cutting-edge research, to Data Centers capacity, to public and private funding, compared to where the US and China now stand.</p>

	<p>In this position of still asymmetric competition in which it finds itself, what next actions from academia, private sector and government will allow India to join the AI global leadership league in the coming years?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ How to leverage optimally the open digital innovation model to accelerate India's AI catching-up momentum? ✓ What actions to maximize the impact for AI development and innovation of some of India's specific assets? ✓ What partnerships between Academia, Industry and startups to develop a strong research-to-product dynamics? ✓ What targeted collaboration schemes with foreign partners (business, academic or institutional ones) should India prioritize at this stage of AI development?
17:00 - 17:45	<p><u>One-on-One conversation</u></p> <p><i>What key features should/would characterize India' positioning in the world by 2030?</i></p>
17:50- 18:05	<p><i>Concluding remarks: What do we take home?</i></p>
18:15 - 19:00	<p><i>Farewell cocktail</i></p>

www.indiaglobalinnovationconnect.com