SESEI Newsletters

SECONDED EUROPEAN STANDARDIZATION EXPERT IN INDIA

European Committee for Standardization | European Committee for Electro Technical Standardization | European Telecommunications Standards Institute | European Commission | European Free Trade Association

Dear Readers,

We are pleased to present the "February 2026 edition" of the "SESEI Newsletter – Europe", highlighting India's accelerating reform agenda, expanding digital diplomacy, international cooperation across technology, innovation, sustainability, and trade. **Ease of Doing Business (EoDB)** remains central to India's growth strategy: The Union Budget 2026–27 advances digital trade facilitation, tax certainty, reduced compliance burdens, and investment-friendly tax regime.

Digitalization featured prominently in AI Impact Summit 2026 held at New Delhi, which also adopted **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact**, endorsed by 91 countries and international organizations. The declaration emphasizes equitable AI benefits, international cooperation, trustworthy frameworks, and energy-efficient AI systems. The summit reinforced AI's role in economic transformation and global governance. The AI Impact Summit 2026 saw an unprecedented, European delegation with 26 nations and 11 heads of state/government. Vice-President Henna Virkkunen led the EU delegation, focusing on AI safety, digital sovereignty, and strengthening India-EU technology partnerships.

The summit provided an opportunity to India and EU to strengthen their digital including telecom ties through bilateral meeting with Germany, Sweden, Finland, and France. A Joint Declaration of Intent with Germany advances structured cooperation in telecommunications and digital governance. India deepened collaboration with Sweden & Finland in 5G, 6G, quantum technologies, renewables, defence, sustainability, and cybersecurity, including the **Sweden–India Technology and AI Corridor (SITAC)**. French President Emmanuel Macron's visited India at the invitation of Prime Minister: The two leaders inaugurated the "**2026 India–France Year of Innovation**" which will foster collaboration in AI, science and technology, sustainability, culture, startups, and research institutions.

India also expanded its **Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)** diplomacy, signing MoUs with 23 countries to share India Stack components such as digital identity, payments, and data exchange platforms. Payment interface - UPI now operates in eight countries, strengthening India's global fintech presence.

India introduced stricter IT Rules requiring **labelling and traceable metadata for AI-generated content** shifting platforms toward proactive monitoring of synthetic media. In telecom R&D, the Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC) signed an MoU with IIT Kharagpur to advance 6G, AI, satellite networks, & global standardization participation. Meanwhile, C-DOT partnered with Synergy Quantum to develop tools detecting quantum-vulnerable cryptography.

In **Green Technologies**, the **National Green Hydrogen Mission** advances large-scale production and cost reduction through incentives and transmission exemptions. India's Department of Science and Technology (DST) launched the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme to boost collaboration in green hydrogen research and strengthen deployment readiness in hydrogen technologies aligned with national clean energy priorities.

India has also unveiled a major push toward self-reliance in critical minerals with a approx. €678 million scheme to build integrated Rare Earth Permanent Magnet (REPM) manufacturing capacity.

Finally, on EU-INDIA, Indian Union Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) and the European Commission DG Connected have signed an administrative arrangement on interoperable electronic signatures and seals. The EU also launched a pilot European Legal Gateway Office in India to facilitate ICT mobility.

Details of the important SESEI activities during the month of February 2026 and list of upcoming events and conferences to be held in India are included in the newsletter.

Happy Reading!!

Best regards,
Dinesh Chand Sharma

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India – France Joint Statement - 2026 India-France Year of Innovation

At the invitation of Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri Narendra Modi, President of the French Republic H.E. Mr. Emmanuel Macron paid an official visit to India from 17 to 19 February 2026 and participated in the Artificial Intelligence Impact Summit 2026. During the visit, the two leaders held bilateral talks and jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation in Mumbai on 17 February. This is President Macron's 4th visit to India, and it follows Prime Minister Modi's visit to France in February 2025.

On this occasion, both leaders agreed to elevate relations to a "Special Global Strategic Partnership" to guide bilateral cooperation in the coming decades. The upgrading of relations reflects the growing ambitions and vision shared by the two leaders on India-France relationship, to act as a force for global good that can help build not only prosperity and resilience in their economies and advance their countries' security, but also work collectively towards addressing challenges in an increasingly uncertain global environment and, thus, help build a stable rules-based international order. Both countries celebrated the 25th anniversary of the Strategic Partnership in 2023, on the occasion of which they adopted the Horizon 2047 Roadmap to set the course for the bilateral relationship up to 2047, the centenary year of India's independence, the centenary of diplomatic relations between the two countries and 50 years of Strategic Partnership. The leaders established an annual Foreign Ministers Comprehensive Dialogue for regularly reviewing the progress of bilateral cooperation and implementation of the elevated partnership, and the Horizon 2047, in particular, in the areas of economic security, global issues and people to people exchanges.

Through the establishment of a Special Global Strategic Partnership, India and France are committed to deeper cooperation and coordination at bilateral, regional and global levels, guided by the India-France Horizon 2047 Roadmap.

Both Leaders, acknowledging the importance of advancing scientific knowledge, research and innovation, and the long and enduring engagement between India and France in these areas, **jointly inaugurated the 2026 India-France Year of Innovation.** This year will feature a series of high-impact collaborations in India and France spanning diverse sectors such as Innovation, Science and Technology, Cyberspace and Artificial Intelligence, Healthcare, Sustainable Development, Cultural and Creative Economy, and Research and Education. These engagements aim to enrich existing collaborations and foster new collaborations between startups, academic institutions, research bodies and industry, showcasing the shared commitment of India and France to co-develop solutions for a smarter, more sustainable future.

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Ease of Doing Business: India's Ongoing Regulatory Transformation

Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) has emerged as a cornerstone of India's economic reform agenda and is reaffirmed as a key pillar of growth and development. The Union Budget 2026-27 focuses on reforms aimed at digital trade facilitation, tax certainty, reduction in compliance and litigation, trust-based customs systems, and an investment-friendly tax regime. These measures build on sustained regulatory and institutional reforms undertaken over the past decade to simplify business procedures, enhance transparency, and reduce compliance burdens, thereby strengthening investor confidence across sectors.

The impact of these reforms is reflected in India's investment and enterprise expansion. During 2014–25, India attracted USD 748.38 billion in Foreign Direct Investment (FDI), a 143% increase over the previous 11-year period. Further, the number of active registered companies increased from 155K in 2020–21 to 198K in 2025–26 (as on 3 February 2026), indicating a growth of ~27% in 5 years. Continued Ease of Doing Business reforms (EoDB), aligned with the Viksit Bharat @2047 vision, will remain vital for strengthening global value chain linkages and driving industry-led growth.

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Digitization

AI Impact Summit 2026, New Delhi – Consolidated Report from SESEI Desk

The AI Impact Summit 2026, held in New Delhi on 18–19 February, concluded with the adoption of the **New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact**, marking a significant milestone in global cooperation on artificial intelligence. Prime Minister of India welcomed the world leaders, captains of industry, innovators, policymakers, researchers, and technology enthusiasts from across the globe to the AI Impact Summit at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi.

The declaration has been endorsed by 91 countries and international organisations including India, EU, Switzerland, Sweden, Spain, Netherlands, France, Germany, Finland etc., reflecting a broad-based global consensus on leveraging AI for economic growth and social good.

A Shared Global Vision for AI: Guided by the principle of Welfare for all, Happiness for all, the Declaration underscores that the benefits of AI must be **equitably shared across humanity.**

It emphasizes:

- Strengthening **international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement**
- Respecting **national sovereignty**
- Advancing AI through **accessible, and trustworthy frameworks**

Major Global Deliverables Announced

The Summit delivered a series of voluntary, collaborative global initiatives, including:

1. Charter for the Democratic Diffusion of AI

- Promotes **affordable access to foundational AI resources**
- Supports **locally relevant innovation ecosystems**

2. Global AI Impact Commons

- A platform to **scale and replicate AI use cases globally**
- Enables cross-country collaboration for **development impact**

3. Trusted AI Commons

- Repository of **tools, benchmarks, and best practices**
- Supports development of **secure and trustworthy AI systems**

4. International Network of AI for Science Institutions

- Facilitates **global scientific collaboration**
- Enhances AI-driven research capabilities

5. AI for Social Empowerment Platform

- Enables **knowledge exchange and scalable solutions**
- Focuses on equitable AI adoption

6. AI Workforce Development Playbook & Reskilling Principles

- Supports **AI skilling, reskilling, and literacy**
- Prepares nations for an **AI-driven economy**

7. Guiding Principles on Resilient & Efficient AI

- Focus on **energy-efficient AI systems**
- Supported by a **Playbook on AI Infrastructure Resilience**

Focus on Economic Growth and Efficiency: The Declaration highlights:

- The role of AI in **driving economic transformation**
- Importance of **open-source and accessible AI ecosystems**
- Need for **energy-efficient AI infrastructure**
- Expanding AI's role in **science, governance, and public service delivery**

Strengthening Global Cooperation: Participants reaffirmed their commitment to:

- Advancing **shared global priorities in AI governance**
- Promoting **voluntary, non-binding frameworks**
- Translating vision into **action through continued collaboration**

The Summit is expected to catalyze **long-term international partnerships** and position AI as a key driver of economic growth.

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India and Germany Reaffirm Cooperation in Telecommunications and Digital Transformation Following Signing of Joint Declaration of Intent

A bilateral meeting was held on 18 Feb 2026 between Union Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, India, and Federal Minister for Digital Transformation and Government Modernization, Federal Republic of Germany, to advance cooperation in telecommunications and digital transformation under the broader Indo-German Strategic Partnership. The discussions reflected mutual respect and appreciation for each other's technological achievements, with both ministers agreeing that the present times offer significant opportunity for deeper collaboration in telecom and emerging technologies.

The meeting assumes significance since it followed the signing of the Joint Declaration of Intent (JDI) on 10 January 2026 during the India–Germany Summit, which establishes a forward-looking & non-binding framework for structured collaboration in telecommunications and digital governance under the broader Indo-German Strategic Partnership.

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Republic of Finland on the Margins of the AI Impact Summit

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi met with H.E. Mr. Petteri Orpo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Finland in New Delhi on 18 Feb 2026 on the margins of the AI Impact Summit. Both leaders welcomed the recent conclusion of the India-EU FTA during the 16th India-EU Summit, which will serve as a catalyst for shared progress and prosperity. They committed to continuing efforts to further enhance bilateral relations in the spirit of the India-EU Strategic Partnership.

The leaders underscored the pivotal role of digitalization and sustainability in driving future economic growth and development. In this context, they recognized and welcomed the increasing presence of their leading technology companies in each other's economies through expanded operations and partnerships. The Finnish Prime Minister applauded India's vision for just and inclusive AI development.

The leaders called for doubling bilateral trade and greater technology collaboration, including in co-development of quantum and 6G, renewables, circular economy and defence. They also exchanged views on regional and global developments, and on greater cooperation in global governance.

The leaders looked forward to enhancing bilateral engagement including meeting again at the 3rd India-Nordic Summit later this year.

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India and Sweden Convene Bilateral Talks to Strengthen Strategic Cooperation in Telecommunications and Digital Innovation

India and Sweden Chart Future-Ready Collaboration in 5G, 6G, Open RAN, Quantum Technologies, and Cybersecurity. A bilateral meeting was held on 18 February 2026 between Union Minister of Communications and Development of the North Eastern Region, India, and Deputy Prime Minister of Sweden and Minister for Energy, Business, and Industry, at Sanchar Bhawan, New Delhi, to review ongoing cooperation and explore new avenues of collaboration in telecommunications and digital transformation, with discussions also reflecting Sweden's emphasis on sustainability, inclusive enterprise development, and sustained global climate leadership.

Both sides reaffirmed that digital and telecom cooperation constitutes a key pillar of the India–Sweden strategic partnership, reflecting shared priorities in next-generation connectivity, secure digital infrastructure, innovation-driven growth, and sustainability, with emphasis on ensuring that digital transformation remains inclusive, economically viable, and aligned with clean energy transitions. Both sides acknowledged the India–Sweden Joint Working Group (JWG) on Digital Technologies and Economy, which serves as the principal institutional mechanism for structured policy and technical engagement. The two sides expressed intention for early scheduling of the third JWG meeting in Stockholm to advance implementation-oriented outcomes.

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India and Sweden Deepen AI Partnership Through SITAC Framework

IndiaAI Mission and Business Sweden to establish Sweden–India Technology and Artificial Intelligence Corridor (SITAC). Partnership aims to strengthen bilateral AI collaboration, promote trade and investment, and drive responsible, scalable digital innovation

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India Orders Strict Labels on AI-Generated Content from February 20, 2026

India has notified new IT Rules amendments that will force social and digital platform to verify and clearly label AI-generated or synthetic media starting 20 February 2026.

The changes issued by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), shift big platforms from a passive "host and remove on complaint" model to active gatekeeping of synthetic content. Significant social media intermediaries must now ask uploaders whether their content is AI-generated and use technical systems to check these claims before publication. If material is found to be synthetic, it must carry a prominent AI label and non-removable metadata or provenance makers so it can be treated back to the source service.

The rules target "synthetically generated information" such as deepfake videos, voice-cloned audio and other AI-manipulated or AI-created posts that could mislead users. Platforms are barred from letting users strips or hide these labels and can face lost of safe-harbour protections if they knowingly allow unlabelled synthetic content to spread. Separately, the government has also set a three-hour deadline for taking down flagged AI-generated or deepfake content that is objectionable or unlawful, further tightening enforcement.

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India has signed MoU / agreements with 23 countries for cooperation on Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

Government of India has signed Memorandum of understanding (MoU)/ agreements with 23 countries for sharing or cooperation on India Stack / Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), primarily for replication and adoption of India's digital governance platforms. These MoUs focus on cooperation in areas such as digital identity, digital payments, data exchange and service delivery platforms, aligned with India's broader DPI diplomacy under the India Stack framework.

UPI is now live in over eight countries, including the UAE, Singapore, Bhutan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, France, Mauritius and Qatar, positioning India as a global leader in digital payments. Its growing international adoption is boosting remittances, promoting financial inclusion, and strengthening India's position in the global fintech landscape.

MoUs have been signed with Cuba, Kenya, United Arab Emirates and Lao People's Democratic Republic (LPDR) for Digilocker.

Apart from this, the Government of India has taken measures to share the success of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) globally. **India Stack Global** showcases India's DPI and facilitates its adoption by friendly countries. The portal provides access to **18** key digital platforms.

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TEC signs MoU with IIT Kharagpur for collaboration on Joint Studies and Technical Contributions in Telecom Technologies and Standardisation Activities

The Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC), the technical arm of the Dept. of Telecommunications (DoT), Government of India, has signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the **Indian Institute of Technology, Kharagpur (IIT Kharagpur)** to collaborate on joint studies, research, and technical contributions in advanced telecom technologies and global standardisation activities.

The partnership aims to develop India-specific standards in future network technologies such as 6G, Optical communication, NTNs along with Joint collaboration in telecom technologies such as Passive Optical Network technology, Advanced Antenna Systems, MIMO technologies for 5G and future wireless networks, Electromagnetic Fields monitoring solutions, etc. The partnership also aims to enhance India's participation in International Telecommunication Union's Standardization sector (ITU-T) and other Global forums.

Key Areas of Collaboration:

- **6G:** Exploration of 6G architecture and enabling technologies with contributions to research, pre-standardization and standardization activities in global forums such as ITU.
- **AI-Enabled Telecom Systems:** Joint research & development and standardization of EMF monitoring solutions, including smart IoT sensor development through AI & Safety Lab frameworks, for enhanced public safety and regulatory compliance.
- **Radio, Antenna & MIMO Technologies:** Collaborative research in advanced antenna systems, massive MIMO and related radio access technologies.
- **Satellite & Non-Terrestrial Networks (NTNs):** Joint studies in satellite communication systems, NTNs, HAPS and satellite-terrestrial integration, including disaster-resilient and emergency connectivity solutions.

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C-DOT Signs an Agreement with Synergy Quantum to Develop Automated Tool for Quantum-Vulnerable Crypto Algorithm Discovery

The Centre for Development of Telematics (C-DOT), the premier telecommunications R&D institution has signed an agreement with Synergy Quantum India Private Limited, a deep-tech sovereign quantum security company providing comprehensive post-quantum cryptography solutions across both hardware and software domains.

The Agreement aims to jointly develop an automated tool to detect, classify, and report quantum-vulnerable cryptographic algorithms in target devices. The primary objective of this project is to build an automated tool that scans a device and identifies the cryptographic algorithms and security mechanism it uses. The tool will detect all security vulnerabilities and then clearly distinguish between quantum-safe and quantum-vulnerable algorithms. Finally, it will generate a detailed report highlighting quantum-vulnerable algorithms, their purpose, and their exact location within the device to support informed migration planning toward quantum-safe security.

The solution will comprise of three core modules:

- **Web Application:** External black-box scanning (with/without login) for network traffic, vulnerability assessment and quantum risks.
- **Security Scanner Agent:** Internal scan of libraries, on device for endpoint and container security.
- **Control Software:** Manages agent install/uninstall, runs scans, aggregates data into unified reports on all vulnerabilities.

This collaboration is expected to deliver a fully integrated, commercially deployable solution that will revolutionize how organizations assess their cryptographic readiness for the quantum era.

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Launch of India Semiconductor Mission (ISM) 2.0

The **Union Budget 2026–27** marked a decisive moment for India's technology ambitions with the announcement of **India Semiconductor Mission 2.0**. The new phase signals a clear policy push to deepen domestic semiconductor capabilities at a time when chips underpin every critical digital and industrial system. ISM 2.0 will focus on producing semiconductor equipment and materials in India, designing full stack Indian semiconductor intellectual property, and fortifying both domestic and global supply chains. A **provision of Rs. 1,000 crores (approx. €93 million)** has been made for ISM 2.0 for FY 2026–27, with a strong emphasis on industry led research and training centres to drive technology development and create a future ready skilled workforce.

Semiconductors are the backbone of modern electronics, powering computers, mobile devices, telecommunications, automobiles, defence systems and artificial intelligence. India has made steady progress in consolidating earlier investments into a full-stack value chain of its semiconductor ecosystem under ISM 1.0, expanding design capabilities and advancing fabrication, assembly and testing infrastructure across the country. This momentum reflects the broader vision of Aatmanirbhar Bharat and India's transition from policy formulation to production readiness. Building on these gains, ISM 2.0 seeks to consolidate India's position as a reliable and competitive participant in the global semiconductor network.

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Notification:

- TRAI issues the Telecommunication (Broadcasting and Cable) Services Interconnection (Addressable Systems) (Seventh Amendment) Regulations, 2026

Green and Clean Technologies

Government Undertaking Measures to Optimise Energy Mix and Reduce Costs for Green Hydrogen Production

The Government of India is implementing the National Green Hydrogen Mission (NGHM), with an objective to make India a global hub of production, usage and export of Green Hydrogen and its derivatives. India's Green Hydrogen production capacity is likely to reach 5 Million Metric Tonnes per annum by 2030.

Significant steps have been taken under NGHM for reducing the cost of green hydrogen, details of which are provided below:

1. Under the incentive scheme for Electrolyser Manufacturing, 15 companies have been awarded a total manufacturing capacity of 3,000 MW per annum. The total incentive awarded is Rs. 4440 crores **(approx. €413 million).**
2. Under the incentive scheme for Green Hydrogen production, 18 companies have been awarded a cumulative production capacity of 8,62,000 tonnes per annum.
3. Under the incentive scheme for procurement of Green Hydrogen for refineries, 2 companies have been awarded a total capacity of 20,000 tonnes per annum.
4. Prices have been discovered by Solar Energy Corporation of India for the production and supply of 7,24,000 tonnes per annum of Green Ammonia (a derivative of Green Hydrogen) to 13 fertilizer units across India.

Other steps taken to facilitate reduction in green hydrogen cost, are as follows:

1. Green Hydrogen/Green Ammonia Plants commissioned on or before 31.12.2030, and which utilize renewable energy for the production of green hydrogen or green ammonia, have been granted exemption from the payment of Inter State Transmission System (ISTS) charges for a period of 25 years, starting from the date of commissioning of the project.
2. Duty benefits under Section 26 of SEZ Act, 2005 have been allowed to the units for installation as well as Operation and Maintenance (O&M) of renewable energy equipment exclusively for captive consumption of the unit.

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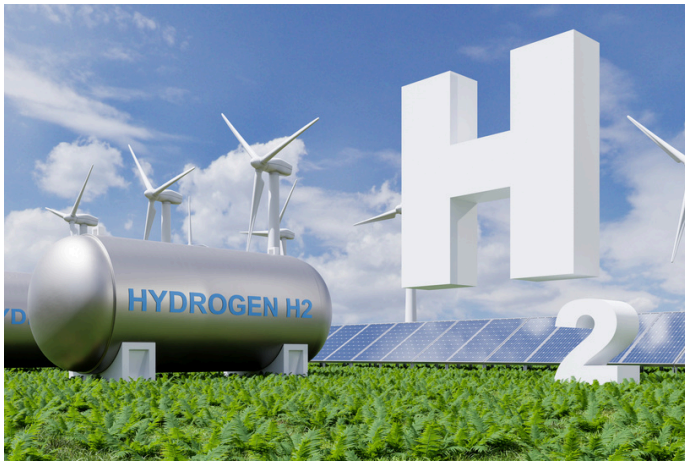
DST Strengthens India–Netherlands Cooperation in Green Hydrogen Research and Capacity Building



The Department of Science and Technology (DST), Govt. of India strengthened India–Netherlands scientific cooperation in clean energy with the launch of the India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme, and the hosting of the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the University of Groningen, Netherlands, and 19 Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) to establish an enabling academic cooperation framework in green energy and hydrogen research.

The India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme for which the Scheme Guidelines and Call for Proposals (CFP) was released , is a national capacity-building initiative open to eligible Indian doctoral, postdoctoral, and faculty applicants across institutions.

The India–Netherlands Hydrogen Fellowship Programme aims to strengthen India's deployment readiness in hydrogen technologies through structured exposure to advanced hydrogen ecosystems in the Netherlands, with emphasis on system integration, safety, techno-economic analysis, life-cycle assessment, and indigenisation pathways. The fellowship is designed to ensure that research outcomes directly contribute to national clean energy priorities.

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India hosts ITU-led Study Tour on International Exchange Initiative on Regulating E-Waste and Engaging Tech Companies

The Indian edition of **International Exchange Initiative on Regulating E-waste and Engaging Tech Companies – Creating a Circular Economy for Electricals and Electronics** commenced in New Delhi. Organised by the **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)**, with support from the **Presidential Agency for International Cooperation of Colombia (APC** Colombia), and in collaboration with India's Department of Telecommunications (DoT), the five-day India Study Tour (from **9 to 13 February 2026**) forms part of a global initiative aimed at strengthening e-waste governance and accelerating the transition towards a circular economy across participating countries.

India as a hub for global knowledge exchange

As one of the world's fastest-growing digital economies, India is uniquely positioned at the intersection of innovation, sustainability and regulation. With nearly one billion internet users and globally benchmarked digital public infrastructure—such as UPI processing over 12 billion monthly transactions—E waste has emerged as a critical policy and implementation challenge.

Read more

India's Rare Earth Strategy: Manufacturing, Corridors, and Global Integration

India is taking decisive steps toward **self-reliance in critical materials** by establishing a domestic ecosystem for **Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs)** - high-performance magnets essential for electric vehicles, wind turbines, electronics, aerospace, and defence. To support this goal, the government approved a **₹7,280 crore (approx. €678 million) scheme** to develop **6,000 MTPA of integrated REPM manufacturing capacity** in November 2025, covering the full value chain from rare-earth oxides to finished magnets.

Complementing this, the **Union Budget 2026–27** has announced the creation of **Dedicated Rare Earth Corridors** in **Odisha, Kerala, Andhra Pradesh, and Tamil Nadu** to promote **mining, processing, research, and manufacturing.**

Strategic Importance and Resource Potential of Rare Earth Permanent Magnets in India

Rare Earth Permanent Magnets (REPMs) are among the **strongest types of permanent magnets**, known for their high magnetic strength and stability. Their compact size and powerful performance make them indispensable for advanced engineering applications such as **electric vehicle motors, wind turbine generators, consumer and industrial electronics, aerospace systems, defence equipment, & precision sensors.**

As India expands its manufacturing footprint in clean energy, advanced mobility, and strategic sectors, a **reliable domestic supply of REPMs** is critical. It not only reduces import dependence but also strengthens India's competitiveness in global value chains for advanced materials.

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Notification:

- Amendment to Procedure for inclusion-updating Wind Turbine Model in the Approved list of Models and Manufacturers of Wind Turbine

EU/EFTA-India

MeitY Signs Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals with DG CONNECT of European Commission

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India, and the Directorate-General for Communication Networks, Content and Technology (DG CONNECT) of the European Commission have signed an Administrative Arrangement on Advanced Electronic Signatures and Seals on 27 January 2026.

The arrangement was signed by the Secretary, MeitY, and the Director-General, DG CONNECT. The cooperation will be implemented by MeitY through the Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA), in line with India's legal and regulatory framework according to the applicable provisions of the Information Technology Act, 2000 within the established framework regulated by Controller of Certifying Authorities (CCA).

The arrangement provides a framework for cooperation on interoperability of electronic signatures, electronic seals, and Public Key Infrastructure (PKI) systems, consistent with the laws of India and European Union with the aim to strengthen India–EU digital cooperation by promoting the use of secure and trusted electronic signatures and seals in cross-border digital transactions and trade.

Under this cooperation, India and the European Union intend to link their respective trusted lists of recognised service providers thus helping in easier validation of electronic signatures and seals issued in India and the European Union for cross-border use. The arrangement lays the foundation for deeper cooperation in the future.

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EU and India Launch Talks on Horizon Europe Association

The European Commission and India have launched exploratory discussions on the possible association to Horizon Europe. The launch of these talks follows the 16th EU–India Summit in New Delhi, where leaders from both sides reaffirmed their commitment to deepening strategic cooperation across trade, security, science, innovation and mobility.

Ekaterina Zaharieva, European Commissioner for Startups, Research, and Innovation, said: "Science works best when borders do not get in the way of ideas. Exploring India's association to Horizon Europe is about connecting talent, ambition and trust, and building solutions together at global scale."

If India becomes associated, Indian researchers and institutions would be able to receive funding directly from Horizon Europe and lead projects, with India making a financial contribution to the programme.

R&I cooperation with India

EU-India cooperation on research and innovation is governed by the Agreement for Scientific and Technological Cooperation signed in 2001 and recently renewed until 2030 at the New Delhi summit.

The Joint EU–India Comprehensive Strategic Agenda Towards 2030 places research and innovation at the centre of the strategic partnership and includes the launch of exploratory talks on Horizon Europe association as a concrete deliverable.

In recent years, this cooperation has also been strengthened through the EU–India Trade and Technology Council (TTC). Commissioner Zaharieva's visit to India last year, including exchanges in the TTC context, helped advance shared priorities and reinforce links between research and innovation ecosystems on both sides.

Horizon Europe Global

Association to the EU's Framework Programme for Research and Innovation is **the closest form of international cooperation in science and technology** between the European Union and a non-EU country.

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Launch of the European Legal Gateway Office Pilot

The European Union launched the first-ever European Legal Gateway Office in India, in New Delhi in the presence of Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Tech Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, Dr S. Jaishankar, Minister of External Affairs of India. Representatives of the EU Member States also took part in the event.

The European Legal Gateway Office in India is the first of its kind in a partner country and will facilitate safe, legal, and well-informed migration and mobility from India to EU Member States in the ICT sector. It will support Indian students, researchers, and professionals in the ICT sector by providing clear and reliable information on mobility pathways and their various skills and qualification requirements, across all the 27 EU Member States. It will also support EU-based employers and higher education institutions to engage with Indian talent.

The European Legal Gateway Office in India will operate through three connected pillars: a Gateway Office in India, a Support Office in the EU and a Digital tool that will function as a one-stop hub for clear and reliable information on work, study and research mobility opportunities.

The European Legal Gateway Office pilot in India was announced at the 16th EU-India Summit held on 27 January 2026 in New Delhi by President of the European Commission von der Leyen and also in the Joint Communication on the new EU-India Strategic Agenda and in the Union of Skills Communication.

Henna Virkkunen, Executive Vice-President for Technological Sovereignty, Security and Democracy, European Commission stated.

"Digital skills are the backbone of the digital transition. Thanks to the European Legal Gateway Office in India, the European Union will boost its capacity of being a magnet for talent and will attract the Indian students, researchers and professionals in the ICT sector. European companies will be able to tap into this larger pool of talent which will help to strengthen European competitiveness."

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Whitepaper/Publication

Reimagination Ahead roadmap released by the NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub	NITI Aayog's Frontier Tech Hub has released a ten-year roadmap on 'Technology Services – Reimagination Ahead', outlining how India's ~$265B technology services sector can scale to $750–850B by 2035 while strengthening global competitiveness in the AI era and supporting the Viksit Bharat 2047 vision. The roadmap spotlights that artificial intelligence marks a structural shift in the industry: value will move from labour-arbitrage services toward IP-led, outcome-oriented, and platform-driven delivery models. Read More/Download
NITI Aayog Releases Study Reports on Scenarios Towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero	NITI Aayog released eleven study reports on **Scenarios towards Viksit Bharat and Net Zero, entailing** a scenario-based analytic modelling exercise that integrates economic growth, India's development priorities, and climate commitments. The study has been informed by ten inter-ministerial working groups that examined long-term transition scenarios across key domains like macroeconomic aspects of the transition; sectoral low carbon transition in power, transport, industry, buildings, and agriculture; financing for climate action; critical minerals; R&D and manufacturing; and the social implications of the transition. NITI Aayog undertook this comprehensive assessment to inform long-term policy planning. Read More/Download

SESEI Key Activities (February 26)

- **Meeting with EFTA Desk at Invest India:** SESEI held an introductory meeting with officials from Invest India's EFTA Desk. During the meeting, SESEI provided an overview of Project SESEI, BIS Quality Control Orders (QCOs), and the Indian Agency study along with its key recommendations on QCOs.
- **Meeting with official from European Commission:** to discuss on identification of digitalisation project aimed at improving the standardisation process in India—particularly to enhance transparency and accessibility for EU stakeholders.
- **10th Meeting of the LITD 34 Smart Manufacturing Sectional Committee:** Discussion on new work item proposals, updates on the standards from IEC SC 65 and IEC TC 65, ongoing research and development projects for the formulation and revision of Indian Standards.
- **Second Meeting of TEC Working Group on "Metaverse and its use cases":** SESEI has provided a short report covering EU status on Metaverse for both Policy and Standards.
- **Meeting on Circular Economy for Telecom with BIF officials:** key issues and challenges related to the Circular Economy in the telecom sector, including regulatory, standardization, and implementation aspects.
- **Meeting with the Chair, Standards Committee, IEEE Sensors Council:** Discussion on international standardization activities, including ETSI, 3GPP, oneM2M, as well as IEEE standards related to sensors and IoT.

SESEI Key Activities (February 26)

- **Session at the National Telecommunications Institute for Policy Research, Innovation and Training (NTIPRIT):** The SESEI expert delivered a presentation on ETSI, covering its organisational structure, functions, governance mechanisms, the role of the Secretariat, technical work around emerging technologies.
- **IEEE APSCON 2026:** The SESEI expert attended the session "Sensors Standards Opportunity" as a distinguished speaker and provided updates on standardization work undertaken by ETSI, oneM2M, and 3GPP in the area of Sensor and IoT standardization, including topics such as eHealth and Smart Body Area Networks.
- **India–AI Impact Summit 2026, organised by the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY), Government of India:** The SESEI expert actively participated in multiple workshops and sessions during the Summit:
  - **FEBI Roundtable on "Opportunities for EU–India Collaboration for Twin Transition", organised jointly with the EU–India Digital Policy Dialogue:** Discussions contributed towards shaping a collaborative roadmap with concrete implementation strategies for the EU–India Twin Transition.
  - **Thematic Session on "Safe and Trusted AI - Standardization in the Age of LLMs, Generative and Agentic AI", organised by BIS:** Discussions emphasized how standards can foster innovation while ensuring responsible development, deployment, and governance of advanced AI systems, and identified key opportunities and challenges in AI adoption.
- **GIZ EU / India DPI Interoperability Study: Workshop 1:** GIZ has commissioned a feasibility study on enabling interoperability between the EU Digital Identity Wallet (EUDI) and India's digital identity systems, namely Aadhaar and DigiLocker. Workshop presented scope, timelines, roadmap for future workshops and stakeholder contributions. SESEI expert attended the workshop and shared his inputs/comments.

Key Reports Published by SESEI

- Indian Standardizations Landscape Report (March 2025) & Its Presentation
- Report on Sector Profile Report on "Digitalisation" – September 2025 : India & its Presentation
- Bureau of Indian Standards- BIS Catalogue (July 2025) & Its Presentation
- Market Access Report (February 2026)

List of Draft/Published Standards

Bureau of Indian Standards(BIS):

- For the list of draft standards under wide circulation at BIS, please click here>>

Telecommunication Engineering Centre (TEC):

- For the list of Standards/specifications and Essential Requirements developed by TEC, please click here>>

Telecommunications Standards Development Society, India (TSDSI):

- List of Work Items (WI), Study work items contributions and New Item Proposals is available here>>

Upcoming Events

India Smart Utility Week 2026 (ISUW)

When: 10 - 14 Mar 2026
Where: New Delhi, India

The 12th edition of ISUW is scheduled from 10 - 14 March 2026 in New Delhi, India, as an International Conference and Exhibition on Smart Energy and Smart Mobility. ISUW 2026 will include plenary sessions, special & bilateral workshops, keynotes, roundtables, technical sessions, technical paper presentations, tutorials, and technical tours. Bilateral Smart Grid Workshops with UK, USA, Brazil, and Indonesia are also being planned. The 10th edition of ISGF Innovation Awards will be organized as part of ISUW 2025 on 13 March 2026

More Information

Solar Power Congress 2026

When: 12 March 2026
Where: Hyatt Regency, New Delhi, India

Solar Power Congress will convene key stakeholders, industry experts, policymakers, and thought leaders to explore and discuss critical topics, including policy frameworks, innovative business models, cutting-edge technologies, and investment opportunities. The event aims to provide a platform for insightful dialogue on India's energy transition journey and the pivotal role of the solar industry within it. Attendees will gain valuable perspectives and learn best practices that are reshaping the industry, ensuring a sustainable and resilient future for India's solar sector.

More Information

International Workshop on 6G Standardization

When: 18 March 2026
Where: Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi

International Workshop on 6G Standardisation 2026 is a high-level global forum organised by the Telecommunication Engineering Centre under the Department of Telecommunications, Government of India. The workshop brings together policymakers, industry leaders, standards bodies, researchers, and international experts to deliberate on emerging 6G technologies and global standardisation priorities. The programme features keynote addresses and strategic discussions on future network architectures, AI-native communication systems, spectrum strategy, and India’s role in shaping the global 6G standards ecosystem.

More Information

Upcoming Events

Global Energy Conclave & Conference

When: 19–22 March 2026
Where: New Delhi

A global energy summit, exhibition & conference designed to advance international collaboration in energy technologies and sustainability. It brings policymakers, innovators, investors, and industry leaders from many countries together to discuss energy transition, decarbonisation, grids, renewable fuels, storage, digital systems, and more.

More Information

AI Bharat Expo

When: 23-25 March 2026
Where: Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi

AI Bharat Expo is a leading Artificial Intelligence exhibition and conference in India that brings together industry leaders, innovators, startups, policymakers, and researchers to showcase AI technologies, applications, and collaborations shaping the future of AI in India and globally.

More Information

India's 6G Vision & Future Networks Summit 2026

When: 30 March 2026
Where: Le Meridien, Delhi

India’s 6G Vision & Future Networks Summit 2026 is a premier platform bringing together policymakers, telecom leaders, researchers, and innovators to shape India’s roadmap for 6G and next-generation networks. Held on 30 March 2026 at Hotel Le Meridien, New Delhi, the summit will feature visionary keynotes, high-level discussions on spectrum, AI-native networks, sustainability, and policy, along with insights into future telecom infrastructure and networking opportunities across the ecosystem.

More Information

ABOUT PROJECT

The SESEI project (Seconded European Standardization Expert in India) is a project cofunded by five European partners, operating from New Delhi, India, with the objective to increase the visibility of European standardization in India and to promote EU/EFTA-India cooperation on standards and related activities. The SESEI Project (http://sesei.eu/) is managed by the European Telecommunications Standards Institute (ETSI - http://www.etsi.org/ and is further supported by two other EU recognized Standards Organization, namely the European Committee for Standardization (CEN) and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardization (CENELEC) – http://www.cencenelec.eu, as well as by the European Commission (www.ec.europa.eu) and the European Free Trade Association (http://www.efta.int/). It is a Standardization focused project, with a priority emphasis on the sectors falling under Digitization and Clean & Green Technologies etc.

SESEI | Seconded European Standardisation Expert in India

Enabling Europe-India Cooperation on Standards

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