

Bharat Digital Samvad

From Adoption to Command.

Architecting India’s Sovereign Digital Future

Document Type

Master Proposal — Event Concept Note

Prepared by

Consocia Advisory

Proposed Date

22nd May, 2026

Classification

Confidential — For Stakeholder Review & Approval

A Defining Moment for India’s Digital Future

India stands at an inflection point. The question is no longer whether India can digitise — it has done so at a scale that astonishes the world. The question is whether India will control the digital infrastructure that underpins its economy, security, and sovereignty.

The BDIA Foundation Forum is India’s answer to that question. It is the formal institutional launch of the Bharat Digital Infrastructure Association — a not-for-profit industry body representing over 40 domestic technology companies spanning cloud, Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI), sovereign compute, cybersecurity, and critical data infrastructure.

This event is not a conference. It is a national convening — a structured, high-level dialogue between government decision-makers, industry operators, academia, and standards bodies — designed to align India’s most consequential digital stakeholders around a shared sovereign agenda.

"The Forum will establish BDIA as the credible, neutral, and policy-aligned institutional voice for India’s digital sovereignty stack — bridging the gap between infrastructure reality and governance ambition."

At a Glance

Event Name	Bharat Digital Samvad — The BDIA Foundation Forum
Sub-title	From Adoption to Command. Architecting India’s Sovereign Digital Future
Theme	Digital Sovereignty, Cloud & India’s DPI Future
Date	22 nd Mid-2026
Duration	4 hours (with Networking Reception and Dinner)
Venue	TBD
Attendance	~100 curated stakeholders
Chief Guest	TBD
Host Body	BDIA — Bharat Digital Infrastructure Association
Event Partner	Consocia Advisory
Panel Structure	Three panels, each mapped to one layer of India’s Sovereignty Stack
Post-Event Output	Policy White Paper (within 7 days)

Three Defining Ambitions

The Foundation Forum is oriented around three mutually reinforcing strategic outcomes:

01 Institutional Legitimisation	02 Policy Architecture	03 Ecosystem Convergence
Establish BDIA as the recognised, neutral home for India’s sovereign digital agenda, acknowledged by government, industry, and international partners.	Generate concrete frameworks: Sovereign Cloud Registry, Compute Certification Standard, and DPI Export Governance Mechanism.	Transform a launch event into a sustained institutional programme — seeding three working groups and a second Forum mandate.

The Sovereignty Imperative

The global digital order is being restructured. Nations that built their digital economies on convenience are now rebuilding them on control. India must not be a passive recipient of this restructuring — it must be its architect.

The Global Shift: From Adoption to Sovereignty

Across the world, governments are re-evaluating their digital architectures through the lens of sovereignty. The United States has enacted restrictions on foreign technology in critical infrastructure. The European Union has mandated data residency and cloud sovereignty for sensitive government workloads. China has built an entirely domestic digital stack. Smaller nations — from Singapore to Brazil — are developing national cloud strategies.

India's trajectory is distinct, and in many ways more complex. India is simultaneously a leading digital services exporter, a pioneer in Digital Public Infrastructure, and a country whose foundational digital layers — cloud, compute, hardware — remain significantly dependent on foreign platforms. This asymmetry is India's most pressing digital challenge.

India's Digital Sovereignty Stack: Three Layers of Control

India's sovereignty agenda operates across three interdependent layers. Each layer represents both a vulnerability to address and an opportunity to capture — and each layer maps directly to one of the Forum's three panels:

Layer 1: Foundational Infrastructure & Compute — 'Data Bhumi'

India's data centres, compute capacity, hardware ecosystems, and network infrastructure form the physical backbone of its digital economy. These are not merely technology assets — they are national strategic assets, the digital soil (Data Bhumi) upon which India's entire digital future is grown. Strengthening domestic ownership, certification, and operational control of this layer is non-negotiable.

Layer 2: Control Layer — Cloud, Platforms & DPI — 'Sovereign Architecture'

Cloud architecture, data governance, and Digital Public Infrastructure systems determine how digital services are built, scaled, and governed. India's DPI stack — Aadhaar, UPI, ONDC, DPDP — represents a global-scale proof of concept. The next frontier is ensuring that the platforms enabling these services are governed by sovereign-aligned policies, trusted architectures, and domestic capability.

Layer 3: Governance Layer — Udyog Setu — Building the Digital Industrial Landscape

Regulatory frameworks, certification systems, and procurement models shape how infrastructure and platforms are adopted, trusted, and scaled. Without a coherent governance architecture — one that operationalises 'sovereign' as a verifiable standard, not merely a political aspiration — India's infrastructure and platform investments remain vulnerable to fragmentation and dependency.

The Cost of Inaction

The absence of a coordinated sovereignty agenda carries tangible and escalating costs:

- **Digital Trade Deficit:** India's cloud spending overwhelmingly flows to foreign hyperscalers, representing a structural digital trade deficit that expands with every digitisation initiative.
- **Supply Chain Vulnerability:** Dependence on foreign compute and hardware creates systemic exposure to geopolitical disruption, as demonstrated by global semiconductor and cloud outage episodes.
- **Data Colonisation Risk:** Without clear data jurisdiction frameworks, India's most sensitive citizen and enterprise data resides in architectures governed by foreign legal regimes.
- **Missed Economic Multiplier:** Every rupee of tech spending that stays in the domestic ecosystem creates employment, IP, and tax revenue. The inverse is equally true.

Why a Dedicated Platform is Necessary: The BDIA Differentiation

India already has capable industry bodies — NASSCOM, IMAI, CII, FICCI. Each plays a vital role. BDIA is not a competitor; it occupies a distinct and unoccupied space:

- **Sovereignty-First Mandate:** BDIA is the only industry association whose core mandate is explicitly sovereign-aligned — focused on the intersection of domestic capability, trusted infrastructure, and national digital policy.
- **Deep-Tech & Product Company Representation:** BDIA's membership is built around domestic product companies and deep-tech innovators, not services exporters or platform resellers — giving it a unique voice in procurement and standards discussions.
- **Policy-Industry Bridge Function:** BDIA is designed to function as a structured, neutral feedback loop between government policy intent and industry operational reality — a function that currently has no dedicated institutional home.

03 / THE INSTITUTION

BDIA: Bharat Digital Infrastructure Association

BDIA is a not-for-profit industry body established to advance India's digital sovereignty, cloud independence, and indigenous technology capabilities. It is the institutional embodiment of India's Digital Swaraj — self-rule in the digital age.

Membership & Representation

BDIA brings together over 40 member organisations spanning the full breadth of India's domestic digital technology ecosystem:

- Domestic cloud providers and sovereign compute firms
- Digital Public Infrastructure builders and operators
- Cybersecurity and trusted infrastructure companies
- Critical data infrastructure providers
- Deep-tech innovators and hardware ecosystem players
- OEMs and standards-adjacent technology firms

Institutional Positioning

BDIA is positioned as a high-level Government–Industry–Academia convening platform. Its institutional design reflects three core principles:

CREDIBILITY	Credibility BDIA leadership does not sit on panels or advocate for individual member interests — it facilitates structured dialogue and synthesises institutional positions.
RELEVANCE	Relevance BDIA engages at the level of policy architecture — procurement frameworks, certification standards, data jurisdiction models — not at the level of generalist advocacy.
CONTINUITY	Continuity Every BDIA convening generates a documented policy output — white papers, recommendations, implementation pathways — ensuring cumulative institutional impact.

Strategic Intent: Three Core Outcomes

- 1. Institutional Legitimation**

Establish BDIA as the credible, neutral, and policy-aligned institutional home for India’s digital sovereignty agenda — recognised by government ministries, industry operators, academia, and international partners as the definitive platform for sovereign digital dialogue.
- 2. Policy Architecture Contribution**

Move beyond ‘narrative’ and ‘visibility’ to generate tangible policy contributions: proposed frameworks for a National Sovereign Cloud Registry, a Domestic Compute Certification Standard, and a structured mechanism for DPI export governance.
- 3. Ecosystem Convergence & Activation**

Create a structured, ongoing mechanism for government, industry, and academia to align on India’s digital sovereignty priorities — transforming a launch event into a sustained institutional programme.

04 / THE FORUM — EVENT DESIGN

A National Convening, Not a Conference

The BDIA Foundation Forum is designed as a high-signal, low-noise policy conclave. Every design decision — from the curated attendance to the structured panel architecture — is oriented toward generating durable policy outcomes, not event optics.

Core Narrative: Digital Swaraj

The Forum will be anchored in the concept of Digital Swaraj — India’s right and responsibility to exercise self-determination in the digital domain. This framing connects the technical architecture of the sovereignty stack to India’s deeper national ethos of self-reliance, extending the spirit of Atmanirbhar Bharat into the digital infrastructure layer.

"India did not build the world’s most ambitious Digital Public Infrastructure to hand its control layer to foreign platforms. Digital Swaraj is not a political slogan — it is an operational imperative."

The ‘Bharat Model’: India as the Third Way

India’s DPI journey has already demonstrated that there is an alternative to both the Silicon Valley model (private platform dominance) and the authoritarian model (state-controlled digital ecosystems). The Bharat Model — open, interoperable, sovereign, citizen-first — is a viable and replicable framework for the developing world. The Forum will consciously position India not merely as a digital sovereignty seeker, but as a digital sovereignty exporter.

Programme Architecture

TIME	SESSION	FORMAT / NOTES
3:00 – 3:30 PM	Registration & Arrival	Curated check-in; no general public
3:30 – 3:40 PM	Welcome Address — BDIA Chairperson	Sets institutional context; introduces BDIA’s mandate and the Digital Swaraj vision

TIME	SESSION	FORMAT / NOTES
3:40 – 3:45 PM	AI-Generated BDIA Brand Film Launch	60-second film; visual narrative of India's digital sovereignty journey
3:45 – 4:00 PM	Inaugural Keynote — Chief Guest	Government's vision for sovereign digital infrastructure
4:00 – 4:45 PM	Panel 1: Securing India's Data Bhumi — Foundational Infrastructure & Sovereign Compute	See Panel Architecture section
4:45 – 5:30 PM	Panel 2: From Residency to Ownership — Sovereign Cloud, DPI & India's Control Architecture	See Panel Architecture section
5:30 – 5:45 PM	Tea & Networking	Structured networking; no open floor
5:45 – 6:30 PM	Panel 3: Digital Niti — Governance, Policy Standards & Procurement Reform	See Panel Architecture section
6:30 – 6:45 PM	BDIA Policy Commitments & Closing Remarks — BDIA Secretary General	Way-forward agenda; BDIA's post-Forum working group charters and commitments
6:45 – 7:30 PM	Networking Reception	Curated bilateral interactions
7:30 PM onwards	Dinner	Relationship-building; off-the-record dialogue

05 / PANEL ARCHITECTURE

Structured Dialogue Across India's Entire Sovereignty Stack

The three panels are designed to map precisely onto India's Three Layers of Digital Sovereignty Control. Each panel addresses a distinct layer of the stack, is designed to generate specific and actionable conclusions, and builds cumulatively toward a unified post-Forum policy output. Panels are structured as substantive policy discussions, not stage-managed presentations.

Note: BDIA leadership will not sit on panels, maintaining BDIA's positioning as a neutral convenor and ensuring panellist candour.

LAYER 1: Foundational Infrastructure & Sovereign Compute

PANEL 1: Securing India's Data Bhumi — The Physical Foundations of Digital Sovereignty

Thematic Focus

This panel examines the physical and compute foundations upon which India's digital sovereignty rests — data centres, domestic hardware, semiconductor strategy, network infrastructure, and sovereign compute capacity. It addresses the critical question: does India control the ground beneath its own digital economy? And if not, what will it take to get there — regulatory, infrastructural, and investment-wise?

Key Discussion Questions:

- What constitutes a 'sovereign' data centre — and how should this be operationalised as a certifiable, auditable standard rather than a marketing claim?
- How can India accelerate domestic compute capacity at scale, and what role should government play through demand creation, preferential procurement, and co-investment?
- What is the realistic timeline and investment requirement for reducing India's critical hardware and semiconductor import dependency?

- How should a Domestic Compute Certification Standard be structured — who governs it, who audits it, and how does it interact with government procurement mandates?

Recommended Speaker Architecture:

ROLE	RECOMMENDED PROFILE
Government	
Industry	
Academia	
Standards	
Moderator	

Target Output: Proposed framework for a National Sovereign Compute Certification Standard and a phased domestic infrastructure investment roadmap.

LAYER 2: Sovereign Cloud, Dpi Platforms & India’s Control Architecture
PANEL 2: Sovereign Vidhan - Beyond Residency: Commanding India’s Digital Ownership

Thematic Focus

This panel examines the architecture and governance of India’s cloud and DPI control layer — workload classification frameworks, data jurisdiction, Government Cloud Centre (GCC) models, and the sovereign governance of India’s DPI stack. It directly addresses the strategic shift from data residency (where data sits) to data ownership (who governs it, under whose legal regime, and with what operational controls). It addresses the gap between policy aspiration and operational reality: what does genuine digital autonomy require?

Key Discussion Questions:

- What is a credible operational definition of ‘sovereign cloud’ — and how should it be codified in procurement and certification frameworks?
- What workload classification framework should govern which government and critical-sector data must reside on sovereign cloud versus approved commercial platforms?
- How should India’s DPI stack — Aadhaar, UPI, ONDC, DPDP — be governed to ensure its platforms are sovereign-aligned in architecture, not just in hosting?
- What would a National Sovereign Cloud Registry look like in practice, and what would it take for MeitY to commit to one?

Recommended Speaker Architecture:

ROLE	RECOMMENDED PROFILE
Government	
Industry	
Academia	
Regulatory	
Moderator	

Target Output: Proposed framework for a National Sovereign Cloud Registry and a workload classification model for government and critical-sector data.

LAYER 3: Governance, Policy Standards & Procurement Reform

PANEL 3: Udyog Setu: Building the Digital Industrial Landscape

Thematic Focus

This panel examines the regulatory, standards, and procurement architecture that determines how India’s infrastructure and platform investments are adopted, trusted, and scaled. It addresses the gap between policy aspiration and operational reality: how does India translate ‘digital sovereignty’ from a political commitment into a verifiable, enforceable governance standard? What institutional capacity is needed to sustain it? And how does India position its Digital Niti as a model for the Global South?

Key Discussion Questions:

- How should India’s procurement framework be restructured to systematically preference sovereign-certified domestic digital infrastructure — and what is the enforcement mechanism?
- What is the institutional architecture needed for a credible national digital standards body, and how does it interact with international standards alliances (ISO, IEEE, ITU)?
- How can DPI export governance be structured to position India’s Digital Niti model as a global offering, with commercial sustainability and diplomatic coherence?
- What fiscal and innovation mechanisms — PLI schemes, sovereign tech funds, R&D incentives, tax policy — are needed to sustain domestic digital capability building at scale?

Recommended Speaker Architecture:

ROLE	RECOMMENDED PROFILE
Government	
Industry	
Academia	
Standards	
Moderator	

Target Output: Proposed DPI Export Governance Framework and a set of concrete procurement reform recommendations for MeitY, DPIIT, and NITI Aayog.

Speaker recommendations are indicative of each panel’s intended composition and intellectual profile. Final speakers will be confirmed by the BDIA Secretariat and Consocia Advisory following a structured outreach, alignment, and confirmation process.

06 / STAKEHOLDER ARCHITECTURE

A Curated Ecosystem of Consequential Voices

The Forum’s value derives directly from the quality and diversity of its attendance. The 125-person guest list will be curated to ensure that every stakeholder group critical to India’s digital sovereignty agenda is present, engaged, and positioned to act on the Forum’s outputs.

STAKEHOLDER GROUP	KEY INSTITUTIONS / ENTITIES	STRATEGIC ROLE
Government	MeitY, NITI Aayog, DPIIT, PMO, RBI, MoF, MEA, Digital Economy Cells	<i>Policy mandate; procurement authority; regulatory direction</i>
Domestic Industry	Cloud providers, DPI operators, sovereign compute firms, cybersecurity companies, OEMs, digital infra providers	<i>Operational capability; commercial ecosystem; implementation partners</i>
Academia & Research	IITs, IIITs, policy think-tanks, standards bodies	<i>Evidence base; technical validation; policy research pipeline</i>
Strategic Media	Senior editors covering tech policy, digital economy, and national security	<i>Narrative amplification; public accountability; policy communication</i>
BDIA Members	All existing BDIA member companies (40+)	<i>Institutional constituency; showcase of BDIA's representational depth</i>
International	Embassies, economic diplomats, standards alliances, foreign sovereign cloud observers	<i>Global positioning; export partnerships; diplomatic signals</i>

Stakeholder Value Proposition

For Government

A structured, high-quality industry feedback mechanism; a single platform to engage the full domestic digital sovereignty ecosystem; policy research and white paper inputs to inform MeitY, NITI Aayog, and DPIIT workstreams. A rare opportunity to hear the unfiltered operational perspective of India's domestic digital infrastructure sector.

For Industry

Direct access to senior government decision-makers in a structured, off-the-record format; visibility as a sovereign-aligned technology partner; input into procurement and certification frameworks that will shape market conditions; tangible membership value demonstration.

For Academia & Think Tanks

Policy relevance for ongoing research; collaboration with industry practitioners on real infrastructure challenges; contribution to the national digital sovereignty discourse; access to BDIA's government engagement channels and knowledge output pipeline.

07 / KNOWLEDGE OUTPUT

From Dialogue to Policy Architecture

The Forum is not complete when the event ends. BDIA's commitment to sustained policy impact requires that every convening generate a structured knowledge output — one that translates panel insights into actionable recommendations for government and industry.

Post-Event Policy White Paper

BDIA will publish a policy white paper within 7 days of the Forum, structured as a formal policy input document designed for distribution to MeitY, NITI Aayog, DPIIT, and relevant parliamentary committees. The white paper will include:

- Executive summary of Forum conclusions — structured for ministerial readership

- Synthesis of panel discussions across all three thematic streams, mapped to India’s Three Layers of Digital Sovereignty Control
- Priority policy recommendations — tiered by implementation timeline: immediate, 6-month, and 2-year horizons
- Proposed frameworks: National Sovereign Cloud Registry; Domestic Compute Certification Standard; DPI Export Governance Architecture
- BDIA’s formal way-forward agenda — commitments, working group charters, and next convening mandate

Three Specific Policy Asks

The Forum will be oriented toward generating three specific, tangible policy asks to present to government stakeholders — one per panel, one per layer of India’s sovereignty stack:

Policy Ask 1: National Sovereign Cloud Registry

A MeitY-administered registry of certified sovereign cloud providers, with defined criteria for workload classification, data residency, and operational standards. This would provide government procurement teams with a verified, current list of sovereign-aligned options — reducing dependency on informal decision-making and creating a competitive, standards-based domestic market.

Policy Ask 2: Domestic Compute Certification Standard

A nationally recognised certification framework for compute infrastructure — co-developed by STQC, BDIA, and academic partners — that defines what ‘trusted domestic compute’ means in operational terms. This would provide the hardware and data centre ecosystem with a credible quality signal and give government procurers a clear basis for preferential sourcing.

Policy Ask 3: DPI Export Governance Framework

A structured institutional mechanism — potentially housed within MEA’s Digital Diplomacy architecture — to govern India’s DPI export engagements. This would ensure that India’s DPI exports are commercially sustainable, diplomatically coherent, and structurally protective of India’s sovereign digital interests.

Ongoing Working Groups

Each panel will seed a dedicated BDIA working group, ensuring the Forum’s outputs are sustained and operationalised over the following 12 months:

Working Group 1	Working Group 2	Working Group 3
Sovereign Compute & Infrastructure Certification Standards	Cloud Policy, DPI Governance & Data Jurisdiction Frameworks	Digital Niti: Procurement Reform & DPI Export Governance

Measuring What Matters

The Forum’s success will be measured not by attendance numbers or media mentions, but by the durability and specificity of its policy impact. The following outcomes framework distinguishes between immediate, short-term, and long-term horizons.

HORIZON	OUTCOME	MECHANISM
Immediate (Day of Event)	Strong government and institutional visibility for BDIA as a credible, neutral convenor	Chief Guest keynote; curated 125-person attendance; structured three-panel outputs
Immediate	Narrative establishment in policy and media circles around Digital Swaraj and sovereign infrastructure	AI brand film launch; strategic media coverage; social amplification
Immediate	Alignment across key stakeholders on BDIA’s policy mandate and institutional positioning	Panel discussions; networking reception; bilateral interactions
Short-Term (30 days)	White paper dissemination to MeitY, NITI Aayog, DPIIT, and relevant committees	Post-event white paper publication and formal delivery to government contacts
Short-Term	Follow-up engagement with ministries on the three proposed policy asks	BDIA Secretariat outreach; Consocia stakeholder management
Short-Term	Strengthened BDIA membership pipeline — new member commitments from Forum attendees	Post-event membership outreach; value demonstration through white paper
Long-Term (12 months)	BDIA recognised as the institutional voice for India’s digital sovereignty agenda	Sustained policy engagement; second Forum; ministry citations of BDIA outputs
Long-Term	Measurable progress on at least one of the three proposed policy asks	Policy tracking; government engagement outcomes; working group outputs
Long-Term	India’s Bharat Model positioned in global digital sovereignty discourse	International conference representation; DPI export partnership announcements

THE MANDATE

Building India’s Digital Sovereignty, Together

India’s digital future will not be decided in Silicon Valley boardrooms or Brussels policy chambers. It will be decided in the choices India makes, right now, about where its data lives, who controls its cloud, and whether its digital infrastructure is built on sovereign foundations.

The BDIA Foundation Forum is the beginning of a structured, sustained, and consequential national effort to make the right choices — grounded in evidence, shaped by dialogue, and driven by the conviction that Digital Swaraj is both an achievable and an essential national goal.

BDIA’s ask is straightforward: convene India’s most consequential digital stakeholders, establish a credible institutional platform, and generate policy outputs that move India materially forward on its sovereign digital agenda. The Foundation Forum is how that begins.

"Digital Swaraj is not a political slogan. It is India’s next infrastructure imperative — and BDIA is the institution built to deliver it."