

# FALLING WALLS SCIENCE SUMMIT

## KEY RESULTS OF THE ROUND TABLE

### “KIWI POLICY TALK: INNOVATION & INDO-GERMAN ACADEMIC EXCHANGE”

— *Indo-German partnership seeks breakthroughs beyond academia.*

Indo-German cooperation excels in research but still struggles to turn joint discoveries into innovation. The panel calls for expanding collaboration into key technology fields, building shared lab-to-market pipelines, rebalancing mobility, coordinating German actors in India and establishing an Indo-German Centre of Excellence to match India's speed with Germany's deep tech strengths.

India's vast higher education landscape and dynamic start-up ecosystem make it a natural partner for innovation-focused collaboration. Germany's strong research base provides complementary depth, yet student flows remain heavily one-sided and innovation structures underdeveloped. With both countries prioritising areas such as energy, healthcare, sustainability and convergent technologies like AI and cyber-physical systems, the moment is ripe to elevate cooperation from academic exchange to shared value creation.

### THE PANEL CALL TO ACTION:

#### 1 — Expand Indo-German innovation partnerships in key technology fields.

Deepen cooperation beyond basic research by co-developing innovation programmes in energy, healthcare, sustainability and convergent technologies, linking joint research directly to pilots, prototypes and market-ready solutions.

#### 2 — Create an Indo-German Centre of Excellence for Innovation and Entrepreneurship.

Establish a jointly funded centre that connects deep tech expertise in German universities and research institutes with India's experience in rapid scale-up and large domestic markets.

#### 3 — Rebalance student mobility and embed entrepreneurial learning on both sides.

Increase the number of German students and doctoral candidates spending time in Indian institutions, while continuing to attract Indian STEM students to Germany, so that entrepreneurial mindsets, market knowledge and innovation skills are shared in both directions.

#### 4 — Coordinate German actors and funding in India for greater impact.

Align the German activities in India to present a coherent strategic interface, pool agile seed funding and ensure that delegation visits, incubator linkages and policy dialogues translate into concrete joint projects and ventures.

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Deutscher Akademischer Austauschdienst  
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#### Katja Lasch

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#### Andreas Zaby

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