



batten institute

GLOBAL INNOVATORS' ROUNDTABLE

Driving Breakthrough Innovation: Leaders vs Followers
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Practically every company—and every economy—is looking for new sources of profitable growth. That is why innovation, a core driver of growth, is top-of-mind for business executives and governments alike.

The Holy Grail, of course, is breakthrough innovation. Unlike incremental innovation, it has potential to disrupt industries, create new ones, and generate unprecedented growth. However, ground breaking innovation cannot exist without scientific research.

As every scientist knows, however, research takes time and money. Undoubtedly, generous government funding gave rise to the American innovation advantage.

However, is the U.S. model transferable to other countries? Would it work in India? How can India develop robust innovation capabilities, both on a country and company level? These questions will be the focus of our roundtable discussion.

Joining us will be senior business executives, government officials, and academics from several of India's top universities. Darden [Professor Rajkumar Venkatesan](#) will facilitate a discussion of the topic's finer points to include:

- In a country like India, whose best and brightest scientists often move to other countries, how do we create robust innovation capabilities to prevent brain drain?
- How do we create conditions for enabling more new-to-the-world innovations, as opposed to adopting existing innovative products, services, and business models to the Indian market?
- What would an Indian model look like and who should develop it?
- How should India invest in incubators and university research parks?
- What other domains of the innovation ecosystem—e.g., intellectual property protection, a venture-capital industry that provides more than financing, entrepreneurial culture that embraces risk-taking and learning from failure, and regulatory framework incentives—could help India develop more breakthrough products and services?
- Should the private sector take up the task of funding basic scientific research, and, if so, what is the return for them?