



## Backgrounder

The 2024-25 Economic Survey pegs 8 per cent as the average annual rate of growth necessary for India to realise its goal of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Achieving this ambitious target will require an ecosystem that allows the private sector to lead and innovate, elevates the ease of doing business (EoDB), and builds trust between the Centre, state governments, and other stakeholders. This must be carried out with education and skilling reforms to boost labour force participation. According to the Periodic Labour Force Survey 2023-24, only 4.4 per cent of India's workforce have formal vocational training, while 67.3 per cent do not undergo training in any form. The urgency of this situation is underscored by the need to create 39.25 million non-farm jobs by 2030.

Global headwinds add another layer of complexity. Rising protectionism and a recalibration of the geopolitical order amidst an inward-looking United States are reshaping supply chain dynamics and international trade and investment flows while China expands its influence.

In this geopolitically fraught environment with pending reforms and challenging consumption trends, breaking past the 6 per cent annual growth rate has been challenging for India. While it has made significant strides in EoDB, regulatory and compliance environments remain complex. High tariff structures and pending GST rationalisation have dampened competitiveness, while low R&D investment has hindered innovation. In this background, the Chief Economic Adviser has emphasised deregulation as key to driving growth. The government has set up a high-level committee to assist with the process.

Over the last decade, [Annual Forum](#), the flagship event of [Public Affairs Forum of India \(PAFI\)](#), has established itself as a premier venue for in-depth discussions on long- term policy and economic issues with voices from across the spectrum of stakeholders. It has become the preferred setting for ministers and officials representing the centre and state governments, legislators, CEOs, shapers of opinion, thought-leaders, media, think tanks, members of global and multilateral organisations, academia, and social and young entrepreneurs.



**Partner State: Telangana**

**The Partner State for PAFI's 12 Annual Forum is Telangana.** Telangana, India's youngest state, is shaping a bold and inclusive future through its long-term development blueprint Telangana Rising Vision 2047. Anchored in the aspiration of a Rich and Equitable Telangana for All, the state is working towards becoming a \$3 trillion economy by 2047, while ensuring that growth reaches every citizen and every region.

Backed by major investments, futuristic infrastructure, and streamlined policies, Telangana is creating an enabling environment for innovation and sectoral transformation. The vision embraces the transformative potential of technology while being firmly grounded in sustainability, net-zero commitments, and inclusive governance.

In the current environment, India must align its policies, industries, and reforms to capitalise on shifting global production patterns. By collaborating with like-minded economies, India can encourage innovation, boost economic resilience, strengthen its competitiveness in key sectors, and secure a more prominent global role. Informed by these imperatives, the **upcoming 12th edition of the Annual Forum in 2025** centres on the country's aspirations amidst an increasingly complex geopolitical landscape, under the theme '**India and the World— Collaboration • Connectivity • Competitiveness.**' At its heart lie three pivotal pillars:

**1. Collaboration: Strengthening India's Role in Global Supply Chains**

India must forge alliances that enhance trade, investment, manufacturing, and technology sharing. Bilateral and multilateral partnerships in high-growth sectors, such as manufacturing, Artificial Intelligence, semiconductors, clean energy, labour-intensive industries and digital services, can unlock new avenues for growth. Building trust among all stakeholders, domestic and foreign, is essential for the success of this process. Domestically, this would mean the Centre and state governments, civil society, and the private sector working together to steer policy debates and create enabling environments. At the same time, regulatory stability and transparent trade policies will help develop trust among global partners.

**2. Connectivity: World-Class Infrastructure for a Competitive Edge**

Seamless and efficient physical and digital infrastructure networks are fundamental to India's global competitiveness. Landmark initiatives like the PM



Gati Shakti National Master Plan and investments in multi-modal logistics aim to reduce logistics costs to 8-9% of GDP and bring India closer to global benchmarks. The rapid expansion of digital infrastructure, with over 954.4 million internet users and a booming fintech ecosystem, further enhances India's connectivity advantage. However, bridging infrastructure gaps, particularly in last-mile logistics and rural connectivity, will be essential to sustaining long-term growth.

### **3. Competitiveness: Driving Growth through Innovation and Reforms**

India's ability to sustain high growth will depend on its capacity to embrace innovation and execute bold reforms. The government's focus on EoDB, deregulation, and industrial policy reforms must be complemented by aggressive investments in research and development in pivotal and emerging sectors at the heart of the Viksit Bharat vision. This includes Artificial Intelligence, educational and vocational training, digital infrastructure and services, finance, healthcare and pharmaceuticals. Additionally, the ambition of emerging as a global manufacturing hub cannot be met without ensuring a future-ready workforce through digital skilling and education reforms.

As India's leading platform for corporate public affairs practitioners, PAFI is committed to aligning businesses, society, and governments on long-term priorities. It strives to build trust between industry and stakeholders, champion innovative regulatory frameworks, and cultivate the expertise needed to navigate an ever-evolving policy and economic landscape.

**Call to Action:** Please block your calendar for **18-19 September 2025** for **PAFI's 12th Annual Forum. Sponsorship opportunities are available.** For queries, please contact [Lakshmi.kanchaan@pafi.in](mailto:Lakshmi.kanchaan@pafi.in).

You may also peruse the proceedings and session recordings of [PAFI's 11th Annual Forum](#), held on 18-19 September 2024.

View glimpses of a decade of Annual Forums [10 Years of Annual Forum](#).

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