



# Programme

*Thursday, 18 September 2025 – 0830 to 2200 hrs*

*Friday, 19 September 2025 – 0830 to 1700 hrs*

**Day 1**

**Thursday, 18 September 2025**

**0830 Hrs – 2200 Hrs**

Venue: Taj Palace, New Delhi

0830 onwards | **Registration and Networking over Tea / Coffee**

0930 – 0940 | **Opening**

**Ajay Khanna**

Co-Founder, PAFI

Chairman Emeritus, PAFI Annual Forum

### **Leading from the Front: India's Rise in a Shifting World**

India's economy grew at a robust 7.8% in Q1 FY26, reinforcing its position as the world's fastest-growing major economy. This momentum reflects the impact of deep reforms, record infrastructure investments, and the rapid expansion of the digital economy. With the government's recent GST restructuring and emphasis on next generation reforms, partnerships with industry, and ambitious goals for a developed Bharat by 2047, India is not only shaping its domestic future but also stepping into a global leadership role. The challenge now is to sustain high growth while navigating global volatility, strengthening manufacturing and supply chains, expanding financial and digital inclusion, and driving innovation.

- What are the next - gen reforms in regulation, investment, and governance needed over the next decade to ensure India sustains 7-8% growth in the face of trade disruptions and inflationary pressures?
- How can India shape global thought in emerging sectors such as AI, digital public infrastructure, clean energy, and advanced manufacturing, positioning itself as the voice of the Global South and a trusted partner to the world?

#### **Welcome**

#### **Chetan Krishnaswamy**

President, PAFI and Chairman, PAFI Annual Forum  
Vice President, Public Policy, Amazon India

#### **Chief Guest**

#### **Ashwini Vaishnaw**

Minister of Electronics and Information Technology  
Minister of Information and Broadcasting  
Minister of Railways  
Government of India

#### **PAFI Book Release**

*The Policy Pivot: Inside India's Strategic Shift*

#### **Vote of Thanks**

#### **Shivnath Thukral**

Vice President and Secretary, PAFI  
Vice President, Public Policy and Government Affairs  
PhonePe Limited

## **The Elephant and the Geopolitical Chessboard**

In a rapidly evolving multipolar order marked by trade frictions, strategic competition, and the search for secure economic partners – India, now the world’s fourth-largest economy, faces a critical moment to define its global role. As it seeks to shape multilateral reforms, deepen strategic alliances, and navigate competing power blocs, India must balance collaboration, connectivity, and competitiveness to secure its place as a preferred global partner. Leveraging its diplomatic influence, digital capabilities, and expanding economic strength, the country has the potential to lead in trade, technology, and innovation while forging resilient partnerships across regions. Therefore, it is crucial to understand the steps that India can take to navigate today’s geopolitical and geoeconomic currents, align business strategy with foreign policy priorities, and position itself for leadership in an era of complex interdependence.

- How can India strategically navigate the intersection of geopolitics and geoeconomics to strengthen its global positioning?
- What policy and industry partnerships are needed to enhance collaboration, connectivity, and competitiveness?
- Which sectors offer India the strongest leverage to drive both national interests and global influence?

### **Welcome**

#### **Ishteyaque Amjad**

Past President, PAFI and Co-Chairman, PAFI Annual Forum  
Managing Director, Policy and Global Government Affairs,  
India and South Asia, Abbott Healthcare

### **Moderator**

#### **Arijit Sen**

President, Government Affairs and Strategic Engagement,  
vivo

### **Panel**

#### **Ajay Bisaria**

Corporate Strategic Advisor and  
Former High Commissioner of India to Canada and Pakistan

#### **Arun Singh**

Former Ambassador of India to USA, France and Israel

#### **Navdeep Suri**

Independent Director and Corporate Advisor  
Former Ambassador of India to UAE and Egypt  
Former High Commissioner of India to Australia

#### **Pranab Dhal Samanta**

Executive Editor, Politics  
The Economic Times

### **Vote of Thanks**

#### **Deepshikha Dharmaraj**

Immediate Past President, PAFI  
Chief Executive Officer, Burson Group India

### **Vision, Velocity, and the Road to 2047**

In this fireside chat, Shri Amitabh Kant will reflect on India's transformational milestones over the past decade, share insights from his experience driving flagship initiatives like *Make in India*, *Startup India*, and the G20 Presidency, and lay out his vision for the next wave of reforms that will power India's economic, social, and environmental ambitions. The discussion will explore how India can stay agile in an era of global uncertainty, build a competitive advantage in sunrise sectors, and ensure that growth is equitable, sustainable, and future-ready.

- What does India need to prioritise in the next decade to secure its place among the top three global economies by 2047?
- What will it take to turn India's demographic dividend into a genuine skills and innovation dividend?
- How can public-private collaboration be deepened to fast-track the execution of national priorities?

#### **Welcome**

#### **Subho Ray**

Past President, PAFI

President, Internet and Mobile Association of India

#### **Moderator**

#### **Shivnath Thukral**

Vice President and Secretary, PAFI

Vice President, Public Policy and Government affairs

PhonePe Limited

#### **Chief Guest**

#### **Amitabh Kant**

Senior Adviser, Fairfax

Former G20 Sherpa, India

Former CEO, NITI Aayog

#### **Discussants**

#### **Raman Sidhu**

Past President and Founding Member, PAFI

Chairman, EBG Federation, India

#### **Discussant and Vote of Thanks**

#### **Vaishali Chopra**

Head - Public Affairs and Communication

Yara India

## **The Gig Shift: Securing India's New Workforce**

India's gig and platform economy, driven by urbanisation, smartphone penetration and a youthful workforce, has grown from 7.7 million workers in 2020-21 to about 12 million in FY 2024-25, with projections of 23.5 million by 2030 and 62 million by 2047. Government measures such as identity cards, e-Shram registration, and PM-JAY healthcare cover, along with state-led initiatives like Karnataka's welfare cess and Tamil Nadu's e-scooter subsidies, have been significant. Yet challenges in income security, social protection and career growth persist, making it crucial to balance the growth potential of gig work with a robust safety net. This can be achieved through industry and government co-creating policies that ensure innovation goes hand in hand with worker welfare and sustainable growth.

- What global models of gig worker welfare could be adapted to the Indian context?
- What key policy interventions are needed to balance innovation in the gig economy with robust social protection for workers?
- How can government and industry collaborate to enhance data visibility and policymaking for gig workers, moving beyond fragmented surveys to an informed, inclusive framework?

### **Welcome**

#### **Mike Orgill**

Head - Public Policy, Asia Pacific  
Uber

### **Moderator**

#### **Javed Sayed**

Chief Content and Strategy Officer  
Moneycontrol

### **Chief Guest**

#### **Vandana Gurnani**

Secretary  
Ministry of Labour and Employment  
Government of India

### **Panel**

#### **Dhanya M.B.**

Fellow (Faculty)  
VV Giri National Labour Institute

#### **Michiko Miyamoto**

Country Director  
International Labour Organisation

### **Vote of Thanks**

#### **Sudhir Zutshi**

Director - Policy and Strategy, Asia Pacific  
UL Solutions

## **Economy Unbound: Next - Gen Reforms as the Lever**

From reducing more than 42,000 compliances across sectors and the recent GST rationalisation to establishment of dedicated high powered task force, the government has made a committed push towards bringing a new wave of deep reforms. The Economic Survey 2024-25 emphasises that deregulation and ease of doing business will unlock India's demographic dividend and sustain growth over the years. Simplifying compliances, harmonising both process and governance regulations and building trust between government and industry is key to reaching the Viksit Bharat milestone.

- Which reforms will most directly reduce the cost of doing business and create confidence for investors in high-growth sectors such as electronics, pharmaceuticals, and food processing?
- How can next generation reforms drive investment, innovation, and formal job creation across sectors?
- How can industry and government collaborate to simplify compliances and ensure predictability in regulations?

### **Welcome**

**Natasha Jog**  
Director, Public Policy  
Meta

### **Moderator**

**Ishteyaque Amjad**  
Past President, PAFI  
Managing Director, Policy and Global Government Affairs, India  
and South Asia, Abbott Healthcare

### **Panel**

**Apurva Chandra**  
Principal Advisor  
Ministry of Defence

**Jayesh Ranjan**  
Special Chief Secretary, Chief Minister's Office (CMO),  
Special Projects (SPEED), Investment and Industry (I&I) Cell,  
and Special Chief Secretary, Tourism, Culture, Heritage, Youth  
Advancement and Sports Department, Government of  
Telangana

**V. Srinivas**  
Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and Public  
Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public Grievances and  
Pensions, Government of India

### **Vote of Thanks**

**Vaibhav Mittal**  
Vice President, Corporate Affairs  
The Indian Hotels Company Limited

### **No Alternatives to Nature: India Inc. and the Green Economy**

India is cutting its emissions as well as its compliance costs, making itself a leader in sustainable growth. India's steps towards a green economy offers immense opportunities for private sector growth, with millions of jobs projected in renewables, EVs, and sustainable industries. At a time when conservation of earth has become a civilisational imperative, it is critical to explore how climate finance, innovation, and policy incentives can catalyse private investment and accelerate the shift to a low-carbon economy.

- How can businesses tap into green economy opportunities while ensuring commercial viability and long-term impact?
- What partnerships and policy frameworks are needed to scale green infrastructure and innovation across sectors?

**Welcome**

**Rajat Prakash**  
Managing Partner  
Athena Legal

**Moderator**

**Navika Kumar**  
Group Editor-in-Chief  
Times Network and Times Now Navbharat

**Chief Guest**

**Bhupender Yadav**  
Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change  
Government of India

**Discussants**

**Rishi Chawla**  
Vice President, Corporate Affairs  
Carlsberg India

**Rajeev Batra**  
Past President and Founding Member,  
PAFI

**Vote of Thanks**

**Rohan Mishra**  
Senior Director, Government Relations, Policy Advocacy  
and Strategic Issues Management  
The Coca-Cola Company INSWA



## **People, Progress, and Inclusion: India's AI Path to 2047**

Artificial Intelligence is reshaping societies and economies at scale, offering India a unique opportunity to lead with inclusive innovation. As the world gears up for the **India - AI Impact Summit 2026**, the focus must shift from pilots to impact, from aspiration to scale. India's digital public infrastructure, vibrant startup ecosystem, and growing AI talent pool make it well-positioned to create tech-based solutions that deliver financial inclusion, healthcare, education, and public services to tens of millions. The challenge is to ensure AI works not just for the privileged few but for farmers, women, small businesses, and communities often left behind. By embedding trust, equity, and sustainability into deployment models, India can set the benchmark for the Global South and beyond.

- What policy and regulatory frameworks are needed to ensure trust, safety, and responsible deployment of AI at scale, especially in critical areas like financial services and healthcare?
- In what ways can fintech innovation powered by AI unlock credit, insurance, and financial access for underserved entrepreneurs and businesses, accelerating India's path to Viksit Bharat 2047?
- How can industry and government collaborate in foundational AI models, datasets, and digital infrastructure to position India as the hub for AI innovation in the Global South?

### **Welcome**

**Major Ranjeet Goswami, Retd.**

Treasurer, PAFI

Global Head, Corporate Affairs

TATA Consultancy Services

### **Moderator**

**Luis Miranda**

Chairman of the Board and Co-Founder

Indian School of Public Policy

### **Chief Guest**

**Abhishek Singh**

Director General, National Informatics Centre

Additional Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Government of India

### **Panel**

**Natasha Jog**

Director, Public Policy, Meta

**Nitendra Rajput**

Senior Vice President and Head, AI Garage, Mastercard

**Sandeep Aurora**

Chairman, PAFI AI Council

Group Director and Head, Public Policy and Government Affairs India and South Asia, Microsoft

**Shivnath Thukral**

Vice President and Secretary, PAFI

Vice President, Public Policy and Government affairs

PhonePe Limited

### **Vote of Thanks**

**Swati Samaddar**

Head – Government Affairs, CP Plus

### **Shaping the Century: Lawmakers’ Roadmap to India’s Future**

By 2047, when India marks a century of independence, the nation will stand at a crossroads shaped by decisions made today. From economic growth and social equity to sustainability, technology, and global influence, parliamentarians play a central role in steering this journey. Their perspectives reveal how national aspirations can be translated into policies that endure across political cycles. Exploring what they envision for India’s place in the world, the quality of life for its citizens, and the balance between growth and inclusion can offer valuable insight into the priorities, trade-offs, and bold ideas that will define the next quarter century.

- What reforms in legislative processes or governance structures would prepare India for the economic, social, and geopolitical challenges of the next 25 years?
- What are the most critical priorities for India to achieve its 2047 aspirations, and how can Parliament help ensure continuity across political changes?

**Welcome**

**Deepshikha Dharmaraj**

Immediate Past President, PAFI

Chief Executive Officer, Burson Group India

**Moderator**

**Anil Padmanabhan**

Senior Journalist

**Panel**

**Praniti Shinde**

Member of Parliament

Indian National Congress

**Shashank Mani**

Member of Parliament

Bharatiya Janata Party

**Discussant and Vote of  
Thanks**

**Rakesh Dubey**

Director - Global Government Affairs

Carlyle Group

### **Securing India's Energy Future Amidst Geopolitical Conflict**

As India aims to double its economy by 2030 and transition to a \$30 trillion economy by 2047, ensuring energy security amid global volatility has become a strategic imperative. In an increasingly fragmented geopolitical environment marked by supply disruptions and price shocks, India must strengthen its energy resilience through a combination of domestic exploration, diversification of energy sources, and long-term partnerships.

- What is India's long-term strategy for securing energy self-sufficiency in the face of global uncertainty and shifting supply dynamics?
- How can the government and private sector collaborate to scale domestic exploration and clean energy investments in line with India's 2030 and 2047 goals?

#### **Welcome**

#### **T.S. Vishwanath**

Founding Member, Past-President and Director General,  
PAFI and Founder and Executive Chairman  
VeK

#### **Moderator**

#### **Navika Kumar**

Group Editor-in-Chief  
Times Network and Times Now Navbharat

#### **Chief Guest**

#### **Hardeep Singh Puri**

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas  
Government of India

#### **Vote of Thanks**

#### **Ajay Khanna**

Co-Founder  
PAFI

### **India's Roadmap towards Electronics and Digital Sovereignty**

India aims to grow its digital economy from 11.74% of GDP to 20% by 2029–30, driven by accelerated scaling of electronics manufacturing, digital platforms, and AI-enabled services. This transformation is critical not only for economic growth but also for enabling financial inclusion, improving governance, and increasing productivity across sectors. Success will depend on deep collaboration between the government and industry in the component ecosystem, focused talent development to meet evolving digital skills demand, upstream and downstream manufacturing, and large-scale investment in digital and physical infrastructure.

- What can industry do to accelerate India's digital transformation in sectors like manufacturing, banking, and education?
- How can policies be aligned to strengthen India's position as a global digital and capability hub?
- How can the Government and Industry deepen partnership to create a robust component manufacturing ecosystem?

#### **Welcome**

**Chetan Krishnaswamy**

President, PAFI

Vice President, Public Policy

Amazon India

#### **Moderator**

**Arijit Sen**

President, Government Affairs and Strategic Engagement  
vivo

#### **Chief Guest**

**S. Krishnan**

Secretary

Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology

Government of India

### **2000 – 2200 | Gala Dinner**

Performance by **Sharmaji and The Happy Factory** - a multi-genre band, offering foot-tapping renditions, ranging from Frank Sinatra to Bollywood.

**Day 2                      Friday, 19 September 2025**

**0830 Hrs – 1700 Hrs**

Venue: Taj Palace, New Delhi

0830 onwards | **Registration and Networking over Tea/ Coffee**

0930 – 1000 | **Session 11 – Plenary Session**

**Self-Leadership for Global Competitiveness: Lessons from Vedanta**

In an era marked by volatility, uncertainty, and global crises, the demands on public policy professionals and leaders are greater than ever. Beyond navigating geopolitics, economic shifts, and stakeholder pressures, true leadership calls for inner strength and clarity of purpose. Vedanta offers timeless lessons in self-leadership—teaching us that resilience, balance, and discernment are the foundations of effective decision-making and meaningful engagement. This session will explore how the cultivation of self-leadership, grounded in ancient wisdom, can empower today’s professionals to drive collaboration, strengthen connectivity, and chart sustainable pathways for India and the world.

**Welcome**

**Vinita Sethi**

Past President, PAFI

Chairperson, PAFI SAFE Council

**Address by**

**Jaya Row**

Founder

Vedanta Vision

**Vote of Thanks**

**Medha Girotra**

Vice President, Communications – Asia Pacific

Mastercard

### **State Leadership to Build Economic Relations: View from New Jersey**

At a time when global growth is shaped by new opportunities in technology, trade, and innovation, partnerships at the state level can become powerful drivers of progress. New Jersey, with its strong industrial base, vibrant Indian diaspora, and leadership in areas such as life sciences, fintech, and electronics, is uniquely positioned to deepen ties with Indian states. By fostering collaboration in innovation, investment, and talent exchange, both sides can create pathways for sustainable growth, stronger economic bonds, and shared prosperity.

- How can state-level partnerships between New Jersey and Indian states open new avenues for investment, innovation, and trade?
- What role can business leaders and industry associations play in strengthening subnational collaborations?
- Which sectors hold the most promise for mutually beneficial growth and how can these be scaled for long-term impact?

#### **Welcome**

#### **Rahul Sharma**

Past President and Founding Member, PAFI  
Managing Director  
US India Business Council (USIBC)

#### **Moderator**

#### **Sukumar Ranganathan**

Editor-in-Chief  
The Hindustan Times

#### **Chief Guest**

#### **Philip D. Murphy**

Governor of New Jersey  
USA

#### **Vote of Thanks**

#### **Vivek Abraham**

Senior Director, External Strategy - India and South  
Asia  
Salesforce

## **Vision Telangana Rising**

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. The vision places human development at its core emphasising dignified livelihoods, empowerment of citizens, and equitable access to opportunity. 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.

- What are Telangana's priority sectors for 2047?
- How can the private sector support inclusive and sustainable growth?
- In what ways can businesses contribute to building future-ready infrastructure and innovation hubs across the state?

### **Welcome**

**Chetan Krishnaswamy**

President, PAFI

Vice President, Public Policy

Amazon India

### **Moderator**

**A.K. Bhattacharya**

Editorial Director

Business Standard

### **Chief Guest**

**A. Revanth Reddy**

Chief Minister

Government of Telangana

### **Discussant**

**Y. Guruswamy Naidu**

Founder and Chairman and Managing Director

Celkon Group

**Rakesh Swami**

Group President - Corporate Affairs

Godrej Industries Group

### **Vote of Thanks**

**Vedika Kapoor**

Director – Communication and Government Affairs,

India Subcontinent, Haleon

### **Turbulence to Opportunity: Delhi Between Washington and Beijing**

India's relations with the United States and China are at a turning point. With the US, a strong history of trust and cooperation in trade, technology, and defence is now facing pressure from tariff disputes and market access barriers. With China, tensions over borders and security continue, but there is also the reality of deep trade ties and supply chain dependence. As global competition between Washington and Beijing intensifies, India must ask whether it can explore a new, more pragmatic dynamic with China even as it works to restore economic momentum with the US. The path ahead will require balancing competition and cooperation, safeguarding national interests, and finding new ways to position India as a reliable and trusted partner in the global economy.

- What opportunities and risks would arise if India were to recalibrate its economic or diplomatic engagement with China amid growing friction with the US?
- What should be India's priority in rebuilding trust with the US while protecting domestic concerns?
- How can Indian businesses build greater resilience in an environment shaped by geoeconomic rivalry, shifting supply chains, and rising tariff barriers?

#### **Welcome**

#### **Harish Krishnan**

Past President and Co-Founder, PAFI  
Managing Director and Chief Policy Officer  
Cisco India and Asean

#### **Moderator**

#### **Richard Rossow**

Chair on India and Emerging Asia Economics, CSIS  
Managing Director - India and South Asia  
McLarty Associates

#### **Panel**

#### **Ashok Kantha**

Former Ambassador of India to China

#### **C. Raja Mohan**

Distinguished Fellow  
Council on Strategic and Defence Research

#### **Manjeev Singh Puri**

Former Ambassador of India to EU and Nepal

#### **T. K. Arun**

Senior Journalist

#### **Vote of Thanks**

#### **Yashika Singh**

Chief Corporate Affairs Officer and Sustainability Head,  
India and South Asia  
PepsiCo



### **Goeconomics at Play: India and the World**

As geopolitics and goeconomics reshape the global order, the world’s gaze is firmly on India—whether as a partner in Europe’s green and digital transition, a key player in Asia’s balance of power, or a bridge to innovation and markets in the Americas. This conversation explores how India is perceived globally: a trusted growth engine, a strategic counterweight, and a driver of new norms in trade, climate, and technology.

- What do governments, investors, and businesses around the world expect from India’s rise—and how might these expectations shape the country’s global role in the decade ahead?

**Welcome**

**Ajay Khanna**  
Co-Founder  
PAFI

**Moderator**

**Shereen Bhan**  
Managing Editor  
CNBC-TV18

**Chief Guest**

**Borge Brende**  
President and CEO  
World Economic Forum

**Vote of Thanks**

**Aklanta Kalita**  
Senior Vice President, Government and Public Affairs  
Edelman

### **Finding the Next Gear: India's Push Towards a \$7 Trillion Economy**

India's aspiration to become a \$7 trillion economy by 2030 will require accelerating its current growth trajectory. While growth is steady at around 6 per cent, it must rise to a sustained 7 to 8 per cent annually to meet the target. The government is deploying a mix of policy interventions including Free Trade Agreements, the Production Linked Incentive (PLI) scheme, the National Logistics Policy, and the Digital India initiative to boost manufacturing, trade, and capital flows. However, geopolitical uncertainties and geoeconomic conflicts continue to pose challenges.

- How can India align economic diplomacy, digital infrastructure, and financial reforms to deliver sustained high growth amid global turbulence?
- What more can be done to mobilise public and private capital, especially through asset monetisation and investment facilitation frameworks?
- How can PLI and FTAs be better synchronised with trade, technology, and investment strategies to expand India's global competitiveness?

**Welcome**

**Shivnath Thukral**

Vice President and Secretary, PAFI  
Vice President, Public Policy and Government affairs  
PhonePe Limited

**Moderator**

**Chetan Krishnaswamy**

President, PAFI  
Vice President, Public Policy  
Amazon India

**Panel**

**Neeraj Mittal**

Chairman, Digital Communications Commission  
Secretary, Department of Telecommunications  
Ministry of Communication  
Government of India

**Sanjay Jaju**

Secretary, Ministry of Information and Broadcasting  
Government of India

**Srinivas Katikithala**

Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs  
Government of India

**Discussant**

**Nikhil Rao**

Vice President - India Operations, Flex

**Vote of Thanks**

**Sunita Patnaik**

Partner and India Head, DGA - Albright Stonebridge Group