



Backgrounder

**As of July 27, 2026*

Annual Forum, the flagship event of **Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)**, has established itself as a premier platform for forward-looking dialogue on policy and economic transformation. Since its inception in 2014, the Forum has become a trusted convening space, bringing together leaders from government, industry, academia, civil society, and global institutions to discuss and shape India's development narrative.

What sets PAFI's Annual Forum apart is the diversity of participation, the depth and candour of the dialogues, and the sustained engagement it fosters.

The **12th Annual Forum in 2025** reaffirmed PAFI's position as a leading platform for policy dialogue. It brought together a wide spectrum of ministers, senior government officials, industry leaders, global experts, and thought leaders.

The richness of perspectives and the quality of discussions underscored the Forum's growing relevance in shaping contemporary policy conversations. The proceedings of the 12th Annual Forum may be viewed here – [Proceedings 12th Annual Forum](#).

The theme for **PAFI's 13th Annual Forum** is:

India 3.0: Engaging for Growth in a Disrupted World

Ideas • Insights • Impact

This reflects India's evolving role in a rapidly changing global landscape shaped by geopolitical realignments, technological disruption, and intensifying competition thus placing importance on the strategic imperative to grow from within, expanding the market as the foundation for durable, investment-attracting growth.

Discussions will focus on technology, manufacturing, trade, energy, talent, and the pivotal role of states in driving growth with market expansion as the connective thread linking each of these domains to India's broader ambition.

For the 13th Annual Forum, PAFI is proud to have **Andhra Pradesh** and **Tamil Nadu** as **Partner States**.

Guided by the transformative vision of *Swarna Andhra@2047*, **Andhra Pradesh** is laying the foundation for a prosperous, innovation-driven future. With a clear ambition to become a \$2.4 trillion economy by 2047, the State is reimagining governance through digital technologies, evidence-based policymaking, regulatory excellence, and transparent institutions. Simultaneously, it is making sustained investments in infrastructure, industrial ecosystems, education, skilling, and innovation to build a globally competitive economy. By combining the speed of reform with the scale of opportunity, Andhra Pradesh is emerging as one of the most attractive destinations for investment, enterprise, and talent in Asia.

Tamil Nadu is driving its bold vision through the '**Vetri Tamizhagam**' framework, charting an ambitious roadmap for world-class infrastructure, youth skilling, healthcare, and environmental security. Built around ten strategic pillars spanning world-class infrastructure, manufacturing, education, healthcare, agriculture, environmental sustainability and transparent governance, the framework outlines 436 initiatives across 32 government departments, with a strong emphasis on implementation and measurable outcomes. Anchored in a long-term aspiration to strengthen Tamil Nadu's position as a leading global investment destination, the framework seeks to combine economic dynamism with inclusive development and improved quality of life.

This edition of the Forum is being convened amidst profound global disruption. Geopolitical tensions are increasingly translating into geoeconomic shifts, reshaping trade, reconfiguring supply chains, and redefining global alignments and in doing so, redrawing the boundaries of market opportunity.

Simultaneously, rapid advances in artificial intelligence are transforming industries, jobs, and competitiveness, while also unlocking new pathways for market access, consumer reach, and demand creation. In this environment, nations are vying for capital, talent, and technological leadership. Policy agility and institutional strength are becoming decisive factors as much in expanding domestic markets as in competing globally.

Amidst this global churn, India emerges as a stable and credible **global growth partner**. A decade of structural reforms has laid a robust foundation for sustained growth. With projected GDP growth of 7.6% in 2026 and an ambitious target of \$2 trillion in exports by 2030, India is transitioning toward a more competitive and globally integrated economy, one where a growing domestic market and rising global ambition must reinforce each other.

Empowering states remains central to sustaining this momentum. States stand at the forefront of India's economic and social transformation, acting as regional powerhouses equipped to lead in this dynamic era by seamlessly combining inclusive welfare with agile, high-growth ecosystems.

Anchored in these macroeconomic trends, the 13th Annual Forum focusses on the emergence of **India 3.0**:

- **India 1.0:** Nation-building
- **India 2.0:** Economic expansion
- **India 3.0:** Global leadership

India today is more confident, more outward-looking, and increasingly central to global conversations. It is also home to one of the world's most consequential market expansion stories with hundreds of millions of new consumers entering the formal economy.

To fully seize this opportunity, India must push toward the next generation of reforms — enhancing regulatory certainty and simplifying compliance, attracting sustained global investment, rationalising outdated laws and frameworks, and building agile, transparent, and future-ready institutions. Each of these levers is also a market expansion lever: lower compliance barriers mean more businesses serving more consumers; clearer investment rules mean more capital flowing into underserved sectors and regions.

Institutional evolution must align with technological advancements, ensuring both agility and accountability in governance. The rapid growth of sectors such as space, with over 300 startups following deregulation, demonstrates the effectiveness of forward-looking policy frameworks and the market depth that such frameworks can unlock when innovation is allowed to reach scale.

At the same time, inclusive growth remains critical. Expanding the market is not merely an economic objective; it is a social imperative. Stronger collaboration between government, industry, and civil society will be essential, with youth engagement and cross-sector dialogue for unlocking new opportunities across key sectors and bringing the next wave of producers and consumers into India's growth story.

Three Pillars of Engagement:

- **Ideas:** Advancing actionable, future-ready policy frameworks — including those that open new markets, reduce barriers to consumption, and formalize the informal economy
- **Insights:** Identifying reform priorities through real-world experience, particularly from sectors and states where demand-led growth is already demonstrating its potential
- **Impact:** Shaping policy thinking and strengthening public-private collaboration to translate market opportunity into measurable investment and growth outcomes

Through thought leadership, capacity building, and cross-sector collaboration, PAFI continues to redefine public affairs as a platform for nation-building and sustainable change. It brings together stakeholders, fosters trust, and enables solution-oriented dialogue.

India 3.0 is not merely an aspiration — it is an inflection point. At its core lies a defining proposition: market expansion drives demand, demand attracts capital, and capital catalyses the growth that will establish India as a confident and capable force on the world stage. The 13th Annual Forum aims to help shape this journey.

Call to Action: Please block your calendar for **Thursday–Friday, 24–25 September 2026**

for PAFI's 13th Annual Forum in New Delhi.

Sponsorship opportunities are available. For sponsorship details, please contact: lakshmi.kanchaan@pafi.in

For any other queries, please contact: zulfia.alam@pafi.in
