



Partner State: Telangana

Programme*

**As on September 3, 2025 – Subject to change*

Thursday, 18 September 2025 – 0900 to 2200 hrs.

Friday, 19 September 2025 – 0900 to 1700 hrs.

India stands at a defining moment in its economic journey. The 2024–25 Economic Survey highlights that an average annual growth rate of 8 per cent is essential if the country is to realise its vision of Viksit Bharat by 2047. Meeting this goal will demand bold reforms, seamless collaboration between the Centre and states, and a policy environment that fosters private sector innovation, investment, and trust. At the same time, India must navigate the headwinds of a complex global landscape where rising protectionism, shifting supply chains, geopolitical rivalries, and evolving trade and technology flows shape new challenges and opportunities.

It is in this context that the **12th Annual Forum of the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)** convenes in **New Delhi** on **18–19 September 2025**, under the theme **India and the World: Collaboration • Connectivity • Competitiveness**. Over two days, the Forum will bring together more than 70 distinguished voices from government, industry, academia, media, and multilateral institutions for 16 sessions that examine the policy choices, partnerships, and innovations needed to secure sustainable and inclusive growth.

The Forum’s conversations will be anchored in **three pivotal pillars**. **Collaboration** will explore how India can deepen its role in global supply chains and forge new alliances for manufacturing, trade, and technology. **Connectivity** will focus on physical and digital infrastructure, from logistics to fintech, that underpins India’s competitiveness. **Competitiveness** will examine reforms and innovation in areas such as energy security, artificial intelligence, the green economy, and the future of work.

This year’s programme reflects the breadth and depth of India’s growth story. Sessions will range from discussions on India’s global **trade strategy** and its **manufacturing mission**, to debates on **AI**, the **gig economy**, **climate transitions**, and the **future of work**. Lawmakers, secretaries, and parliamentarians will share their perspectives on the long-term legislative and policy roadmap, while business leaders and global partners will bring insights on how India can position itself at the centre of new economic and technological shifts.

The Forum is also proud to present **Telangana as its Partner State**, showcasing its long-term blueprint **Telangana Rising Vision 2047** that aims to build a \$3 trillion economy anchored in sustainability and inclusivity.

As India steps into a new phase of development, shaping trade partnerships, embracing digital and green transformations, and preparing its workforce for the future, the Annual Forum offers a platform for reflection and collaboration. It reaffirms PAFI’s mission of building trust, strengthening dialogue, and aligning business, government, and society to navigate a rapidly evolving global landscape.

Programme*

Day 1 Thursday, 18 September 2025 0900 Hrs – 2200 Hrs

0900 – 0930 | Registration and Networking over Tea / Coffee

0930 – 0945 | Opening

0945 – 1030 | Session 1 – Opening Plenary

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 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 emphasising 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?

Chief Guest

Ashwini Vaishnaw

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

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?

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
High Commissioner of India to Australia

Pranab Dhal Samanta

Executive Editor, Politics
The Economic Times

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?

Fireside chat with

Amitabh Kant

Senior Adviser, Fairfax

Former G20 Sherpa, India

Former CEO, NITI Aayog

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?

Chief Guest

Bhupender Yadav

Minister of Environment, Forest, and Climate Change

Government of 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?

Chief Guest

Vandana Gurnani

Secretary

Ministry of Labour and Employment

Government of India

Moderator

Javed Sayed

Chief Content and Strategy Officer

Moneycontrol

Panel

Dhanya M.B.

Fellow (Faculty)

VV Giri National Labour Institute

Michiko Miyamoto

Country Director

International Labour Organisation

Mike Orgill

Head - Public Policy, Asia Pacific

Uber

Economy Unbound: Next - Gen Reforms as the Lever

From reducing more than 42,000 compliances across sectors and 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?

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

Srinivas Katikithala

Secretary, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

V. Srinivas

Secretary, Department of Administrative Reforms and
Public Grievances, Ministry of Personnel, Public
Grievances and Pensions, Government of India

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?

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

SVP and Head, AI Garage
Mastercard

Sandeep Aurora

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

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?

Moderator

Anil Padmanabhan

Senior Journalist

Panel

Iqra Choudhary

Member of Parliament

Samajwadi Party

Praniti Shinde

Member of Parliament

Indian National Congress

Sasmit Patra

Member of Parliament

Biju Janata Dal

Shashank Mani

Member of Parliament

Bharatiya Janata Party

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?

Chief Guest

Hardeep Singh Puri

Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas
Government of India

Moderator

Navika Kumar

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

1920 onwards | **Gala Dinner**

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

0900 - 0930 | **Registration and Networking over Tea / Coffee**0930 – 1000 | **Session 10 – 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.

Address by

Jaya Row
Founder
Vedanta Vision

1000 – 1100 | **Session 11 – Fireside Chat****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?

Chief Guest

Philip D Murphy
Governor of New Jersey
USA

Moderator

Sukumar Ranganathan
Editor
The Hindustan Times

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?

Chief Guest

A. Revanth Reddy
Chief Minister
Government of Telangana

Moderator

A.K. Bhattacharya
Editorial Director
Business Standard

Panellist

Jayesh Ranjan
Special Chief Secretary
Government of Telangana

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?

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 the China

C. Raja Mohan

Distinguished Fellow
Council on Strategic and Defence Research

Manjeev Singh Puri

Former Ambassador of India to EU and Nepal

1300 – 1345 | **Networking Lunch**

1345 – 1430 | **Session 14 – Fireside Chat**

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?

Chief Guest

Borge Brende

President and CEO

World Economic Forum

Moderator

Shereen Bhan

Managing Editor

CNBC-TV18

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?

Panel

Dammu Ravi

Former Secretary, Department of Economic Relations
Ministry of External Affairs

Neeraj Mittal

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

S. Krishnan

Secretary
Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Government of India

Moderator

Rohit Saran

Managing Editor
The Times of India