



Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) concludes public sessions on” Growth in an age of global disruption” and “Navigating trade in between world orders”

Industry Experts Convened to Discuss Future-Proofing India's Growth and Strategies for International Trade

New Delhi, 09th May 2025: The Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), India's leading platform for corporate public affairs practitioners, hosted its Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Friday, May 9, 2025, at the India Habitat Centre in New Delhi. The AGM featured insightful sessions addressing critical issues facing India and the world, focusing on future-proofing India's growth in an age of global disruption and navigating trade in a rapidly changing global order.

The event featured two key sessions with distinguished speakers and panellists contributing their expertise to the discussions.

The first session on "Future-Proofing India: Growth in an Age of Global Disruption," explored strategies for India to thrive amidst global challenges. *Addressing the forum, **Mr. Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India**, said, “Geo-economics is redefining the global order, and India is well-positioned to lead with its strengths in digital innovation, manufacturing potential, and a calibrated, export-oriented policy approach,” said Mr. Dammu Ravi, Secretary (Economic Relations), Ministry of External Affairs, Government of India. He emphasized the importance of fostering resilient global partnerships, rebalancing concentrated supply chains, and leveraging technology to build long-term economic competitiveness.” He also emphasized, “Future-proofing India’s growth requires embracing of digital transformation at large. India’s demographic dividend and thriving digital ecosystem present a unique opportunity to lead in shaping global norms around digital governance, data protection and AI ethics.”*

Key discussion points following his address included the need to strengthen India’s digital public infrastructure as a backbone for inclusive growth and innovation; the importance of ensuring policy stability and predictability to attract long-term domestic and foreign investment; and the urgent requirement for industry-aligned skill development to equip India’s youth for emerging sectors such as semiconductors, AI, and green energy. Participants also highlighted the need to enhance MSME integration into global value chains, accelerate domestic manufacturing capacity, and adopt a strategic approach to critical mineral access and energy transition to ensure India’s resilience in a rapidly evolving global economic landscape.

This was followed by a panel discussion on "Navigating Trade in Between World Orders" with eminent personnel including Manjeev Singh Puri (Former Indian Ambassador to EU & Nepal) Laveesh Bhandari (President and Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress), and senior editors like A.K. Bhattacharya (Editorial Director, Business Standard) and Pranab Dhal Samanta (Executive Editor (Politics), Economic Times). The panel deliberated on:

- **Geopolitical shifts and strategic realignment:** The global order is in flux, offering both risks and opportunities. India must proactively adapt by reforming trade policies and enhancing strategic alliances, particularly with the EU and regional neighbours
- **Need for Trade Reforms and Competitiveness:** Tariff reduction, improved investment norms, and higher product standards are vital. Reforms to lower compliance costs and support industrial labour can drive India’s trade competitiveness
- **Domestic Preparedness for Global Integration:** India’s internal challenges—non-tariff barriers, low product standards, and high costs—must be addressed to fully capitalise on global trade opportunities and attract investment



PAFI recently announced its new office bearers for 2025-26, with **Chetan Krishnaswamy, Vice President, Public Policy, Amazon India**, taking over as President. Medha Girotra, Vice President, Communications, Asia Pacific, Mastercard is the new Vice President, Shivnath Thukral, Vice President, Public Policy, Meta India is the new Secretary, and Ranjeet Goswami, Global Head, Corporate Affairs, Tata Consultancy Services Ltd (TCS) is the new treasurer, PAFI is the new treasurer.

By bringing together diverse perspectives and fostering collaborative dialogue, the Public Affairs Forum of India's Annual General Meeting contributed significantly to the discourse on shaping a more resilient and prosperous future for India. PAFI reaffirmed its commitment to serving as a catalyst for positive change and a trusted partner in India's journey towards global leadership.

About Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)

Founded in 2008, the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) is India's premier organization focused on public affairs, policy advocacy, and corporate affairs in India. PAFI represents a diverse array of Indian and foreign companies, promoting ethical dialogue and professional growth. Its objectives include aligning business, society, and government, fostering trust, and developing collaborative policies. PAFI organizes impactful events, including its annual forum, which unites

industry leaders and policymakers for meaningful discussions. With a strong commitment to transparency and inclusion, PAFI aims to build a well-informed public affairs community to address contemporary challenges in India.

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