



Public Affairs Forum of India

Global Confidence in India's Capabilities is "Unprecedented": Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw Details How Reforms & Tech Are Reshaping the World Order

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw Leads the Conversation at PAFI's 12th Annual Forum

New Delhi, 18 September 2025: Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw, Union Minister of Electronics and Information Technology, Information and Broadcasting, and Railways, Government of India, inaugurated the 12th Annual Forum of the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) in New Delhi. In his keynote address, the minister underscored India's growing role and aspirations in the evolving multipolar world order.

He said, "India's growth story is not just consistent, it is accelerating with greater confidence. We are moving from a 95% to a 98% confidence interval on growth, with inflation under control and a nominal growth trajectory of 9-13%. Our achievements in semiconductors – from producing 'Made in India' chips to designing world-class 2 nanometre technology, demonstrate global confidence in our capabilities. Simultaneously, reforms in income tax and GST, coupled with strong capex and talent development, are driving a virtuous cycle of consumption, investment, and employment. These foundations ensure that India's growth story is both resilient and transformative."

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw further highlighted India's continued rise as a trusted global partner, attributing this momentum to sweeping policy reforms in deregulation, digitisation, and investment facilitation. He emphasised that next-generation reforms such as the recent GST restructuring and the rapid expansion of India's digital infrastructure are enabling stronger domestic and international partnerships, essential for achieving the vision of a developed India by 2047.

The Minister elaborated on the significant strides made in various sectors. He mentioned that two more semiconductor plants will soon start operating, further solidifying India's position in the global chip manufacturing ecosystem, including the production of machines and materials for chips. This comprehensive approach, he stated, is a "complete product end-to-end" validation of India's capabilities, attracting global confidence. He also highlighted the ambitious "Telecom 100 labs" initiative and the expansion of the semiconductor talent development program, mentioning the 28 student-designed chips presented to the Prime Minister.

Addressing the critical role of infrastructure, the minister further detailed out the three major areas of capital expenditure in railways. He highlighted a significant improvement in safety, wherein accidents reduced from 170 to 31 per year, backed by an annual investment of 34,000

crores. He also spoke about India's status as the second-largest freight-carrying economy in the world, moving 1.6 billion tonnes. The Minister showcased the new generation of railway rolling stock, including AMRIT Bharat trains for low-income families costing just 400 rupees, and the progress on the bullet train project, with 300 kms of viaduct completed and operations on track for 2027.

He underscored the impact of reforms, citing the reduction in telecom tower approvals from 272 days to just 7 days as a testament to the power of simplification. He also called for continued acceleration of simplification, urging officials to share feedback and views, stating, "If you succeed, we succeed. Your success is our success."

The minister underscored the importance of resilient policies that can stand the test of volatile international markets and geopolitical uncertainties. He stressed upon the need to strengthen the manufacturing sector and India's supply chain infrastructure, in both, physical and digital aspects to sustain economic growth at 7-8 per cent. He reiterated that India's bias will always remain towards innovation over regulation, aiming to become among the top 2 in innovation globally.

He also spoke about India's prospects and innovation in emerging sectors such as artificial intelligence (AI), clean energy, and digital public infrastructure. Citing "waves" of innovation in the new-age entertainment industry, where over 130,000 creators are leveraging extensive digital platforms, he stressed on how technology has the power to solve population-scale problems. India must adopt and integrate technological advancements in its growth trajectory to advance its position as a global leader.

The session concluded with the unveiling of PAFI's first book *The Policy Pivot: Inside India's Strategic Shift*, a landmark anthology featuring 25 essays by public policy and public affairs experts. Edited by Ajay Khanna, Co-Founder, PAFI, and Rahul Sharma, Past President & Founding Member, PAFI, and Managing Director, US-India Business Council (USIBC), the book explores India's strategic journey across four pivotal themes—Society, Economy, Diplomacy, and Future. Published by Juggernaut Books, it offers a comprehensive roadmap for India's aspirations toward 2047.

Ajay Khanna, Co-Founder PAFI opened the 12th Annual Forum, setting the tone for the proceedings, followed by Chetan Krishnaswamy, President, PAFI, delivering the welcome remarks. The vote of thanks was delivered by Shivnath Thukral, Vice President and Secretary, PAFI.

PAFI (Public Affairs Forum of India)

Founded in 2008, the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) is India's premier organisation 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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