

**S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology
Government of India, Addresses Leadership Dialogue: India 3.0: The Next Tech Leap' at
PAFI 13th Annual Forum**

*Leadership Dialogue Focuses on Scaling Semiconductor Manufacturing, Digital Public
Infrastructure and AI Democratization*

New Delhi, September 24, 2026 — The Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), India's premier organization, focused on public policy, public affairs and advocacy, hosted a session titled "**Leadership Dialogue: India 3.0: The Next Tech Leap**" as part of its 13th Annual Forum which begins in New Delhi today.

S. Krishnan, Secretary, Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology Government of India stated, *"The story in the electronics sector has really pushed. You make enough stuff in the country, important enough in the value addition, you need to have a significant value in the value chain. These are the objectives towards which we are building autonomous capacity. With Japan, Canada & other countries, we are building ties in closer time. In this crucial time, it is best to build crucial relationships."*

He went on to say, *"A significant shift has taken place since the COVID-19 pandemic, alongside other global developments, with businesses and governments increasingly recognizing the risks of excessive dependence on a single market, country, or source of supply. Rather than concentrating manufacturing solely in the most cost-competitive location, there is now greater emphasis on diversification as a means of building resilience."*

The Chief Guest **S. Krishnan** was welcomed by **Shivnath Thukral**, President, PAFI, and Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs, PhonePe Limited. The session moderated by **Virat Bhatia**, Past President, PAFI, and Co-Chair, PAFI Annual Forum. The session examined how state and industry can co-create self-sustaining technology ecosystems while maintaining core principles of tech accessibility, innovation, and digital safety.

India is rapidly evolving from a consumer of technology to a primary architect of the global digital future. Following the strategic momentum of the India AI Impact Summit and the expansion of the India Semiconductor Mission, the conversation explored how the nation is moving beyond Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI) to aggressively scale indigenous semiconductor manufacturing and democratise access to artificial intelligence.

Mr. Shivnath Thukral, President, PAFI, and Vice President of Public Policy and Government Affairs, PhonePe Limited, stated, *"As India transitions into the 'India 3.0' era, public policy and private enterprise must collaborate closely to ensure the nation owns its*

technological future. At PAFI, our focus is to foster constructive dialogues that move India up the global value chain, building reliable, affordable technology that powers domestic enterprise while anchoring global supply chains."

Mr. Virat Bhatia, Past President, PAFI, and Co-Chair, PAFI Annual Forum, who moderated the dialogue, observed, *"The shift from establishing foundational digital infrastructure to architecting the next frontier of global deep-tech innovation is the defining task for India's next decade. Transparent policy frameworks and sustained public-private collaboration will be essential as India sets a resilient standard for the Global South."*

This high-level dialogue underscored PAFI's role in bringing together administrative leadership and industry leaders to shape India's technology roadmap.

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