

Union Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Outlines Strategy for 'Securing India's Energy Future' at PAFI 13th Annual Forum

Leadership Dialogue Focuses on Expanding Refining Capacity to 450 MMTPA, Green Hydrogen Ecosystems, and Energy Security

New Delhi, September 24, 2026 — Outlining strategic investments to balance immediate energy security with the clean energy transition, Hardeep Singh Puri, Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas, Government of India, addressed a flagship Leadership Dialogue titled "Building India at Scale: Securing India's Energy Future in a Disrupted World," organized by the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), India's premier organization focused on public policy and public affairs, as part of its 13th Annual Forum in New Delhi.

Hardeep Singh Puri, stated, *"For an economy with a per capita income that is roughly five times India's, the impact of higher energy prices can be different. Energy consumption is a very strong indicator of economic activity, and India's growth in energy consumption is approximately three times the global average, reflecting the country's rapid economic expansion. Once we have made a commitment to export, it is important that we honour that commitment. The Cabinet headed by the Prime Minister recently approved two schemes: 80,4000 crores for Samudra Manthan. For the first time a government has put in place a Legislative Framework where the government will finance part of the outside parties' cost. I believe green hydrogen will succeed primarily where there is local demand, local production, and local consumption. It is not necessarily practical to produce green hydrogen in one location and transport it over long distances."*

The dialogue was welcomed by Ajay Khanna, Founder, PAFI, and Chairman Emeritus, PAFI Annual Forum, and moderated by Navdeep Suri, Former Indian Ambassador to UAE and Egypt, and High Commissioner to Australia. As global supply chains face unprecedented disruptions, achieving a secure energy future requires massive capital execution. The session explored how government and industry can collaborate to scale refining capacity alongside green hydrogen ecosystems and natural gas infrastructure to ensure stable, affordable energy for the economy.

Delivering the vote of thanks, Ms. Mitali Sarkar, noted, *"Two things stood out very clearly during the discussion. First, energy security and energy transition: India needs both, and needs them at scale and at the same time. Second, none of this happens without trust and steady, open dialogue between the government and industry. Stable, predictable policy frameworks and genuine partnerships turn ambition into investment, and investment into delivery. And conversations like today's are part of that."*

This session highlighted PAFI's role in providing a premier platform for evaluating critical infrastructure and policy priorities essential to India's long-term growth story.

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