



Public Affairs Forum of India



As on 17 Oct 23

## Backgrounder

**Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)** aims at aligning business, society and government on long-term priorities; fostering trust through ethical and respectful interaction across all the stakeholders; collaboratively developing smart and relevant policies, proposals and processes that foster innovation and rely on evidence-based research and promote capacity building to navigate change within the context and complexity of India.

**This year, PAFI's flagship event, the [Annual Forum](#), celebrates its 10<sup>th</sup> year.** The Annual Forum has defined the direction for long-term broader policy and economic agenda through active participation by ministers and officials representing the centre and state governments, legislators, CEOs, shapers of opinion, thought-leaders, members of global and multilateral organisations, media, think tanks, academia, and social & young entrepreneurs.

**The partner state for PAFI's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum is Uttar Pradesh**, which, as the third largest economy of all the states in India, accounts for eight percent of India's GDP. In India's march towards the third largest economy, Uttar Pradesh aims to contribute USD one trillion to the national GDP. For this, the state has improved the ease of doing business, making it attractive to investors. It has developed infrastructure in healthcare, roadways, education, tourism, and sports and has emerged as a critical hub for IT and ITeS industries.

The 10<sup>th</sup> year of the Annual Forum emphasises critical areas of India's growth trajectory in keeping with the Prime Minister's vision of making '**India the 3rd Largest Economy.**' The theme, '**India's Vision @ 2030: 3rd Largest Economy,**' outlines the necessary steps to sustain and accelerate India's positive momentum through the three I's—Issues, Ideas, and Implementation. The issues that need more focused attention include:

- 1. Geopolitics and its impact on business:** The Ukraine war, the Covid-19 pandemic, and global financial crises are some of the disruptions which have brought focus on how geopolitics impacts business. Global instability has jumped to the top of CEO agendas.

***What safeguards do companies need to counter global risks, and what attempts can be made to hedge against their impact on business?***

- 2. Encouraging investments and nurturing businesses:** India's sustained growth needs **investments**, both in traditional industries and in scaling up R&D. This includes a focus on FDI and DI (Domestic Investment). Additionally, India needs **globally competitive manufacturing, involvement in the supply chains, and boosting exports**. Moreover, achieving 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat' requires a focus on **Industry 4.0** by conducive policies that transform the ease of doing business into the pleasure of doing business in India.

***How do we ensure that the policy apparatus is holistically ideating the socio-economic issues to act as a catalyst for India's economic prosperity?***

3. **States as drivers of growth:** States must work together and learn from each other for India to achieve its target of becoming the third largest economy. They must emerge as facilitators of private investment.

***How can states be more proactive in encouraging the manufacturing sector? What steps are states taking to move from red tape to red carpet?***

4. **Climate change and SDG goals:** With a target of reaching net zero by 2070, India has renewed focus towards ESG, renewables, green economy, electric mobility, and green hydrogen, along with directive policies for SDG 2030 goals. We need to increase our capacity for renewables capacity and innovate to excel as producers of alternate energy.

***How can India's commitments to net zero and going green translate into action? How can MSMEs, as a significant section of the ecosystem, navigate these competing and complementary choices?***

5. **Diversity and Inclusion:** India is expected to add 97 million people to its workforce in the next decade. However, its female labour participation rate of 23% is less than half of the global average of 47%. This extends to the public sector as well. Organisations must encourage diversity at all levels to channel growth, especially in leadership positions.

***How can corporate India further encourage D&I, considering it is directly proportional to productivity and profits?***

6. **Focus on Select Sectors:** To have a **healthy India** and to make India the healthcare destination of the world, the vision of the government and stakeholders, including healthcare providers, pharma, medtech companies and innovators, must be aligned. To ensure that the growing India never goes hungry, it is essential to **scale up the infrastructure and supply chain in agriculture**. Enhanced R&D and exports by the food processing industries will impart greater resilience and more equitable distribution of resources. The education system is undergoing a structural shift, and Edtech plays a major role in ensuring an **educated and skilled** young population. The government and private sectors are in harmony to continue India's embrace of the **digital age**.

***The policy discourse and industry's approach towards key sectors will define the economic paradigm of the nation. How can they help robust growth for India?***

### **Call to Action**

Please block your calendar for **26-27 October 2023** for **PAFI's 10<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum**. Sponsorship opportunities are available.

You may also peruse the proceedings and session recordings of [PAFI's 9th Annual Forum](#), held on **22-23 September 2022**.

For queries, please contact [Lakshmi.kanchaan@pafi.in](mailto:Lakshmi.kanchaan@pafi.in).  
[www.pafi.in](http://www.pafi.in)