



Public Affairs Forum of India



Day 1

Thursday, 26 October 2023

0900 Hrs – 2300 Hrs

0900 – 0940 | **Registration and Networking**

0945 – 1000 |

Opening

Ajay Khanna

Forum Chairman & Co-Founder, PAFI
Group Strategic Advisor
Jubilant Bhartia Group

1000 – 1100 | **Session 1**

India's place in the world

India's role in the world is rapidly evolving in the current environment, characterised by globalisation and complex interconnections. India's remarkable economic potential, diverse and young population, and burgeoning technological landscape offer it a rare opportunity to shape the global economic narrative. This will require identifying avenues for collaboration, innovation, and responsible engagement between all parties.

How can various stakeholders—CEOs, entrepreneurs & social entrepreneurs, and philanthropists work together to leverage India's dynamic market and innovation ecosystem to drive growth and innovation on a global scale? What role can India play in advancing collaboration on critical issues such as climate change, trade, and security?

Welcome

T. S. Vishwanath

Director General, Past President and Founding Member, PAFI
Principal Adviser
ASL – Legal

Moderator

Javed Sayed

Chief Content & Strategy Officer
Moneycontrol

Panel

Aniket Doegar

Co-Founder & CEO
Haqdarshak

Ashish Dhawan

Founder & CEO
The Convergence Foundation

Irina Ghose

Managing Director
Microsoft India

Karthik Jayaraman

Co-Founder
WayCool Foods

Vote of Thanks

Vivek Vasishtha

Vice President – Public Affairs
OPPO Mobiles Group

1105 – 1155 | **Session 2**

Securing India's Road to Growth

As India battles global headwinds to advance as a global economy, it is necessary to foster security, stability, and peace so that citizens can benefit from shared prosperity. In the current age, threats come in different forms and from various directions—from geopolitical competition and cybersecurity concerns to the need to secure critical infrastructure and a conducive global environment. Partnerships such as the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework for Prosperity, and the U.S.-India initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology are aimed at preparing India for such challenges of the future.

How must India prepare to face global and local challenges as we move towards emerging as the third-largest economy?

Welcome

Vinita Sethi

President, PAFI
SVP & Chief Public Affairs
Apollo Hospitals Group

Moderator

Rahul Sharma

Forum Co-Chairman, Past President
& Founding Member, PAFI
Managing Director
APCO Worldwide, India

Panel

Raj Chengappa

Group Editorial Director
India Today Group

AK Bhattacharya

Editorial Director
Business Standard

Vote of Thanks

Vaishali Chopra

Head, Public Affairs and Communication India
Yara International

1200 – 1250 | **Session 3**

Leading the Global Pursuit for Energy Security

Maximising growth in Amrit Kaal requires policy frameworks to address two critical factors—urbanisation and energy security. The Global Biofuel Alliance launched at the G20 Summit in New Delhi is an opportunity for Bharat to lead the pursuit of sustainable energy solutions. At the same time, India’s cities will need innovative urban planning and financing models. Policies and programmes that reflect the complexities and pluralities inherent in these crucial issues can foster greater opportunities and shape India's economic landscape.

How must private and public stakeholders work together to ensure economic development along with environmental sustainability? What key steps must be taken to smoothen the various stages from financing, producing, transitioning, adopting and sustaining the shift toward biofuels?

Welcome

Deepshikha Dharmaraj

Vice President, PAFI
Chief Executive Officer
BCW India Group

Moderator

Navika Kumar

Group Editor
Times Network
Editor-In-Chief
Times Now Navbharat

Speaker

Ambassador (ret.) Atul Keshap

President, US-India Business Council
President, US-Bangladesh Business Council
Senior Vice President – South Asia
US Chamber of Commerce

Chief Guest

Hardeep Singh Puri

Minister of Petroleum & Natural Gas
Minister of Housing and Urban Affairs
Government of India

Discussant

Raman Sidhu

Past President & Founding Member, PAFI
Chairman
EBG Federation, India

Vote of Thanks

Ratika Jain

Lead, Strategy & Corporate Relations, India
Rio Tinto

1250 - 1340 | **Networking Lunch**

Mumtaz Hall

1345 – 1445 | **Session 4**

Prosperity through Diversity and Inclusion

As the most populous country, India is forecast to add 97 million people to its working population over the next decade. With a relatively young population, India not only has a competitive advantage in the workforce but also an opportunity to unleash the consumption power of a young population. However, India's female labour participation rate of 23 percent is less than half of the global average of 47 percent. Only 14.4 percent of members in the current Lok Sabha are women, while only 14 percent of Secretaries in the IAS in 2022 were women. In these circumstances, diversity and inclusion is a necessary precondition for India to emerge as the world's third-largest economy by 2030. The landmark bill reserving one-third of all seats for women in the Lok Sabha and the state legislative assemblies is the first step in a long process to ensure more women in the decision-making process.

How will the women's reservation bill play out? What are the timelines? What implications does it have for political parties?

Welcome

Medha Girotra

Treasurer, PAFI
Vice President - Communications, Asia Pacific
Mastercard

Moderator

Priya Sahgal

Senior Executive Editor
NewsX

Chief Guest

Smriti Zubin Irani

Minister of Women & Child Development
Minister of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Speaker

Chandrajit Banerjee

Director General
Confederation of Indian Industry

Discussant

Vinita Sethi

President, PAFI
SVP & Chief Public Affairs
Apollo Hospitals Group

Vote of Thanks

Rakesh Dubey

Director, Global Government Affairs
The Carlyle Group

1445 – 1500 | **Coffee break**

Mumtaz Hall

1500 – 1550 | **Session 5**

Empowering the Gig Economy

As India progresses to become the third largest economy, it has benefited from a large and eager workforce and enabling conditions. Technological innovations and expertise in digital infrastructures have highlighted the role that the gig economy can play in this growth. The NITI Aayog believes that given a conducive environment, India can have over 23 million gig workers by 2030, up from 8 million at present.

What would a conducive environment for the gig economy entail? How can different stakeholders, from the state and central governments to aggregator companies, work together to make gig working attractive to a larger number of people?

Welcome

Major Ranjeet Goswami, Retd.

Managing Committee Member, PAFI
Global Head, Corporate Affairs
TATA Consultancy Services Ltd

Moderator

Rohit Saran

Editor-in-Chief
India Today Group

Chief Guest

Arti Ahuja

Secretary
Ministry of Labour & Employment
Government of India

Panel

Dr. Dhanya M.B.

Fellow
V.V. Giri National Labour Institute
Ministry of Labour and Employment
Government of India.

Mariko Ouchi

Senior Social Protection Specialist for South Asia,
Decent Work Technical Support Team
International Labour Organization

Sanjay Chadha

Director—Public Policy India & South Asia
UBER

Vote of Thanks

Arijit Das

Head, Public Policy & Government Affairs, India
inDrive

1555 – 1700 | **Session 6**

Balancing Sustainability with High Growth

As the Indian economy prepares to emerge as the third-largest in the world, the focus is on ensuring sustainable development that leaves no one behind. The G20 New Delhi Leaders' Declaration emphasises the need for 'Accelerating Progress on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)'. Steps that enable high growth must go hand-in-hand with the formation of practices for sustainable businesses, markets and economies. The 2030 action plan for the G20 focuses on harnessing data and digital technologies for development, investing in gender equality, eliminating hunger and malnutrition, food and energy insecurity, and delivering quality education.

What role can administrators and senior officials play in taking forward the agenda for sustainable development that leaves no one behind? How can Bharat continue to lead beyond G20 for the world to meet SDG goals?

Welcome

Devashish Dasgupta

Managing Committee Member, PAFI
Head – Government & Corporate Affairs
Hindustan Unilever Limited

Moderator

Ishteyaque Amjad

Forum Co-Chairman and Past President PAFI
Managing Director, Policy & Government Affairs
Abbott Healthcare Pvt Ltd

Panel

Apurva Chandra

Secretary
Ministry of Information & Broadcasting
Government of India

Srinivas R Katikithala

Secretary
Ministry of Minority Affairs
Government of India

Rohit Kumar Singh

Secretary
Ministry of Consumer Affairs, Food and Public
Distribution
Government of India

Vote of Thanks

Rohan Mishra

Director - Government Relations and Public Affairs
Coca Cola India

1700 – 1800 | **Session 7**

The Road from G20

The year at the helm of G20, right up to a hard-won consensus on the leaders' declaration, has been an opportunity to showcase Bharat's leadership capabilities. India has developed trusted relationships with partners worldwide on crucial issues—agriculture, climate sustainability, inclusive finance, and the digital economy through this period. The values of equality, inclusivity, harmony, and service have underlined the efforts leading up to this moment.

What issues and ideas must India focus on to build on the successes of the G20? How can India best sustain and accelerate the current positive momentum?

Welcome

Ram Rakkappan

Managing Committee Member, PAFI
Vice President & Head of Government Engagement,
India & South Asia, Visa Inc.

Moderator

Shivnath Thukral

Managing Committee Member, PAFI
Director and Head Public Policy
Meta India

Chief Guest

Amitabh Kant

Sherpa G-20
Government of India

Discussant

Prema Sagar

Founding President & Co-Founder, PAFI
Chairperson
BCW India Group

Ajay Khanna

Forum Chairman & Co-Founder, PAFI
Group Strategic Advisor
Jubilant Bhartia Group

Virat Bhatia

Forum Co-Chairman and Immediate-Past President
PAFI

Vote of Thanks

K.C. Ravi

Past President & Co-Founder, PAFI
Chief Sustainability Officer
Syngenta India Limited

1815 – 1915 | **Session 8**

Web 3: The India opportunity

The digital economy is projected to be a 1.1 trillion economy in India by 2030. The size of the Web 3 economy could be as high as eight percent of GDP by 2035. India has been leading the efforts to develop a global regulatory framework. Indian entrepreneurs are creating world-class organisations.

What will it take for India to be a leader in this space?

Welcome

Subho Ray

Forum Co-Chairman and Past President PAFI
President, Internet and Mobile Association of India

Moderator

Dilip Chenoy

Chairman
Bharat Web3 Association

Panel

Kiran Mysore Vivekananda

Head Public Policy
CoinDCX

Pranay Agrawala

Partner
PANDA Law

Preetam Rao

Founder
Quill Audits

Discussant

Rajeev Batra

Past President & Founding Member, PAFI
Former Group Head, Corporate Affairs
Hindustan Unilever Limited

Vote of Thanks

Subho Ray

Forum Co-Chairman and Past President PAFI
President, Internet and Mobile Association of India

1930 onwards | **Gala Dinner**

A musical performance by Hamsika Iyer. Hamsika is a versatile and accomplished multi-lingual vocal artist. A 12-time award winner and an international performer, Hamsika has to her credit several Bollywood commercial hits like Chhammak Chalho, 1234 Get on the Dance Floor, Raabta, Chanda Re etc.

She has collaborated with globally renowned artists like Juno Reactor, Bombay Dub Orchestra, Prem Joshua, Talvin Singh and others. Hamsika's virtuosic skills are evident in the multitude of genres she effortlessly handles having trained for decades in Carnatic and Hindustani classical vocals.

Introduction

Lakshmi Kanchaan

Executive Director

PAFI

0900 - 0950 | **Registration & Networking**

1000 – 1100 | **Session 9**

Deep Tech, AI, and the Emerging Policy Landscape

For India to become the third-largest economy by 2030, technological innovations will need to play a pivotal role. This transformation is already being spearheaded by deep tech and AI, and both startups and established industry leaders are driving the development of AI applications and generative AI. These are revolutionising healthcare and education, enabling local language service delivery, driving cutting-edge research and development in industries such as semiconductor fabrication, shaping manufacturing processes, and transforming the e-commerce landscape. The integration of AI into daily lives presents a complex set of opportunities and challenges. These include ethical, legal, and societal questions that need thoughtful consideration, guided by a robust policy framework.

How can deep tech and AI transform the emerging technological landscape and affect the lives of people in India? What are the policy challenges as AI-enabled tools become an increasing part of everyday life? How can startups and legacy players approach the policy landscape to make the most of India’s capabilities in the field?

Welcome

Harish Krishnan

Past President & Co-Founder, PAFI
Managing Director, Public Affairs & Strategic Engagements
Cisco India & SAARC

Moderator

Sukumar Ranganathan

Editor-In-Chief
Hindustan Times

Chief Guest

Abhishek Singh

Managing Director & CEO, DIC & NeGD
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

Panel

Sandeep Aurora

Director – Government Affairs and Public Policy,
Microsoft

Suvrat Bhooshan

Founder and CEO
Gan.ai

Vote of Thanks

Himar Arjun Singh

Managing Committee Member, PAFI
Chief of Public Policy & Corporate Communications
Bharti Enterprises

1115 – 1215 | **Session 10**

Building Resilience at a Time of Geopolitical Challenges

In the face of emerging global changes, from the unrest in the Middle East to increasing complexities in the U.S.-China relationship, countries are looking to safeguard their interests by partnering with like-minded countries. Through plurilateral arrangements like the Quadrilateral Security Dialogue, and the Indo-Pacific Economic Framework, countries are looking to try out strategies of 'de-risking,' if not 'de-coupling.'

How can India build resilience at a time of global churn? What kind of policy interventions will assist India in improving agility and building partnerships?

Welcome

Chetan Krishnaswamy

Secretary, PAFI
Vice President, India Public Policy
Amazon India

Moderator

Deep Pal

Director, PAFI

Panel

Nayanima Basu

Editor, Foreign Affairs, Strategy and National Security
ABP LIVE (ABP Network)

Pranab Dhal Samanta

Executive Editor
Economic Times

T. S. Vishwanath

Director General, Past President and
Founding Member, PAFI
Principal Adviser
ASL – Legal

Vergheese K. George

Resident Editor, Delhi
The Hindu

Vote of Thanks

Deep Pal

Director, PAFI

1215 – 1230 | **Coffee break**

Mumtaz Hall

1230 – 1330 | **Session 11**

An Atmanirbhar Bharat to Lead Global Growth

The conclusion of the G20 has brought commitments from members on sustainable and inclusive growth, inclusive international trade, addressing climate change and finance, improving MSME access, reforms of multilateral organisations, and investments in the digital economy. The transformational capacity of these commitments, however, will depend on implementation.

What policies are needed to follow up on the G20 vision to translate into an inclusive action across sectors? What are the headwinds, and what role can different stakeholders play in realising the collective aspiration of India's prosperity?

Welcome

Vinita Sethi

President, PAFI
SVP & Chief Public Affairs
Apollo Hospitals Group

Moderator

Shweta Rajpal Kohli

Managing Committee Member, PAFI
Chief Public Policy Officer
Peak XV Partners

Panel

Sanjay Verma

Secretary (West)
Ministry of External Affairs
Government of India

S Krishnan

Secretary
Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology
Government of India

Discussant

Virat Bhatia

Forum Co-Chairman and Immediate-Past President
PAFI

Vote of Thanks

Koustuv Kakati

Head Regulatory Affairs
Tata Steel Limited

1330 | **Networking Lunch**
