

## IMA India Policy Forum Roundtable

### India Ahead: Reading Between the Lines

20 March 2026 | Holiday Inn, New Delhi Aerocity

9:30 AM – 6:00 PM

#### Agenda

9.30 am

Introduction by Anuradha Das Mathur, Chair – Policy Forum, IMA India

9.45-10.45 am

#### **Making Sense of Geopolitics: Implications for Businesses**

**Speaker:** *Ajay Bisaria, Corporate Strategic Advisor; Former High Commissioner of India to Pakistan and Canada*

**Focus:** Practical, near-term view of how today's geopolitical shifts are shaping the business landscape. What do current global realignments mean for India over the coming months? What are India's primary motivations? Where can we expect compromise and what are the non-negotiables? What will this mean for corporate strategy and positioning going forward? And importantly, for policy professionals, the role of economic diplomacy for growth?

**Outcome:** Reading early geopolitical signals and translating global shifts into implications for businesses

10.45-11.45 pm

#### **Making Sense of National Priorities: Implications for Businesses**

**Focus:** A thoughtful reflection on India's national priorities across growth, governance and reform, translating policy intent into practical business insight. Through an executive lens, it will examine how evolving government agendas are likely to shape the operating environment for companies. The discussion will focus on what these priorities mean for corporations, helping leaders move beyond headlines to understand the ground reality.

**Outcome:** Approaches for aligning advocacy, compliance and enterprise strategy with India's evolving policy agenda

11.45-01.00 pm

#### **Panel Discussion: Government Relations, Reconsidered**

**Panellists:** *Manoj Chugh, Chairman of the Board, CARE Analytics & Advisory*

**Focus:** A candid discussion on what the role of the policy professional looks like today, across geopolitics, national policymaking, state-level politics and everything in between. The panel will examine how GR leaders adapt to a more complex operating environment, what a benchmark policy professional looks like in practice, where teams typically excel, where they fall short and what capabilities they must build next.

**Outcome:** Skills and mindsets needed in today's policy environment, how high-performing GR teams demonstrate business impact and practical ways to elevate GR as a trusted, C-suite-relevant function

01.00-2.00 pm: Lunch

### 2.00-3.00 pm

#### **Evidence Over Instinct: The New Era of AI-Enabled Advocacy**

**Focus:** How AI and data analytics can strengthen policy advocacy and practical frameworks to transition from relationship-based persuasion to evidence-based and result-oriented policy advocacy.

**Outcome:** Techniques for mapping stakeholder ecosystems, tracking public sentiment, predicting policy trends and generating actionable insights using AI.

### 3.00-4.15 pm

#### **Straight from the Horse's Mouth: Is GA Work Ever Really Over?**

**Focus:** A candid reflection on GR wins and failures through real-world case studies, including recent online gaming ban. The discussion unpacks how sudden policy shifts emerge, the role of stakeholder dynamics and what ultimately separates regulatory success from setbacks.

**Outcome:** Practical insights into proactive regulatory engagement and mitigating sudden policy shifts

### 4.15-4.45 pm: Tea Break

### 4.45-6.00 pm

#### **Raisina Hill: New Pathways for Dialogue**

**Focus:** With energy for change, these young bureaucrats represent the aspiration for a Viksit Bharat. In this session, we will seek to create new avenues for conversation and collaboration as we build towards 2047.

**Outcome:** Identifying new entry points for collaboration with government stakeholders

### Expected Outcomes

- A consolidated brief capturing insights, recommendations and best practices for GR professionals, to be shared with stakeholders post-event.
- Strengthened networks among GR practitioners, industry leaders and thought influencers to foster ongoing collaboration.
- Actionable toolkits and frameworks for navigating regulatory challenges, crafting narrative and measuring GR impact.
- A vibrant community of GR professionals equipped to elevate the policy function's strategic value in their organisations

### Indicative List of Speakers:

- Amitabh Kant, Former CEO, NITI Aayog
- Senior Executives from Swiggy, Nestlé, Monsanto and Dream11
- Senior Representative from Microsoft