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Engaging Youth in G20: A Giant Step Towards Jan Bhagidari

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A Consensus Based Youth Communique

The Youth20 engagement group was able to persuade the G20 representatives to arrive at a consensus in the final Youth20 communique. On such a contentious issue as peace building and reconciliation, they called upon the G20 member countries to make concerted efforts to prevent violence by non-state actors and to recognise that “reconciliation involves healing the wounds of the past, promoting forgiveness, understanding and building bridges between communities.” They urged that we promote youth into leading positions “as drivers of the decision-making process and policies to ensure fairness across generations.” The delegates showed considerable maturity, wisdom and sagacity.

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Building Consensus through Extensive Discussion: Pan-India Outreach

So, how was such a consensus achieved? The Youth20 communique was the culmination of a series of discussions organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and the Youth20 engagement group. Over 2.6 million participants from schools, colleges, universities, and research institutions across India, took part in these discussions, which were held at 64,000 locations along with 14,000 young professionals in brainstorming sessions. Such wide ranging discussions may have helped orient youth throughout the country to the idea that they as youth have agency to alter the course of events; they are not passive social and political beings. Some details of the events are given in Table 1 at the end.

Once a draft communique was ready, the Youth20 India Engagement group created a collaborative environment that encouraged open dialogue and constructive discussions among international delegates. Several rounds of discussions were held. The delegates & Y20 track chairs continuously refined the communique document through online discussions and a pre-summit held at Leh-Ladakh from 26-28 April 2023. Recognizing the diverse perspectives and backgrounds of the participants, the group facilitated inclusive conversations to help build consensus on key issues affecting youth worldwide.

The Y20 events provided exposure to diverse ideas and young people, creating serendipitous opportunities. Overall, the Y20 meetings and summit focused on empowering youth, addressing global challenges, promoting inclusivity, and fostering collaboration across various sectors. Most importantly, the Youth20 discussions gave serendipity a chance to create opportunities that might never have got created.

We increasingly believe that it is young people who have the potential, with their unbridled energy and optimism, to solve the

large problems facing us in the world today, i.e. problems related to sustainability, global warming and job creation. We sincerely believe that opportunities such as these gatherings have the ability to bring young people together to solve common problems. Given that almost half India's population is below the age of 29 years, we believe that such youth-facing events are really the answer and, scaffolded well, can create magic to solve the pressing global problems that beset all of us today.

The Final Summit at Varanasi

Speaking at the Varanasi summit, the UP Chief Minister Shri Yogi Adityanath pointed out that young people have the potential to change the world and that Gautam Buddha, Vardhman Mahavira, Adi Sankaracharya, were all young men. Even scientists such as Sir Isaac Newton made their discoveries in their early twenties. This reminds us of the power that lies in our youth. Our need is to provide a platform for youth to come together. This is just what the Youth20 engagement group has built. The Y20 events provided exposure to diverse ideas and young people, creating serendipitous opportunities.

In the final summit at Varanasi, a key session on “The Future of Work & Job Creation” was presented by Professor Kavi Arya and his team from the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, IIT Bombay. They presented the need to create new jobs in growth sectors such as health, tourism, and agriculture, etc. The discussions highlighted the e-Yantra project, that has trained over 200,000 students in technology stacks and skills, leading to top-rate placements and entrepreneurial ventures. e-Yantra trains students uniquely through a competition where participants “Compete to Learn and Learn whilst Competing.” The present round of the e-Yantra Innovation Challenge (eyic.e-yantra.org) will launch very soon. Many stakeholders expressed interest in participating in these projects.

The panels on the Future of Work and Industry 4.0 focused on the importance of academic-industry partnerships for technological transfer. Professor Arya's team pointed out that while there were a variety of tracks, more than specific technologies, we need young people to discover their passion, possess relevant skills, and adopt a self-learning entrepreneurial outlook.

Salient Points in the Communique

Over the course of a few days at the Varanasi summit, the youth leaders drafted a communique calling for lifelong learning opportunities, training in emerging technologies, and the development of curricula prioritizing soft and hard skills. They emphasized international research collaboration, inclusive UN Security Council reform, youth participation in governance, digital empowerment, and critical-thinking skills.

On the critical theme of the Future of work, the communique talked about empowering Lifelong learning by providing access to continuous learning opportunities and training that adapt to emerging demands and challenges of disruptive technologies, including AI and Web3.

A key recommendation was the creation of a digitally empowered society and promotion of evidence-based civic dialogue, by creating equal access to digital infrastructure and literacy training, and equipping young people with digital critical-thinking skills to combat misinformation - all of this promoting human and planetary health.

Key Outcomes Achieved by India Youth20 Engagement Group

Participation in Y20 platforms helped provide youth a global perspective on current themes and also become aware of new

opportunities. Youth learnt about policy matters and were able to build balanced opinions on these. Above all they encouraged youth to think constructively about local problems. Youth in India see themselves as active agents of change and not passive recipients of knowledge.

Interactions with people from diverse backgrounds in all these stakeholder consultations, helped strengthen networks and also helped build new networks. The consultations provided unstructured spaces for youth to meet and interact with potential mentors as well.

Mentoring the young was an important focus area. Groups like the TiE (The Indus Entrepreneurs) and CII Young Indians (Confederation of Indian Industry) that have set up mentoring networks, were able to discuss ways and means of strengthening such networks and make more and more young people aware about the existence of such resources.

The interface between the government and business in India has improved considerably in the past ten years; setting up a positive eco-system can make it even better. Few of the young whom we quizzed understood what went into setting up a business legally. The Y20 discussions helped to clarify many such issues. Given the vast number of young people in India who are eager to work, it is important that we create an enabling environment for them. All businesses, howsoever small or big, involve risk taking. These discussions helped to identify the elements of an enabling ecosystem and can be extremely useful to generate a plan of action.

Further, the efforts undertaken by the Youth20 India Engagement Group in building consensus on the Youth20 communique have been instrumental in fostering a unified voice and advocating for the concerns of young people worldwide. By creating a collaborative environment, facilitating structured discussions, bridging perspectives, and drafting a comprehensive

communicate, the group played a pivotal role in shaping the policy agenda for youth empowerment and sustainable development. Their unwavering commitment to inclusivity and consensus-building sets a remarkable example for future Y20 engagements, demonstrating the power of young leaders to influence global decision-making processes.



Table 1: Zone-Wise Participation in Y20 Consultations, Events in Educational Institutions, Brainstorming

| Zone | Events & Locations | | | Participation | | | |
|---|---|--|---|---|--|--|--|
| | Awareness Generation in School and Colleges | International Consultations in leading Universities and Y20 Summit meetings | Brainstorming Events with Professionals and Achievers | Participants in School and College events in column 2 | Participants in International events in column 3 | Participants in Brainstorming Events in Column 4 | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | |
| North Zone | 11,979 | Nine (9) Events: Panjab University, Chandigarh, GNDU, Amritsar, Punjab, KGMU, Lucknow & IIT Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh, Jammu University, Jammu, Kashmir University, Srinagar, Leh-Ladakh, AIIMS Rishikesh, Uttarakhand, Y20 final Summit Varanasi | Ten events (CII-6, RIS-4) at: Delhi, Gurugram, Kanpur, Noida, Lucknow, Dehradun, Allahabad, Lucknow. | 506,354 | 8,106 with 619 International delegates | 1151 | |
| East Zone (Bihar, Odisha, Jharkhand, and West Bengal) | 70 | One (1) Event: Kalinga Institute (KIIT), Odisha | Nine events (CII-5, RIS-4) organised at: Ranchi, Jamshedpur, Bhubaneswar, Siliguri, Kolkata, Patna, Bhubaneswar. | 4,287 | 2,000 with 1550 International delegates | 1516 | |

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| West Zone | 48,591 | Two (2) Events: Symbiosis University, Pune, Maharashtra and Maharaja Sayajirao University, Vadodara, Gujarat | Seventeen events (CII-12, RIS-5) at: Goa, Vadodara, Ahmedabad, Bhavnagar, Rajkot, Pimpri Chinchwad, Pune, Sambhajinagar, Mumbai, Nashik, Nagpur, Jaipur, Navi Mumbai. | 11,23,412 | 1,429 with 330 International Delegates | 3039 |

| Zone | Events & Locations | | | | Participation | | | |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|--|--|--|--|
| | Awareness Generation in School and Colleges | International Consultations in leading Universities and Y20 Summit meetings | Brainstorming Events with Professionals and Achievers | Participations in School and College events in column 2 | Participations in International events in column 3 | Participations in Brainstorming Events in Column 4 | | |
| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | | |
| South Zone | 14 | One (1) Event: NIMHANS Bengaluru | Twenty six events (CII-19, RIS-7) at: Amravathi, Vishakhapatnam, Bengaluru, Mysuru, Mangaluru, Hubballi, Trivandrum, Madurai, Erode, Chennai, Salem, Karur, Coimbatore, Puducherry, Kanchipuram, Dindigul, Sivakasi, Thoothukudi, Hyderabad, Kochi, Visakhapatnam, Kozhikode. | 782 | 300 with 72 International Delegates | 6511 | | |

| Events & Locations | | Participation | | | | |
|------------------------|---|--|--|---|--|--|
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| 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 |
| Central | 108 | Two (2) Events: IIM, Raipur, Chhattisgarh and IGNTU, Amarkantak, M.P. | Seven events (CII-5, RIS-2) organised at: Raipur, Durg, Indore, Bhopal, Sehore. | 294 | 800 with 66 International delegates | 1464 |
| North East Zone | 4,050 | Two (2) Events: Inception Meeting, Guwahati and Manipur University, Manipur | Five events (CII-3, RIS-2) organised at: Guwahati, Mizoram, Nagaland. | 10,10,000 | 870 with 62 International Delegates | 778 |
| | 64812 | 17 Events | | 26,45,129 | 13,505 with 2699 International Delegates | 14,459 |

“*Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam -
One Earth, One Family,
One Future.*

*This captures our outlook
towards the G20 Presidency
aptly. For us, the whole planet
is like one family.* **”**

**— Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India**