



#YOUTHLEAD
FESTIVAL

HARDIK DEWAN
FOUNDATION

#YouthLead Dialogue



HARDIK DEWAN
FOUNDATION

29th August 2025
Bharat Mandapam,
New Delhi

Outcome Document

#YouthLead Dialogue



Education Partner



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HARDIK DEWAN
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Summary: Empowering Tomorrow's Leaders Today

The **Youth Lead Dialogue** organised by the **Hardik Dewan Foundation** stands as a significant national youth policy dialogue crafted under the aegis of the **United Nations Youth Office Initiative**, #YouthLead Festival. This landmark event commemorates the **30th anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth**, serving as an unparalleled platform to elevate the voices of **Indian youth onto the global stage at the UN Headquarters in New York**. We believe in the transformative power of youth, and this event is designed to be a catalyst for meaningful intergenerational collaboration.

Theme: "Accelerating Global Progress Through Intergenerational Collaboration."

The event convened **1,000+ delegates**, including students, policymakers, entrepreneurs, academics, and civil society leaders. It produced concrete recommendations that will directly feed into the **United Nations General Assembly High-Level Meeting on Youth in September 2025**.

The Dialogue established itself as one of the largest youth policy forums ever held in India. It provided a structured space for intergenerational collaboration, where young people's priorities were not just noted but treated as actionable mandates. This report presents a comprehensive narrative of the event, its key proceedings, survey results, emerging themes, and policy directions. It serves both as a record and as a blueprint for future youth policy.

India, home to the **world's largest youth population**, was an essential contributor to this global exercise. The **Youth Lead Dialogue 2025 at Bharat Mandapam** was India's flagship contribution, ensuring that the voices of Indian youth shape both national policies and global decision-making frameworks under the **#Youth2030** agenda.



Event Highlights: Lamp Lighting

The **Youth Lead Dialogue 2025** commenced with the **traditional Lamp Lighting Ceremony** (*Deep Prajwalan*), an age-old practice in Indian culture symbolising the victory of knowledge over ignorance and light over darkness. Lighting the lamp is seen as an invocation of positive energy and divine blessings, setting a sacred tone for the dialogue. It blended the cultural roots of India with the spiritual essence of beginning any noble effort, and was performed in the presence of the distinguished guests and dignitaries.

The **Lamp Lighting Ceremony** also carried a profound spiritual message for the audience. It reminded everyone that just as a single flame can dispel darkness, the light of wisdom and truth has the power to guide humanity through challenges and uncertainty. The rising flame symbolised purity, hope, and the eternal quest for enlightenment, teaching the gathering that progress is possible only when inner values illuminate outward action. **For the youth present, it served as a gentle lesson that their journey must be anchored in integrity and purpose, for light not only brightens the path ahead but also inspires others to follow.**

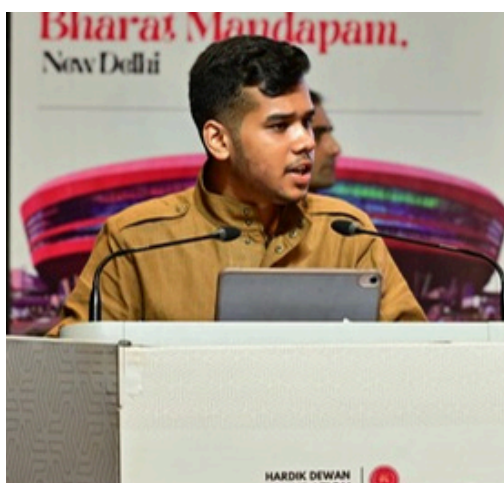


Lamp Lighting Ceremony

Event Highlights: Welcome Address

Hardik Kumar Dewan, Founder of the **Hardik Dewan Foundation**, delivered the **Welcome Address**. In his opening note, he spoke passionately about the potential of youth, describing them as the true driving force behind India's growth and global leadership. He reflected upon his earlier participation in the United Nations ECOSOC Youth Forum, where he had taken the voices of young Indians to the global stage. He emphasised that this Dialogue was not just an event but a commitment to sustained youth participation in policy-making.

During his address, he also played a **short video message by Dr. Felipe Paullier, Assistant Secretary-General, UN Youth Office**, commended the initiative and highlighted the importance of youth-driven dialogues feeding into global decision-making platforms. Hardik concluded his remarks with the resounding words, *"Bharat Mata Ki Jai,"* which were met with thunderous applause.



Welcome Address by the Organiser, Mr. Hardik Kumar Dewan, Founder, Hardik Dewan Foundation.

Event Highlights: Opening Ceremony

The **Youth Lead Dialogue 2025** began with the **striking of the ceremonial hammer**, a **tradition** also **followed at the United Nations** to **open important sessions**. The clear sound of the hammer marked the **official start of the Dialogue** and **reminded everyone** of the values of **discipline, unity, and shared responsibility** in decision making. It was also a symbol that the voices of young people are just as important in shaping the future of both nations and the world.

After this, **Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and Urban Development Affairs**, was welcomed as the **Chief Guest** to **open the session**. His presence gave the occasion great dignity and importance, showing that the Dialogue was a true meeting point of India's aspirations within global values



#YouthLead Dialogue formally opened by Hon'ble Union Minister, Shri Manohar Lal Khattar.

Event Highlights: Address by the Chief Guest



Address by Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Union Minister, Govt. of India.

Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Union Minister of Power and Urban Development Affairs, Government of India, addressed the youth with a deeply inspiring speech. He shared lessons from his personal and political journey, speaking about how hardwork had shaped his rise from humble beginnings to becoming a respected national leader. He reminded the audience that true leadership is not measured by titles but by service to people, and urged young delegates to embrace mistakes as stepping stones rather than setbacks.

He encouraged the youth to find mentors who could guide their paths and warned against distractions such as substance abuse and unhealthy habits, emphasising that such pitfalls can derail both personal growth and the nation's progress. Linking his vision with Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi Ji's call for Viksit Bharat 2047, he urged young Indians to dedicate themselves to nation-building with integrity and purpose.

With humility, he remarked that he would rather attend such a gathering as a participant than as Chief Guest, which reflected his grounded and accessible nature. Quoting sanskrit shlokas and the teachings of Swami Vivekananda, he infused a spiritual and philosophical depth into his words. His message carried wisdom, warmth, and motivation, leaving the youth energised and filled with a renewed sense of national pride.

Event Highlights: Address by Guests of Honour



Address by Dr. Abhishek Verma, Hon'ble Chief National Coordinator, NDA (Alliance & Elections), Shivsena.

Dr. Abhishek Verma, Hon'ble Chief National Coordinator (NDA Alliance and Elections), Shivsena, graced the Dialogue as Guest of Honour. In his address, he reminded the audience that the future belongs to the youth, yet the responsibility of shaping the present also rests on their shoulders. He applauded the UN's vision and specifically commended the Hardik Dewan Foundation for its contribution in amplifying youth voices on a global stage.



Address by Shri Krishan Lal Panwar, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister, Govt. of Haryana.

Shri Krishan Lal Panwar, Hon'ble Cabinet Minister of Panchayats & Development, Mines & Geology, Government of Haryana, spoke on the transformative role of youth in society. He cited statistics about India's youth population, underlining that with the right guidance, this demographic advantage can be the country's most valuable asset. He expressed gratitude to the United Nations for creating this initiative, and inspired the audience by mentioning India's outstanding role in the Olympics and international sports, also appreciating the Haryana Government's efforts in promoting sporting culture among young people.

Event Highlights: Statement by VIPS-TC



Dr. S. C. Vats, Founder & Chairman of VIPS-TC, with Hardik Dewan, Founder of Hardik Dewan Foundation, unveiling the Education Partnership for Youth Lead Dialogue 2025.

Statement by Vivekananda Institute of Professional Studies-Technical Campus, Delhi

VIPS-TC is proud to have partnered with the Hardik Dewan Foundation as the Education Partner for the Youth Lead Dialogue 2025 at Bharat Mandapam. This initiative, held under the banner of the United Nations Youth Office's #YouthLead Festival, brought together over a thousand delegates, young students, policymakers, entrepreneurs, and change-makers — to engage in one of India's largest youth policy dialogues.

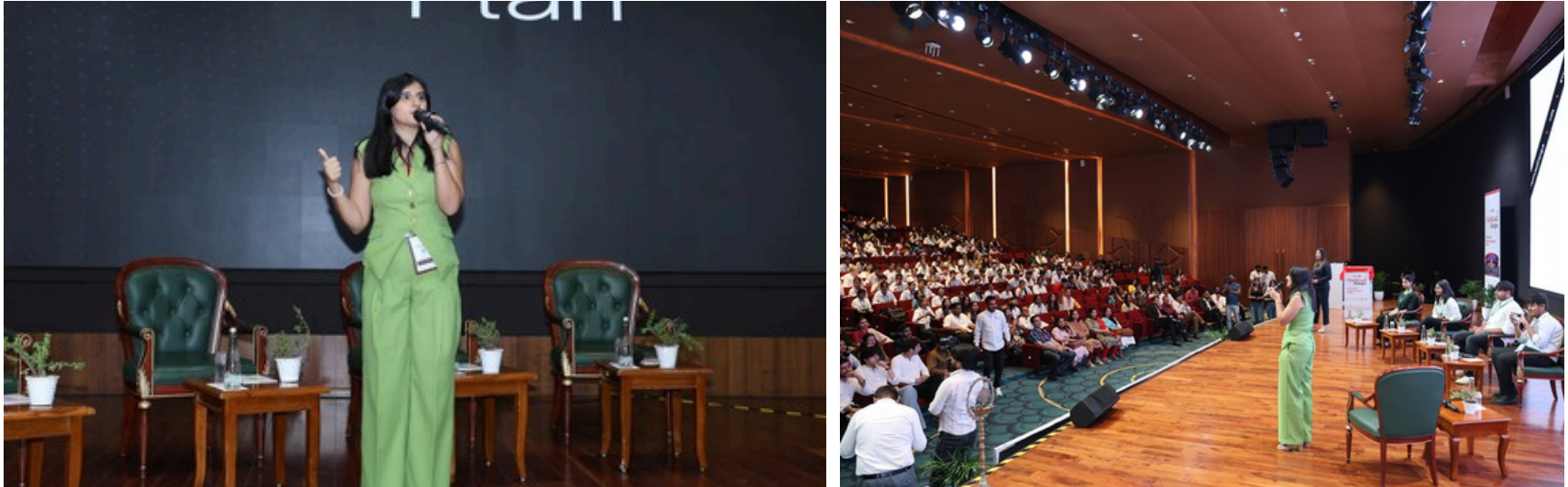
What makes this Dialogue extraordinary is that its outcome document will now travel to the United Nations General Assembly in New York. In doing so, it takes the voice of Indian youth from the halls of Bharat Mandapam to the world's most important global forum, ensuring that their ideas shape international policy and the future of #Youth2030.

As Shri Manohar Lal Khattar, Hon'ble Union Minister, rightly reminded, the greatest youth icon for India remains Swami Vivekananda, whose ideals of courage, service, and spiritual strength continue to guide generations. This Dialogue, too, echoed his vision by nurturing young minds to rise with purpose, discipline, and an unwavering commitment to nation-building.

For us at VIPS-TC, this partnership reaffirms our belief that education is not only about learning but about empowering young people to lead, to dream, and to take India's story to the global stage.

Prof. Dr. Anuradha Jain,
Principal, VIPS-TC

Event Highlights: Keynote Speaker Session



Keynote Session by Mrs. Neha Nagar, Finance Content Creator and Featured on Forbes Cover

Mrs. Neha Nagar, a noted voice in the field of financial education, delivered an insightful keynote address on the importance of financial literacy for India's youth. She emphasized that in a rapidly growing economy, managing money wisely is not just a personal necessity but a national responsibility. Drawing from her professional journey, she highlighted how financial awareness can empower young people to make informed choices, avoid debt traps, and create long-term wealth.

She reminded the delegates that financial independence is the cornerstone of true independence, and urged them to begin early by cultivating habits of savings, investment, and disciplined spending. Her words reflected both pragmatism and passion, underlining that knowledge of money is as essential as knowledge of law, technology, or politics.



Keynote Session by Master Kautilya Pandit, Google Boy of India

Master Kautilya Pandit, popularly known as the "Google Boy of India," captivated the audience with his extraordinary intellect and inspiring presence. Despite his young age, he spoke with clarity and confidence on the importance of curiosity, continuous learning, and discipline in achieving excellence. His extraordinary ability to grasp and retain knowledge served as a reminder to the youth that the mind, when nurtured, is capable of limitless growth.

He encouraged young delegates to channel their energy into learning not just for examinations but for life, stressing that true education lies in application and understanding. With humility, he shared that talent alone is never enough—it must be combined with perseverance, focus, and a willingness to ask questions. His words carried both innocence and wisdom, creating a unique resonance among the audience.

Event Highlights: About the Panelists

Mr. Jas Kalra is a committed humanitarian leading the Earth Saviours Foundation with a vision of dignity and care for the underprivileged. His work focuses on supporting abandoned elders, the destitute, and differently-abled individuals, creating a model of compassion-driven reform. Under his leadership, the Foundation has emerged as a beacon of social service, inspiring widespread respect and recognition. He strongly advocates for a society where empathy shapes action and every individual is valued. His journey reflects an unwavering dedication to uplifting humanity at its most vulnerable.



Mr. Jas Kalra,
President
The Earth Saviours Foundation

Mr. Siddharth Yadav is a distinguished lawyer practicing at the Supreme Court of India and serves as the National Spokesperson of the Bharatiya Janata Party. With his articulate voice and legal expertise, he effectively bridges the worlds of law, governance, and public policy. His career reflects a strong commitment to justice while actively contributing to national discourse. Beyond his legal practice, he is widely respected for his ability to communicate complex issues with clarity. His professional path showcases leadership, intellect, and a deep sense of public service.



Mr. Siddharth Yadav,
Advocate, Supreme Court,
National Spokesperson, BJP

Dr. Shobha Vijender is a renowned social activist and the founder of Sampurna NGO, dedicated to women's empowerment and social justice. Her initiatives span education, health awareness, and skill development, creating opportunities for marginalized women to lead independent lives. Through her sustained efforts, she has become a respected advocate for gender equality and social reform. She continues to champion grassroots change by mobilizing communities and mentoring young women leaders. Her work stands as a testimony to the transformative power of compassion and perseverance.



Dr. Shobha Vijender,
Women's Activist,
Founder: Sampurna NGO

Mr. Anuj Nevatia is the visionary founder of Bacca Bucci, a leading youth lifestyle brand known for its innovative footwear and accessories. With a strong entrepreneurial spirit, he has successfully blended creativity with business strategy, positioning the brand as a trendsetter in the fashion industry. His leadership continues to drive growth and global recognition for the company. He is admired for redefining style with affordability and accessibility, making the brand a favorite among young consumers. His journey reflects the energy of a modern entrepreneur driven by passion and innovation.



Mr. Anuj Nevatia,
Founder
Bacca Bucci

Mrs. Saloni Khanna is an educationist and social impact content creator committed to inspiring positive change through learning and awareness. Her work combines holistic pedagogy with modern communication, enabling her to reach and influence diverse audiences. With a focus on youth empowerment and progressive education, she stands as a strong voice for social responsibility. She consistently uses creative platforms to address pressing societal issues and promote mindful living. Her initiatives are shaping a generation that values knowledge, empathy, and collective progress.



Mrs. Saloni Khanna,
Educationist,
Social Impact Content Creator

Event Highlights: About the Panelists

Mr. Himanshu Adlakha is the founder of Winston Electronics, a company built on innovation, quality, and trust in the electronics sector. With his strategic vision, the brand has grown steadily across domestic and international markets. His leadership reflects resilience and forward-thinking, positioning Winston Electronics as a recognised name in technology and consumer solutions. He believes in combining cutting-edge technology with customer-centric values to drive excellence. His entrepreneurial story highlights determination, adaptability, and the pursuit of long-term success.



Mr. Himanshu Adlakha,
Founder,
Winston Electronics

Mr. Manish Khurana is the founder of Innovations Ventures Studio, an entrepreneurial platform dedicated to nurturing startups and scalable ideas. He brings expertise in investment, strategy, and innovation, guiding emerging ventures towards sustainable growth. Through his leadership, the Studio has evolved into a hub for creative business solutions and long-term impact. His mentorship has shaped numerous entrepreneurs who credit him for practical insights and visionary guidance. He remains deeply committed to fostering an ecosystem where bold ideas can thrive and transform into impactful enterprises.



Mr. Manish Khurana,
Founder,
Innovations Ventures Studio



Mega Panel Discussion.

Event Highlights: Mega Panel Discussion

The panel discussion brought together an illustrious group of leaders, entrepreneurs, educationists, and social activists under the moderation of **Mr. Dheerendra Singh**. The dialogue revolved around the aspirations of youth and their role in shaping the future of India through innovation, social responsibility, and active citizenship. Each panelist shared insights from their journeys, leaving the audience with lessons both practical and inspirational.

Mr. Anuj Nevatia, *Founder of Bacca Bucci*, reminded young delegates that it is not brands that define individuals, but individuals with vision and persistence who create brands. **Mr. Himanshu Adlakha**, *Founder of Winston Electronics*, addressed concerns around technology and AI, urging the youth to embrace adaptability and upskilling rather than fearing disruption. **Mr. Siddharth Yadav**, *Advocate, Supreme Court of India and National Spokesperson of BJP*, underscored that politics itself is “not ‘dirty’—its character depends on people’s participation and integrity, making systemic awareness vital for responsible citizenship”.

Speaking on social sensitivity, **Mr. Jas Kalra**, *President of The Earth Saviours Foundation*, urged the audience to shift from “selfie culture” to “seva culture,” stressing that the biggest challenge is not funding but the lack of compassion in society. Adding to this, **Mr. Manish Khurana**, *Founder of Innovation Ventures Studio*, emphasised that innovation lies not only in new products but also in solving old problems in new ways, and failures should be seen as stepping stones rather than obstacles.

Mrs. Saloni Khanna, *Educationist and Social Impact Content Creator*, highlighted the transformative role of education and digital platforms in empowering the youth, particularly young women. Complementing this, **Dr. Shobha Vijender**, *Founder of Sampurna NGO*, shared her experiences in women’s activism and underlined how consistent social participation can bring community-level transformation. Together, their voices harmonised into a call for action, reminding the youth that education, awareness, and social service are as essential as economic success.

The session concluded with a collective message that India’s progress rests on a balance of innovation, responsibility, and sensitivity. With the active involvement of young people, the nation has the potential to not only meet but also shape the challenges of the future. The discussion left the delegates motivated, instilled with a renewed sense of confidence in their role as the true architects of Viksit Bharat.



Event Highlights: Keynote Speaker Session



Keynote Session by Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder Gabit and Ex. Co-Founder, Zomato.

Mr. Gaurav Gupta, Founder of Gabit and Ex-Co-founder of Zomato, addressed the gathering with valuable insights drawn from his entrepreneurial journey. He spoke about the highs and lows of building ventures at scale, stressing that resilience and adaptability are the true strengths of a leader. Drawing from his experience in transforming Zomato into a household name, he emphasised the importance of customer-centric thinking, speed of execution, and the courage to take bold decisions.

He urged the youth to focus not only on starting ventures but also on building sustainable business models that create long-term impact. With refreshing candour, he acknowledged that mistakes are inevitable in entrepreneurship, but what defines success is the ability to learn, pivot, and persist. His advice to young innovators was to dream big yet stay grounded, balancing ambition with discipline.

Linking his vision with India's entrepreneurial future, Mr. Gaurav Gupta highlighted how startups can become engines of economic growth and employment for a rising nation. He encouraged delegates to embrace innovation as a mindset rather than just a business strategy. His words resonated with both aspiring entrepreneurs and professionals, leaving them inspired to pursue their goals with courage, clarity, and conviction.

Event Highlights: Special Performance



Special Performance by Mr Mukul Sharma.

Mr. Mukul Sharma captivated the audience with an **energetic performance** that beautifully combined **artistry and emotion**. It was more than entertainment — it was an experience that touched everyone present and showed the power of art to bring people together, stir emotions, and create lasting memories.

His performance was both **graceful and energetic**, moving seamlessly between **moods with great versatility**. The audience responded warmly and with admiration, reflecting the strong connection he created through his art. It became not just a performance, but a celebration of culture and creativity, adding a truly memorable touch to the session.

By blending **inspiration with expression**, Mr. Mukul Sharma highlighted the **role of the arts in nurturing sensitivity as well as intellect**.

The Dialogue ended on an uplifting note, with delegates carrying away not only the key messages of the discussions but also the emotions stirred by his performance. It was a reminder that progress is shaped not only by ideas and innovation but also by the spirit and soul that art contributes to a nation's journey.

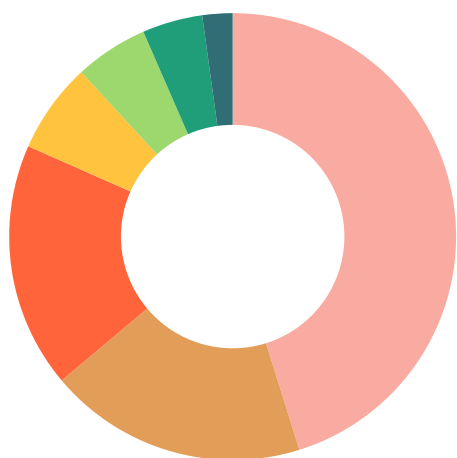
Audience's Opinions and Inputs

Connecting with Tomorrow's Innovators

As part of the engagement, students were invited to share their opinions and inputs about the event as well as on pressing global issues. Their active participation brought fresh perspectives, reflecting the concerns, aspirations, and innovative ideas of the younger generation. This exchange not only enriched the discussion but also emphasised the importance of youth voices in shaping conversations on national progress and global challenges.

Delegate Demographics

Which of the following challenges do you think are the most urgent for youth today?



Graphical Key

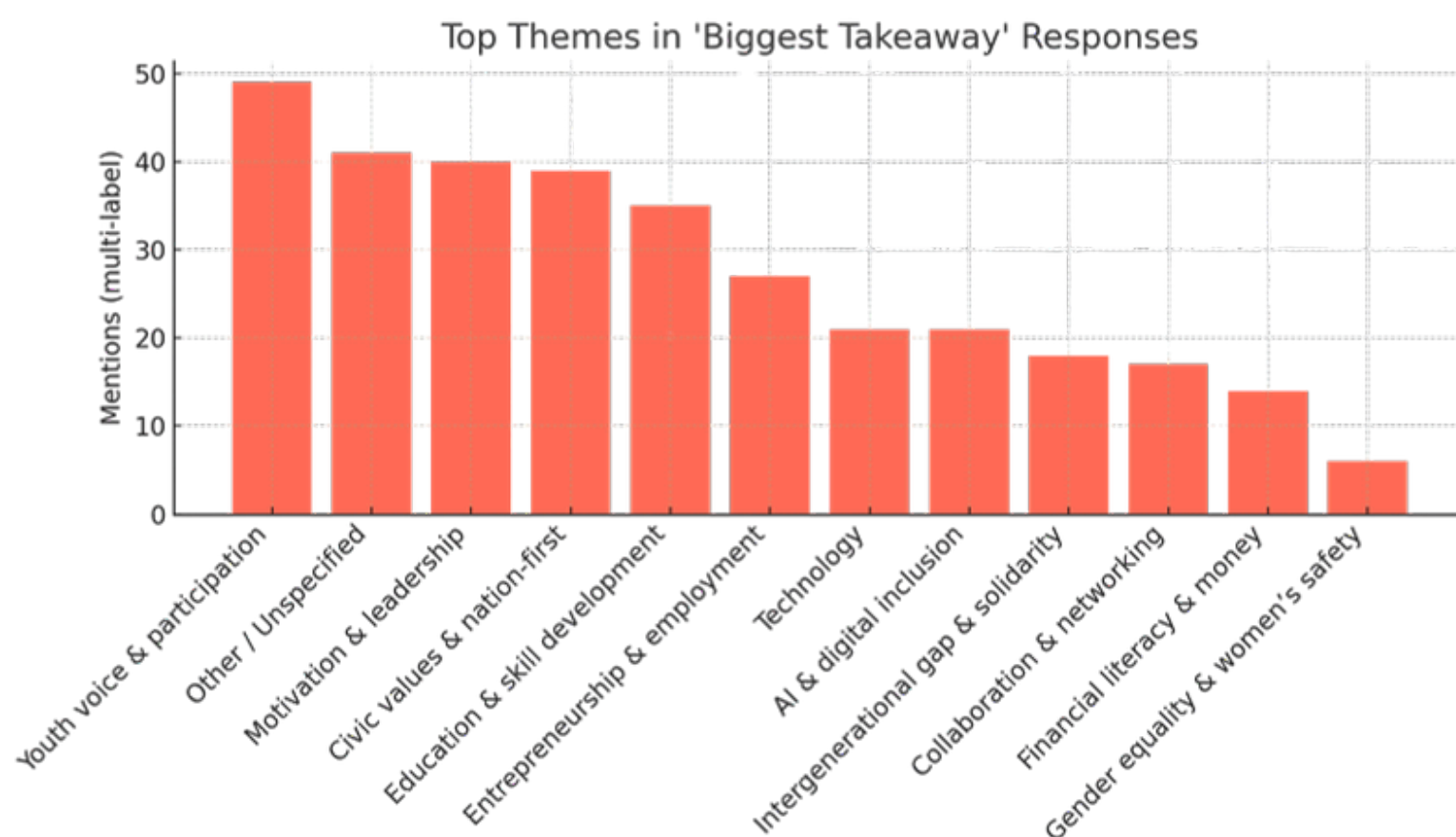
- Education & Skill Development
- Employment & Entrepreneurship
- Mental Health & Wellbeing
- Political Representation
- Gender Equality & Inclusion
- Climate Change & Environment
- Digital Divide & Technology Access

The analysis clearly shows that youth priorities are centered on building a strong foundation for the future through health, education, and equality, while also recognising the importance of sustainable growth, urban development, and global cooperation. Their choices reflect not only personal aspirations but also a collective sense of responsibility toward society and the planet. By aligning with these SDGs, the younger generation demonstrates its readiness to be active partners in shaping a more inclusive, sustainable, and prosperous world.

Audience's Opinions and Inputs

Connecting with Tomorrow's Innovators

What is your biggest takeaway from the Youth Lead Dialogue?



The charts map each response to one or more themes and then count how often each appears. Youth voice & participation dominates, followed by motivation & leadership, civic values & nation-first, and education & skill development. Entrepreneurship/employment and technology (including AI and digital inclusion) form the next tier, while intergenerational gap/solidarity, collaboration/networking, and financial literacy show a steady presence. Mentions of gender equality, climate/environment, and mental health are fewer in this sample, and negative event feedback was minimal, serving more as a signal than noise.

In terms of programme design, prioritise platforms for youth participation (policy forums, youth councils), leadership and mentoring pathways, and skills curricula that link education to jobs and start-ups. Build in digital inclusion and AI literacy, create structured intergenerational dialogue, and embed practical financial education. In short: give young people a real voice, real skills, and real routes to impact—and the rest will follow.

Audience's Opinions and Inputs Connecting with Tomorrow's Innovators

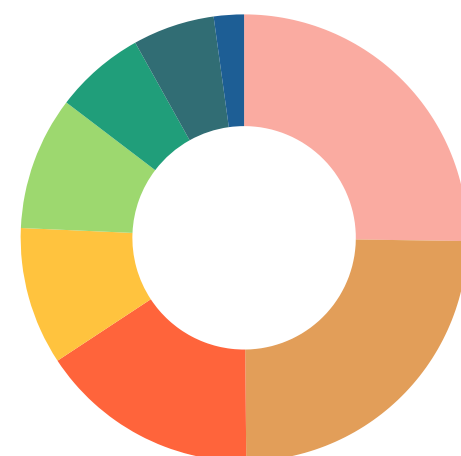
As part of the engagement, students were invited to share their opinions and inputs about the event as well as on pressing global issues. Their active participation brought fresh perspectives, reflecting the concerns, aspirations, and innovative ideas of the younger generation. This exchange not only enriched the discussion but also emphasised the importance of youth voices in shaping conversations on national progress and global challenges.

Graphical Key

- **SDG 3: Good Health and Well-being**
- **SDG 4: Quality Education**
- **SDG 5: Gender Equality**
- **SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth**
- **SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities**
- **SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals**
- **SDG 13: Climate Action**
- **SDG 15: Life on Land**

Delegate Demographics

Which Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) inspires you the most?



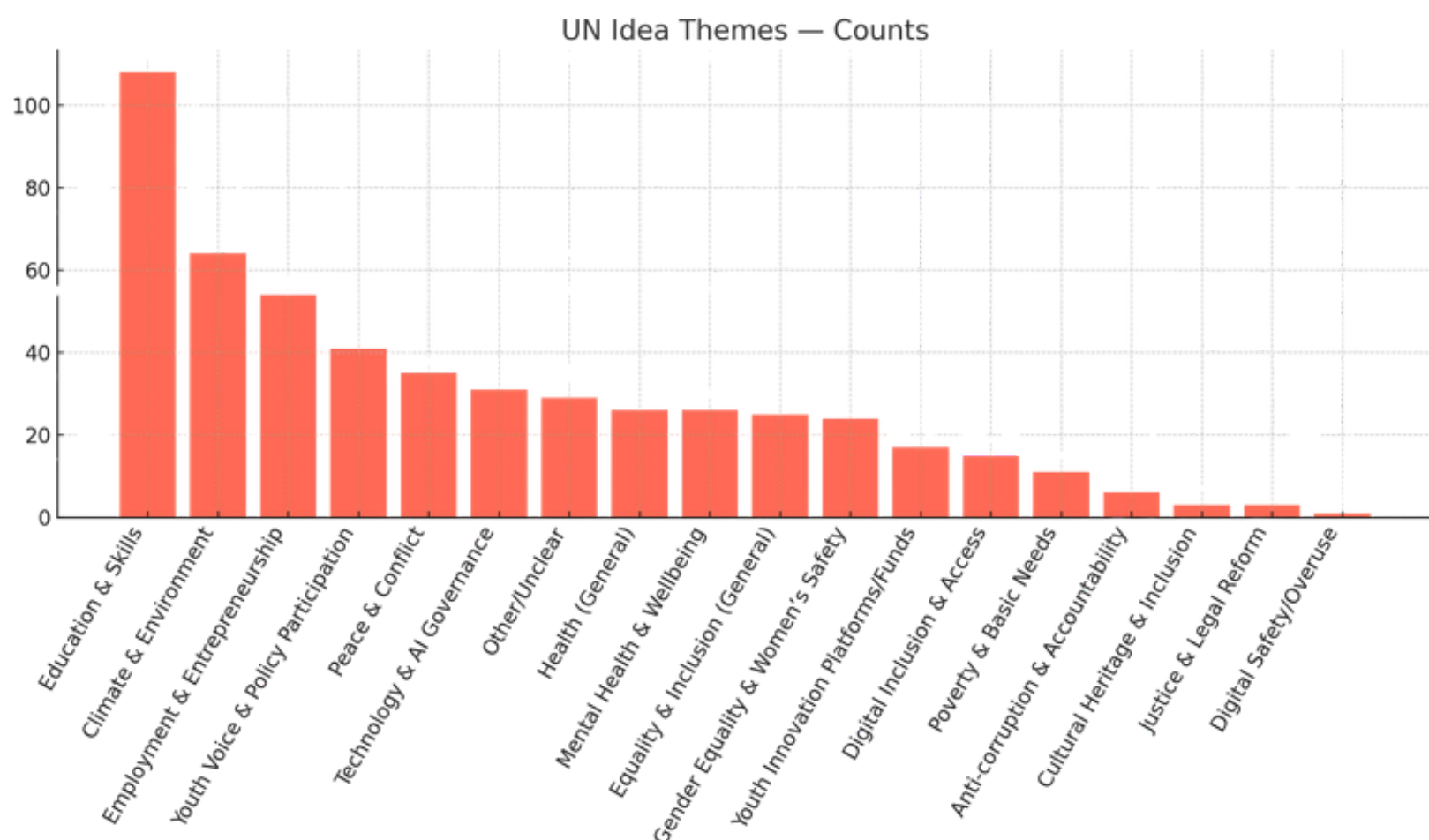
The survey responses underline that the youth are deeply invested in issues of health, education, equality, and sustainable livelihoods, while also showing significant awareness of global challenges such as climate change, urbanisation, and partnerships. The prominence of SDG 3 and SDG 4 demonstrates that young people see well-being and education as the twin pillars of future progress.

This data reflects a forward-looking mindset among students, eager to balance personal aspirations with collective responsibility, and committed to aligning themselves with the broader vision of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Viksit Bharat 2047.

Audience's Opinions and Inputs

Connecting with Tomorrow's Innovators

If you had the chance to present one idea at the United Nations, what would it be?



Education & Skills is the clear anchor of the dataset (108 tags; 20.8%), followed by Climate & Environment (64; 12.3%) and Employment & Entrepreneurship (54; 10.4%). There's strong demand for Youth Voice & Policy Participation (41; 7.9%), with supporting clusters in Technology & AI Governance, Mental Health, Gender Equality & Women's Safety, and Digital Inclusion. In short: respondents want practical learning that leads to real jobs, alongside fair access, safety, and a genuine say in decisions.

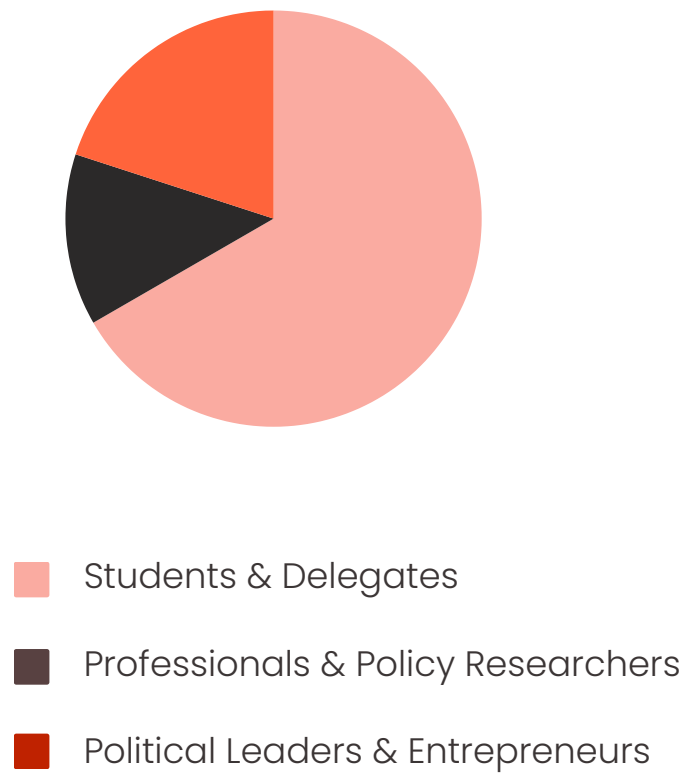
The practical read-across is simple. Treat education as the system lever (skills, entrepreneurship, climate literacy, mental health, and digital safety), and pair it with power-sharing: formal youth councils, budget lines, and innovation funds so young people don't just speak, they steer. Quick wins: pilot a Youth Climate & Innovation Corps (jobs + impact), accelerate connectivity and devices, and mainstream gender safety and social-audit accountability. Less fanfare, more follow-through.

Audience & Reach

Connecting with Tomorrow's Innovators

The **Youth Lead Dialogue 2025** is designed to attract a diverse and influential audience, ensuring key demographics and thought leaders who are shaping the future. Our reach extends beyond the physical venue, amplifying your message globally.

Delegate Demographics



Influencers & Geographic Spread

Geographic Spread: Delegates from Delhi NCR joined physically, with an expected social media reach of **5 Million+**.

Key Influencers in Attendance:

- Union & State Ministers
- Leading Academics
- Prominent Corporate & Startup Leaders

Our core audience is primarily aged **18-35 years**, representing the most dynamic and influential segment of India's youth.

#YLD25

Insiders: Where Youth Shapes the Future

Impact Reach

5 Million +

Through nationwide media, digital campaigns, and on-ground presence, the Dialogue engaged over five million people, making it one of the most visible youth events in India.

Long-Term

Legacy of Change

Rooted in the vision of empowering the next generation, the event aligned with global development goals and built a long-term movement for youth leadership.

Top Tier

India's Top Youth Policy Forum

Rooted in the vision of empowering the next generation, the event was aligned with global development goals and laid the foundation for a long-term movement for youth leadership.

Key Leaders

Leaders at the Table

Featured ministers, diplomats, industry pioneers, and youth icons, who offered rare access to conversations that influenced the nation's future.

**Watch the glimpses of the #YouthLead Dialogue
by scanning this QR code.**



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