

Indian Youth: Aspirations and Vision for the Future

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Report Release & Panel Discussion
**Indian Youth: Aspirations and Vision for the
Future**

December 15, 2021

1930 – 2030 (IST) / 1500 – 1600 (Brussels Time)



Program Overview

Indian Youth: Aspirations and Vision for the Future is a collaborative study of Lokniti, a programme of the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies and the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). Young people aged between 15 to 34 years account for a little over one-third of the Indian population. Such a large young population is an asset for any nation as these young people have the potential to play an active role in shaping the socio-economic and political development of the country. But today, young Indians are grappling with multiple challenges such as financial difficulties for pursuing their education, lack of employment opportunities and issues of mental health. Some of these issues have been discussed in the previous rounds of the youth studies conducted by the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) in partnership with the India Office of the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS). This report is based on the fourth round of youth study, which aims to analyse if there have been changes in the attitudes and behaviour of the youth, their levels of anxieties and their emerging aspirations.

Lokniti-CSDS and the India Office of Konrad Adenauer Stiftung, organised an event to release the report and conduct a Panel Discussion, on the 15th of December 2021, at The Imperial, Janpath, Connaught Place, Delhi – 110001, between 1930 – 2030 (IST) / 1500 – 1600 (Brussels Time).

The event witnessed the presence of Professor Sanjay Kumar, Co-Director, Lokniti-CSDS, Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, KAS, Mr. Bhupendra Chaubey, Editor in Chief, India Ahead News, Professor Divya Vaid, Faculty, Jawaharlal Nehru University, Mr. Ansh Singh Luthra, Advocate, Delhi High Court, and Ms. Kanika Sinha, Convener, ComMutiny – the Youth Collective. Mr. Bhupendra Chaubey was the Chief Guest at the event and Professor Divya Vaid, Mr. Ansh Singh Luthra and Ms. Kanika Sinha were the Panellists for the Panel Discussion.

Glimpses



Key Takeaways

- Mr. Peter Rimmele remarked that this concentration of youth studies becomes all the more significant in the Indian context considering the comparative enormously high percentage of youth as 15-34 years old account for almost 35% of the Indian population, that is more than one-third.
- Prof. Sanjay Kumar remarked that the study tries to map the youth's opinions, attitudes, changes across the following themes – social ties, friendships, families and society, religious practices and engagements, attitude towards marriage and marriage preferences, career choices among Indian youth, livelihoods, opportunities and challenges.
- Mr. Bhupendra Chaubey noted that this is first such attempt that has been made where CSDS & KAS tried to delink the electoral processes. Usually, we end up looking at all surveys through the prism of pure politics.
- Prof. Divya Vaid remarked that this series of reports is important because it provides a temporal look at key demographic changes as well as youth aspirations and attitudes and the hurdles and opportunities that the youth face according to different socio-economic criteria and location.
- Mr. Ansh Singh Luthra noted that a lot of issues highlighted in the report are interrelated such as employment, skill development, financial wellbeing, mental wellbeing and that all of us face these issues on a day-to-day basis. He talked about a skill-based force development where private entities are roped in and are regulated by the government as a possible solution.
- Ms. Kanika Sinha talked about how nation building, volunteering are what young people are expected of but when it comes to decision making, we tend to see the experienced middle aged/senior people in power.

Opening Remarks

Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

Peter Rimmele reminisced and appreciated the 15 years of collaboration between CSDS and KAS that started with the first survey on the “Attitudes and Perceptions of the Indian Youth” – 15 years where India has experienced and continues to experience evermore fast-paced and profound economic, political and socio-cultural changes. 15 years in which in stark contrast to his own country Germany the percentage of youth in India has steadily risen. Meanwhile, Germany like China and Japan has a rather aging population.

He talked about publishing a number of widely acclaimed studies on the Indian youth – their perceptions, their hopes, their fears and their visions for the future and how instead of resting on our laurels we have always come to realize one crucial truth - after every single publication our work commences anew. In an ever-changing world, the continuous changes in Indian youths’ attitudes and behaviours demand constant reassessment and examination in order to paint a reliable picture on the current reality on the ground. Even after wrapping up the book launch of the fourth round of the Indian Youth study, the work will restart.

He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to all those who have contributed to this study and will continue to do so for further studies to come. Unlike Sisyphus from the Greek mythology who was condemned to move a boulder for eternity, it is our intellectual inquisitiveness and eagerness to bring about real improvement in change in policies that will most probably condemn us to work on new books and studies for life. Moreover, he talked about advocating for a better understanding of the lives of young Indians, their fears and dreams which is a very noble, worthwhile and fruitful endeavour so as to influence Indian policy-makers to be guided by the findings of our studies for the betterment of both the present and future young generations.

He remarked that this concentration of youth studies becomes all the more significant in the Indian context considering the comparative enormously high percentage of youth as 15-34 years old account for almost 35% of the Indian population, that is more than one-third. Furthermore, the enormous value of the present book resides in the underlying rationale of giving voice to the youth as they represent the current and future decision-makers and opinion-formers who will shape the functioning and understanding of society in India in the years and decades to come. He specifically talked about the importance of giving voice to the youth because the Indian society generally still follows a fairly hierarchical order in which young people’s opinions are often disregarded simply because of their age and the stereotyping that goes with it. Formulated in a tough way – the old ones are deciding about the future of the young ones and that is why the young ones with their aspirations should at least be heard, so that their thinking can be considered by the decision-makers.

As our previous studies and the current report have made it clear that we should also refrain from viewing the Indian youth as a homogenous entity. The regional, socio-economic, cultural and gender differences between this group of more than a hundred million people are too great and these divergences significantly shape their perceptions, aspirations and visions for the future in opposite directions as we do not have homogenous opinions of the youth on many issues. This very fact will continue to complicate our goal of defining young people's perceptions but on the other hand also offers an opportunity to look at different perceptions and perspectives within the present publication through which we avoided the mistake of framing this project in a monolithic manner.

He concluded with a remark from Prime minister Narendra Modi "India is the world's most youthful nation. A nation with such youth power cannot dream small, we cannot commit this crime, we should dream big, we should enable the youth to dream big and we should give them an opportunity to realize their dreams."

Introductory Remarks

Professor Sanjay Kumar, Co-Director Lokniti-CSDS

Professor Kumar began by giving a context to the report. He remarked that this report which is titled “Indian Youth – Aspiration and Vision for the future” is based on a nation-wide survey of Indian youths in the age group 15 to 34 years it not only draws from the survey which has been conducted this year but this report also tries to map changes which have taken place in opinions, attitudes, aspirations, levels of anxieties and other behavioural patterns among Indian youth. Mapping these changes has not been done by comparison based on other surveys but from the findings of the youth studies conducted by CSDS earlier. He mentioned that the Lokniti team and CSDS has been doing the youth studies for the last fifteen years. The first study was carried out in 2006-07 and since then the research team has been conducting regular studies on Indian youth. He thanked KAS for supporting all these youth studies over the last two decades.

This is the fourth round of youth study. The first round was conducted in the year 2006-07, the second round was in the year 2012-13 and the third round was in the year 2016-17. So, it can be noticed that in an interval of say, four to five years, we have been conducting these studies trying to map the changes because it is important to map the changing attitudes, perceptions of young people that form a very large proportion of India’s population.

Coming to this study, he informed the audience that it is a national study not limited to just some cities and villages. The study was conducted in 18 states of the country and the total number of young people interviewed in this survey is 6277. It is also important to note that this is a national representative sample that has representation of youth from all sectors more or less in the same range and proportion as their share in the national population. To mention the states where the survey was conducted, all the big states Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Maharashtra, West Bengal, Andhra Pradesh, Telangana, Madhya Pradesh, Tamil Nadu, Rajasthan, Karnataka, Gujarat, Odisha, Kerala, Jharkhand, Assam, Punjab, Chhattisgarh and Delhi. Assuming that opinions of the youth would vary across the locality where they live as the youth in metropolitan cities may not think like the youth in villages interviews were conducted in all four localities by dividing the country into four zones – villages, small towns, small cities and big cities and all these were selected randomly and were not selected as per convenience but a systematic random sampling method was used.

He remarked that the study tries to map the youth’s opinions, attitudes, changes across the following themes – social ties, friendships, families and society, religious practices and engagements, attitude towards marriage and marriage preferences, career choices among Indian youth, livelihoods, opportunities and challenges and noted that it is even more important during the pandemic with many reports of loss of livelihoods and issues related to mental health have gained more attention in recent times and the COVID-19 scenario has Indian media debating this a lot more.

Presentation on the Report

Professor Sandeep Shastri, Vice Chancellor of Jagran Lakecity University and the National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network

Professor Shastri began by taking forward the points raised by Professor Sanjay Kumar. He remarked that in important ways this report presents the diversity of India as mirrored in the attitudes, aspirations, expectations, experiences of young people.

Professor Shastri gave a presentation on the report, giving an overview of the main findings of the report. He noted that one of the most important questions asked in the survey was about what young people think the most important problem is. Not unexpectedly, close to half the youth identified unemployment as the key challenge and another 2 out of every 10 either referred to poverty or inflation. This trend is something that has been seen in earlier reports also and this trend also in a sense mirrors the larger concerns which people in India have expressed. So, what the youth identify as their biggest concern is also the concern of the society at large across the country. Another interesting point that was asked to young people was about the type of job they would prefer to do. As indicated in previous studies, more than half the young people said that they would prefer a government job. What is noteworthy is that the percentages have come down as compared to earlier studies. In earlier youth studies, two-third of the young people had said they'd prefer a government job and the numbers have fallen little over a half. Meanwhile, what has increased in this round of the youth survey is nearly one-fourth of the young people say that they would like to take up business.

But he noted that it is not clear whether wanting to take up business is an aspiration or a reality although it appears more like an aspiration. But then that aspiration to be able to pursue business is something that is very visibly there. As he said that the percentage of those wanting a government job has come down from around 62 and 65 percent to 55 percent, a fall of around 10 percentage points. He talked about the Indian youth having understood what's keeping them from a stable employment. The youth very clearly say ability-related factors like the degree, work experience and the way of communication is much more critical in a sense than identity and influence-related factors. He believes that this is a very clear reflection of how young people understand the reality that they face in terms of what is important to get them a good job.

Interestingly, he informed the audience that nearly one-sixth of young people were aspiring for a job in the health sector and it is unclear if this is linked to the developments that the world has seen in the last two years in terms of the pandemic. But it is important to note that just three percent of the people had looked at health sector jobs in our earlier survey in 2016 but now that number has jumped to 17 percent. Another point that needs to be paid attention to is that only six percent of the employed youth wanted to pursue their current job which means that if they had a chance to change their jobs then most would like to pursue different jobs.

He also talked about social issues such as what did young people say about their ties with friends and family. One-thirds of the young people said that their ties with family had strengthened in the last two years and three out of ten said that their ties with friends have been strengthened. But he thinks that the majority in both the cases say that it is more or less the same as the proximity they enjoyed earlier.

He also discussed the factors that young people keep in mind while choosing their friends. Close to half of them said that the opinions of their friends and the way they thinks is what makes them bond with people. Another three out of ten said that those who speak their language are the ones they would like to bond with and another three out of ten said gender, that is, the same gender.

To take the discussion forward he threw some light on marriage preferences, those who are already married and those who aren't married have a difference in terms of how they look at issues. Four out of ten who are unmarried said that they would prefer an arranged marriage and three-fourths of those already married said that arranged marriage was better and one-fourth of those who are unmarried said that 'time will tell' as to whether they would prefer an arranged marriage or a love marriage. The study also looks at preferences in terms of inter-caste marriage and inter-religious marriage and it was found that six out of ten youth favoured inter-caste marriage and 45 percent felt that support for inter-religious marriage is something that they believed in. He added that the more one moves from a rural to an urban locale, the acceptance of inter-caste and inter-religious marriages got higher. As mentioned earlier, higher educational attainment saw greater acceptance of inter-cultural marriage. Young people were also asked how they viewed the institution of marriage from a particular perspective with regards to what they said in support of divorce for a troublesome marriage. Our data shows that 48 percent of the youth said that they would support or somewhat support divorce in a troublesome marriage and another one-fourth took the stance that they fully oppose divorce even in a troubled marriage.

Then he talked about religious preferences. The report looks at the regularity with which the young people participated in religious activities and it is interesting to note that more than one-third of the youth reported praying regularly, one-third said they fasted only during the festivals and four out of ten reported going to places of worship sometimes. There is a clear distinction in terms of what they say is done regularly, what they say is done sometimes and what they say is done only on festivals and occasions.

Professor Shastri drew everyone's attention towards, what is it that worries the Indian youth? Six out of ten are worried about fiscal insecurity, health and it is not known yet whether health has become a factor in the light of the pandemic since the past two year. Close to six out of ten also say that issues related to jobs is what worries them the most.

He also threw some light on what the study says with regards to the mental status or the psychological well-being of the youth of the country and the emotional stress that young people face. More than half of them said that they felt sad many times or sometimes. Close to half of them said that many times or sometimes they felt loss of interest in what they

normally do. And close to half of them felt that many times and sometimes they feel lonely. Now these are three important pointers found in this study – more than six out of ten of the youth said that they never experienced suicidal tendencies but it is also important to highlight that one-third or 36 percent of them did say that they felt suicidal tendencies rarely and often. A related question was then asked to the youth on whether they sought help to be able to improve their mental health and the data shows that ten percent reported that they consulted a doctor for therapy or mental health issues. Another two out of ten said that they took medicines to be able to sleep well but six out of ten said that they did not seek any kind of help or therapy which means they tended to manage these challenges on their own.

The last point of emphasis in this study is about who did young people prefer to go to when they faced mental health issues. Unsurprisingly, two-thirds of young people said that they confided and spoke to their parents as they considered them to be the ones, they could trust. Another 15 percent said friends, but it is also important to emphasize that one out of ten said that they prefer to speak to no one.

He noted that the youth study does this time-series analysis over the last 18 years so as to understand how our youth has changed and also remained the same in terms of what they think, in terms of what they believe and in terms of their aspirations for the future and their anxieties about the present.

Professor Shastri finished his presentation by inviting more people to join in this effort in trying to understand this diversity that the Indian youth represents.

Special Remarks

Mr. Bhupendra Chaubey, Editor in Chief, India Ahead News

Mr. Chaubey began by congratulating the entire CSDS team. He mentioned that he was given the privilege of examining the report beforehand and that before he came for the event, he did a television show which went on air at 9pm the same evening. He remarked that the report is triggering off the conversation of our times. If there was ever a requirement to turn this spotlight on what is the real notion of wellbeing of just human wellbeing, the time is now. He talked about having money, having the most flourishing career but how that doesn't convert us, or doesn't really position us as an individual who is in a state of emotional wellbeing.

He talked about Professor Shastri pointing out that the section of population that is supposed to be our present and the future has such a phenomenally high number of people who don't want to be in the jobs, professions which they are in currently.

He noted that really tells us what is wrong with the entire process of skilling in India, how we look at the entire mechanism of acquiring a degree, you can acquire all kinds of degrees in India, but is that really making you educated.

He also talked about looking at everything through a very narrow prism of party politics. He mentioned that every election psephologists like Professor Sanjay Kumar end up being in news studios and often refer to the youth as just a subsection when trying to tell a larger story. So how many people in a particular age group will prefer party A and how many people from a particular age group through the prism of gender will prefer party B. He noted that this is first such attempt that has been made where CSDS & KAS tried to delink the electoral processes. Usually, we end up looking at all surveys through the prism of pure politics.

He informed the audience that he had someone from London on the program where he shared the finding, 21 percent of youth having thought of suicides at some stage, the panellist was shocked. He said that if India is a society where 2 in 10 are contemplating suicide, then we should be really worried. He was asked to draw comparison with the developed countries of the world and he said that it would be far lesser in comparison. He talked about this becoming the starting point of a robust debate which is the need of the hour.

He thanked CSDS & KAS for throwing light on the value of mental health. The state of mental well-being of our youth in our country is something we must be very concerned about. He talked about the connection between mental health and money, the notion of money is very important for our youth, this could be stated for any society/country. If you don't have a job that pays well then how are you going to look after yourself. From money it becomes healthcare from healthcare it becomes domestic issues. So, when people from

the media industry are having these conversations with opinion makers and stakeholders, he noted that this question must be raised.

Panel Discussion

Moderator – Professor Hilal Ahmed, Faculty, Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

Professor Divya Vaid - Faculty, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Professor Vaid expressed her pleasure for being invited to discuss this 4th round of the report, she remarked that this series of reports is important because it provides a temporal look at key demographic changes as well as youth aspirations and attitudes and the hurdles and opportunities that the youth faces according to different socio-economic criteria and location.

She mentioned that youth is not a homogenous category and this report queries that, and that any such longitudinal data is a rich source of material for researchers and policy practitioners. “The category of youth itself is been of interest to scholars especially sociologists, I am one, as an important stage in the life course.” She talked about youth being an important stage of life course and how it’s been seen to be transitional, a phase between different stages in life, a liminal phase and that it deserves detailed analysis, which this report provides. She mentioned that as in previous reports, she tends to begin each report with the back rather than with the front, looking at the technical appendix. The reason being it provides a very useful tool kit about what the report does in terms of sampling. And this has very important repercussions, because it tells us the confidence that we can place on the report. If the sampling is not adequate it doesn’t give us confidence in terms of findings. She remarked that the appendix of this report as in the precious ones is rich and while purposive sampling might have been used it actually mentions very specifically how weights were used and that’s very powerful. So this appendix gives us more confidence in the findings of this report as well as the generalizability of the survey.

She talked about the findings on social media usage and how they have been compiled with the findings of mental media which actually raises very interesting questions and it conundrums with sometimes contradictory findings. The youth seems to state that they feel more connected to their family through the use of phones. She enunciated that having smartphones as well as use of social media leads to anxiety which further leads to alienation in certain ways and issues of mental health. She noted that this speaks in an interesting way, to Robert Putnam’s seminal work “Bowling Alone: The Collapse and Revival of American Community” in which he queried causes of decline in civic engagement in the US and he concluded amongst many factors that the rise of television could have been one of those factors. She felt it would be interesting to see whether a similar analysis can be conducted to the youth data for India as well to further probe the impact of social media usage which also connects to the ideas of anxiety and mental health.

She remarked that among the range of issues covered by the report, the one that speaks closest to her areas of interests are the findings on education, employment and aspirations, since they are important markers of social and economic changes and are seen as significant for not just aspiring but for achieving social mobility which has been of interest not simply to individuals and families to be socially mobile but societies and governments as well.

She noted that the authors of the report speak of modernization of social change, it is long being believed that as economies developed through different process of modernization and participation it's supposedly linked to increase in education, merit to achievement should matter more and ascription or inheritance should matter less. This report as in other research in this area shows us that this has not entirely been the case, while young people are indeed in education for longer, they are delaying marriage. This doesn't necessarily translate into employment, especially secure employment. In some cases the anxieties around unemployment are quite marked, as this report shows and COVID has further exaggerated this sense of precocity. This is particularly evident from the report in the case of women and those from marginalized communities. Interestingly the urban space however seems to provide more opportunities as we would expect to find.

She also noted that to read the findings on the persistence of caste or religion as important variables in the labour market, also raises the question about merit and to what extent that matters compared to knowing someone or connections or networks.

She remarked that tied to this idea of education is an interesting aspect of choice of subject/stream young people opt for. She pointed out that according to the report a large proportion of the respondents opted for the Arts or Humanities, when this is further disaggregated we see that there are differences by class, caste, gender, with more women and those from the lower socio-economic positions opting more for these subjects.

She remarked that from a policy prescription perspective this may actually help further understand whether things like financial aid or scholarships or other policies might lead to equal opportunities and to correct the idea of choice, which is actually structured by social class, location, gender etc. She suggested that generalizing from crosstabs might be useful to also look at the statistical significance and reporting that might just make the report even stronger.

She closed her argument by making a suggestion that could be useful for the fifth round of this study, she noted that there is one variable that is missing in the study, and that variable is Disability. Disability or Differential Ability can have important repercussions for education, occupational choice and employment. This is especially marked for women, who are often known to take on the role of the carer. Whether this is an issue that affects the youth and in what way it could be an important area of inquiry in the future.

Mr. Ansh Singh Luthra - Advocate, Delhi High Court

Mr. Luthra remarked that the report raises important issues pertaining to our country's most important resource, which is our youth and our human capital. He noted that a lot of issues highlighted in the report are interrelated such as employment, skill development, financial wellbeing, mental wellbeing and that all of us face these issues on a day to day basis. He talked about the term demographic dividend, referring to the particular age bracket which this report deals with, which is 15-34. He mentioned that unfortunately if another 15 years go by these 15-34-year-old will become 50 year olds and it'll become a demographic bulge. It'll be a time bomb of uneducated, unskilled Indians. And this report is critical to highlight this issue. He insisted that an amalgamation of Government, Judiciary, Civil Society, Journalists have to come together to address these important issues. He gave the example of the Right to Education Act, which addresses education for children from 6-14 years of age but it does not address it for primary education from 0-6 or higher education beyond 14 years of age. The honourable Supreme Court, the judiciary realizes that right to education until 14 is a fundamental right but also states that it is the state's responsibility to facilitate education at all levels including higher education, and hence these issues are all inter related.

He talked about a skill based force development where private entities are roped in and are regulated by the government as a possible solution. He also stated that more of than not, a B. Com graduate, may not be able to operate a simple software like TALLY, so upskilling people increases employability, financial stability, mental wellbeing and financial satisfaction and all these are interrelated issues that this report highlights.

Mr. Luthra noted that the youth has a clear vision which is concrete, impact oriented and community oriented and is highlighted by a few sections of this report, which say that there is evidence towards meritocracy, there are ability related factors, such as work experience and the degree that are given importance.

He remarked that it is really important to get the private sector involved to train not just those who are fortunate to be in the metropolitan cities, but even to those people who need upskilling in tier 2, and tier 3 towns and for that the private enterprise with government regulation would be a way ahead.

He highlighted one significant aspect of the national development cooperation that was instituted by the Government of India in 2002 with an initial outlay of 100 crores to upskill the Indian youth with a target of upskilling 150 million of us. In 2021 after 30 years the target of 150 million remains the same unfortunately. The placement level is at 14.51% which is abysmally low. We are 520 million of us now, just the youth.

He closed his argument by saying that this report gives us guidance and insight into what is required, he used a Hindi expression which is 'Jaagrik', 'jaagrik karti hai lekin usko laagu karna hamare upar hain', (meaning; This report makes us conscious of the current

situation of youth in our country, and the burden lies on all of us to do something about it), and hence all of us must come together and take the youth's vision forward.

Ms. Kanika Sinha - Convener, ComMutiny – the Youth Collective

Ms. Sinha started off by giving the audience an insight into what she does. She mentioned that she represents the youth practitioner community, and sees herself as an advocate for youth centric leadership.

She asserted that this report is something her practitioner community looks forward to, that it's a landmark for them, and that it shapes their discourse, their dialogue and their programs.

She remarked that when we go back in history, soon after independence, the first Lok Sabha was formed where young people had 26% representation under the age of 40. It went up in the 2nd Lok Sabha to 32%, today in the 17th Lok Sabha we have 11% representation of young people, ironically at a time when we are touted as a young country. She mentioned that there may be many reasons, but one that she zeroed in on was that in spite of the positive representation of young people in the parliament, the representation in the cabinet was abysmally low. So 54 was the average age in the 1st Lok Sabha, where only one cabinet minister was under the age of 40, Babu Jagjeevan Ram, who was sworn in maybe a day or two before his 40th birthday and today 58 is the average age of the current cabinet. She said that this message seems to be loud and clear, during independence young people were out there much like we have seen recently. Nation Building, volunteering are what young people are expected of but when it comes to decision making we tend to see the experienced middle aged/senior people in power. That is the message in our society we keep giving repeatedly to young people and then we wonder why we don't see enough empowered young people and lament about young people not taking enough leadership positions. She noted that when in crisis young people have come out always, COVID was no different, we saw young people step out for health/food crisis. We have ridden this wave of COVID on the shoulders of young people in our country.

She remarked that when she was going through the report it was really very startling to see 50% of young people going through some kind of wellbeing issue. She felt that the number of young people feeling suicidal is absolutely alarming. Ms. Sinha talked about the global figures on death, and that how suicide is a bigger cause than deaths caused by homicide/terrorism/war put together. She touched upon wellbeing and leadership, and insisted that she believes they go hand in hand. She remarked that youth leadership is not just about active citizenship or changing the world but it is also about self-transformation.

She explained that the organisation she is associated with calls young people involved in this kind of a journey 'jaagriks', jagruk + naagriks (meaning; aware + citizen), it is described as a young person who is self-aware, awakened and an active citizen who is

bringing change and also inspiring others to do the same and that's the sort of youth leadership we need to invest in.

She urged the audience to create more of an impetus to invest in young people, by mentioning that we spend about 12 INR per young person. She remarked that as a youth work practitioner she tries to draw attention to young people, and feels the need to create a movement around youth centric development much like the child rights movement did for children.

She also talked about a framework around youth that was compiled by ComMutiny, which clearly mentions their duties and rights, it is aligned to and inspired by the constitution of India but distinct from it. The duties and rights are sort of complimentary, they are inter-generational, the onus is not on young people alone but also on adults. If young people have the duty to take leadership they also must have the space for self-discovery and to foster relationships with people who are diverse and different from them.

Media Coverage

82% Sikh youth pray frequently, highly religious compared to others, shows CSDS, Lokniti survey

Nikhil Rampal, The Print



CSDS Youth Survey: Marriage, career and religion - This is what the Indian youth thinks

Dainik Bhaskar

खुशियां अमलाक करने का साल

Research सोएसडीएस यूथ सर्वे: शादी, करियर और पूजा-पाठ को लेकर ये सोचता है यंग इंडिया...

विवाह: 38% अविवाहित युवा अंडर मैरिज करना पसंद करते हैं, लेकिन 9% कमी नहीं चाहते हैं, 5% को मिल पाती है

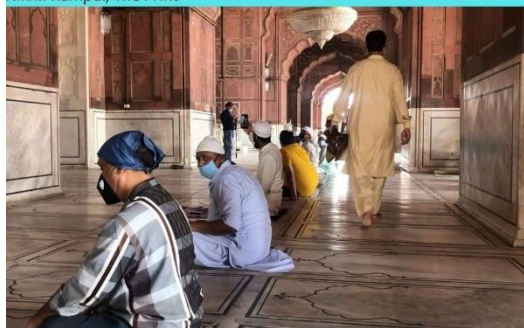
आय: 36% युवा तो रोज़ पूजा करते हैं, 45% रोज़ 5-10 मिनट, 22% कभी-कभी करते हैं

रोजगार: 55% सरकारी नौकरी चाहते हैं, 5% को मिल पाती है

मतेस: 65% का मानना है, तनाव में फेमिली रजु सहाय

Indian Muslims got 'less religious' since 2016, shows CSDS study. 44% reported discrimination

Nikhil Rampal, The Print



Punjab youth most dissatisfied with work in India, 78% feel state has 'bad' jobs

Nikhil Rampal, The Print



Why Indian Muslims are getting less religious?

Adarsh Gupta, Study IQ

CSDS
Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)

Young India's aspirations, worries

Sanjay Kumar, Vibha Attri, JyotiMishra, The Indian Express

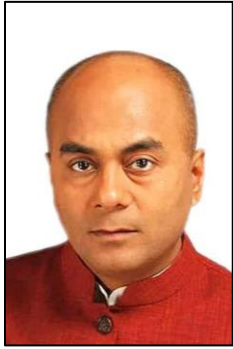


Draft Program

Time IST	Program Flow
1900 - 1905 hrs	Event Commences: Welcome, Introductions, Moderator: Prof. Hilal Ahmed
1905 - 1913 hrs	Opening Remarks by Mr. Peter Rimmele
1913 - 1920 hrs	Introductory Remarks by Prof. Sanjay Kumar
1920 - 1935 hrs	Presentation on the Report by Prof. Sandeep Shastri
1935 - 1940 hrs	Report Release
1940 - 1950 hrs	Special Remarks by Mr. Bhupendra Chaubey
1950 - 1955 hrs	Panel Discussion Introductions by Prof. Hilal Ahmed
1955 - 2005 hrs	Remarks by Ms. Divya Vaid
2005 - 2015 hrs	Remarks by Mr. Ansh Singh Luthra
2015 - 2025 hrs	Remarks by Ms. Kanika Sinha
2025 - 2030 hrs	Vote of thanks/Concluding Remarks by Prof. Hilal Ahmed

Speaker Profiles

Bhupendra Chaubey, Editor in Chief, India Ahead News



Mr. Bhupendra Chaubey comes with a phenomenal industry experience of two decades. As a political journalist travelling across the length and breadth of the country, he has that unique ability to grasp things at a micro level and then present it on a macro level. A graduate in Mathematics and post graduate in films, Mr. Bhupendra has been among the finest political journalists of his generation having covered general elections and assembly elections. Mr. Bhupendra was the Executive Editor of CNN IBN. Currently he is the Editor in Chief of India Ahead News, one of the most popular media houses in the country.

Divya Vaid, Assistant Professor, Jawaharlal Nehru University



Divya Vaid is an Assistant Professor at the Centre for the Study of Social Systems, Jawaharlal Nehru University. She has an interest in the study of social mobility and inequalities broadly, and in the application of quantitative research methods. She has published in the Annual Review of Sociology, Contemporary South Asia, Asian Survey and the EPW and she is the author of Uneven Odds: Social Mobility in Contemporary India (Oxford University Press).

Ansh Singh Luthra, Advocate, Delhi High Court



Ansh Singh Luthra is an Independent Counsel practicing at the High Court of Delhi. After graduating from National Law Institute University Bhopal, (NLIU - Bhopal), he proceeded to pursue an LLM from the University of Cambridge, United Kingdom on a full scholarship. He was also subsequently awarded the Pegasus Scholarship that enabled him to work in London with top Barrister Firms such as Garden Court Chambers and Furnival Chambers.

Kanika Sinha, Convener of ComMutiny – The Youth Collective



Kanika is the Convener of ComMutiny – The Youth Collective, where she supports building new alliances towards amplifying the 5th Space approach to youth development. Kanika also serves in an advisory capacity as a member of the board of Farm2Food Foundation, Assam. After 17 years of designing and facilitating interventions for youth-centric development, Kanika sees herself as an advocate for youth work in India. She comes with a Bachelor's Degree in Psychology from Lady Shri Ram College and a Master's Degree in Social Development from the University of Sussex. Kanika volunteered at the relief camps in Ahmedabad post the Godhra riots of 2002 which she believes was a turning point in her life that began her journey into the world of self-transformation and social change.

About the Partners

Mr. Peter Rimmele, Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS)



Mr. Peter Rimmele is currently the Resident Representative to India, Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung. He has a First Law Degree from Freiburg University, as well as a Second Law Degree from the Ministry of Justice Baden-Württemberg, Germany, and a M.A. in Geography.

After working as a jurist, judge, and lecturer, he took public office as Ministerialrat, Head of Division at the State Ministry of the Interior in Saxony, Germany, from November 1991 on until 2000.

There he first served in the Police and Security and later in the Local Government Department. On behalf of the German Foreign Ministry he served in East Timor as Registrar General, Head of Civil Registry and Notary Services (UNTAET), and became later the principal Advisor for Governance Reform for GIZ (German International Cooperation) to the Ministry of Administrative Reform and the Anti-Corruption-Commission of the Republic of Indonesia, where he served for 7 years. He then moved to Rwanda, also as Principal Advisor Good Governance/Justice Program. Earlier he was Resident Representative Lebanon, Director of Rule of Law Program Middle East North Africa, Konrad Adenauer Stiftung.

Konrad Adenauer Stiftung

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung (KAS) is a political foundation. Established in 1955 as “Society for Christian-Democratic Civic Education”, in 1964 the Foundation proudly took on the name of Konrad Adenauer, the first Chancellor of the Federal Republic of Germany.

With 16 regional offices in Germany and over 120 offices abroad, the Konrad Adenauer Foundation is committed to achieving and maintaining peace, freedom and justice through political education. We promote and preserve free democracy, social market economy, and the development and consolidation of the value consensus. We focus on consolidating democracy, the unification of Europe and the strengthening of transatlantic relations, as well as on development cooperation.

The leitmotif of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation "Germany. The next chapter" is supported by a thematic focus. With the three main topics Innovation, Security and Representation and Participation, it is quite clear which topics the Konrad Adenauer Foundation will focus on in the coming years.

We cooperate with governmental institutions, political parties and civil society organizations, building strong partnerships along the way. In particular, we seek to intensify political cooperation in the area of development cooperation on the foundations of our objectives and values. Together with our partners, we make a significant contribution to the creation of a global order that empowers every country to determine its own developmental priorities and destiny in an internationally responsible manner.

The Konrad Adenauer Stiftung has organized its program priorities in India into five working areas:

1. Foreign and Security Policy
2. Economic, Climate and Energy Policy
3. Rule of Law
4. Political Dialogue focussed on Social and Political Change
5. Media and Youth

The India Office of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation takes great pride in its cooperation with Indian partner institutions who implement jointly curated projects and programmes.

Professor Sanjay Kumar, Co-Director Lokniti-CSDS



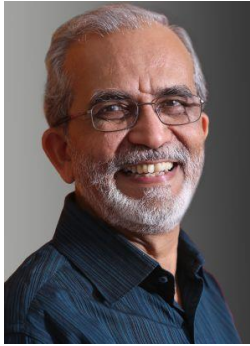
Sanjay Kumar is currently a Professor at CSDS and the Co-Director of Lokniti Programme. He served as the Director of CSDS from January 2014 till January 2020. His main area of research has been Indian Elections, voting behaviour, but using quantitative method, he has been engaged in conducting research on other themes namely Indian Youth and State of Democracy in South Asia.

He has published several books and edited volumes on Indian elections. Some of his well know books are “Post Mandal Politics in Bihar: Changing Electoral Patterns”, “Changing Electoral Politics in Delhi: From Caste to Class” and “Measuring Voting Behaviour in India”. Besides these, he has several other publications to his credit.

He has also worked extensively on Issues related to Indian Youth, co-authored and edited volumes on Indian Youth: (With Peter De Souza and Sandeep Shastri) [“Indian Youth in a Transforming World: Attitudes and Perceptions”, “Indian Youth and Electoral Politics: An Emerging Engagement”. The edited volume “Youth in India: Aspiration, Attitudes, Anxieties” published by Routledge, is his most recent publication on Indian Youth.

He writes regularly for both English and Hindi newspapers like in Asian Age, Deccan Chronicles, The Mint, The Hindu, Indian Express, Dainik Bhaskar and Rajasthan Patrika. He is also a familiar face on Indian Television as a well know Psephologist and election analyst.

Professor Suhas Palshikar, Co-Director Lokniti, Chief Editor, Studies in Indian Politics



Suhas Palshikar, based at Pune, India, taught political science from 1978 to 2016. He is the Co-Director of Lokniti and the Chief Editor of the biannual journal brought out by Sage, Studies in Indian Politics. He was also the Editor of Samaaj Prabodhan Patrika during 1990-2004.

He has been associated with the National Election Studies since the 1996 elections. Professor Palshikar was one of the principal investigators of the international project on Democracy in South Asia (Round One and Round Two).

Professor Palshikar writes in English and Marathi on contemporary politics and has also written extensively in academic publications on the theme of democratic politics in India. He has been a frequent contributor to The Indian Express and journals like Seminar and The Economic and Political Weekly. His Marathi books include 'Rajyashastra Kosh' (Dastane Ramachandra, Pune, 1987) 'Maharashtratil Sattasangharsh' (Samkaleen Prakashan, Pune, 2007), 'Rajakarnacha Taleband' (Sadhana, Pune, 2013) and 'DeshPradesh' (Unique Foundation, Pune, 2014).

Professor Palshikar's latest English books include, 'The Last Fortress of Congress Dominance: Maharashtra since the 1990s' (co-authored with Rajeshwari Deshpande) (2021, Sage) and 'Politics and Society Between Elections', (with Siddharth Swaminathan, 2021, Routledge). He is also the Co-Editor of the Sage Series on Politics in Indian States. Some of his other works include Indian Democracy (OUP, 2017) and co-edited volumes 'Electoral Politics in India: Resurgence of Bharatiya Janata Party' (Routledge, 2017) and 'Party Competition in Indian States' (OUP, 2014).

Professor Sandeep Shastri, Vice Chancellor, Jagran Lakecity University



Sandeep Shastri is a Political Scientist who is currently the Vice Chancellor of Jagran Lakecity University and the National Coordinator of the Lokniti Network. He has written extensively on the leadership factor in Indian elections and political parties (Lal Bahadur Shastri: Politics and Beyond. New Delhi: Rupa and Co. 2019; “The Modi Factor in the 2019 Lok Sabha Election: How Critical Was It to the BJP Victory?” Studies in Indian Politics, Volume 7, Issue 2, 206-18, 2019; ‘The Modi Factor in 2014’ in Palshikar, Kumar and Lodha, Electoral Politics in India: Resurgence of the Bharatiya Janata Party, Routledge, 2017).

Centre for the Study of Developing Societies

Since its inception in 1963, the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies has been recognised as one of the leading intellectual institutions of the global south. CSDS has been supported by the Indian Council for Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi under the Ministry of Education, Government of India since 1969.

At the Centre we believe that ideas grow out of everyday social and political practices. We therefore consider it an important function of intellectuals to stay close to, articulate and critically comment upon such practices. By remaining alert to the ways in which ordinary people negotiate and reinvent their worlds, and generate alternative systems and imaginations, CSDS has challenged the routes of social and political change that are accepted as 'normal'. This frequently leads to a productive tension between rigorous scholarly work and living social movements, between academic engagement and political commitment.

The Centre has accomplished a generational transition by reinventing itself in the 21st century, with a fresh commitment to forging links between the social sciences and the humanities, and to discovering non-European lineages of political and ethical thought in Indian languages.

Lokniti is a research programme of the CSDS established in 1997. It houses a cluster of research initiatives that seeks to engage with national and global debates on democratic politics by initiating empirically grounded yet theoretically oriented studies. By bringing various projects of the CSDS on elections, democratic politics and party politics together under a single programme, Lokniti seeks to engage with global debates on democracy.