

(SACRED FREEDOM)
ROLE OF YOUTH IN NATION BUILDING

On this rainy afternoon, I'm pondering about my win at a sustainability competition organised by the Confederation of Indian Industries recently. Judges mentioned that I and other young people have a huge role to play in India's progress. This makes me think how I - a young citizen of India - can and should help in nation-building.

Firstly, we need to reimagine the kind of nation we want to live in and then try to play our part in achieving its goals. For me, an ideal India has economic prosperity, social equality, political stability and environmental sustainability.

To begin with, the skill development of youth like me should be such that economic growth goes hand-in-hand with ecological care. I am soon planning to lead a start-up whose products will push a sustainable lifestyle among people. Also, simple actions like using EV over petrol/diesel vehicles, using LED over normal lights, planting more trees near our homes, recycling and reusing papers and plastics, would reduce GHGs, making India sustainable.

We must also address gender inequality, caste discrimination and communalism. We should start by countering discriminatory views present in our families and communities, and having friends from different communities in our social circles. As Indians, we should cherish all the festivals and cultures; not just 'our own'.

Moreover, we must follow our constitution and laws. Recently, we were taught how abiding the 11 fundamental duties given in the constitution can make us responsible citizens. By participating in student and youth activities in our municipality or panchayat too, we can contribute to democratic decisions and shape our nation.

With these simple practices in our daily lives, we - the present and future youth - can achieve the India of our dreams by 2047 in this Amrit Kaal. So, why wait? Start this journey today.

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