Y20 2023 Issue Note (Zero Draft)

The Y20 India Summit in 2023 would exemplify India's youth-centric efforts and provide an opportunity to showcase its values and policy measures so that India's leadership of this summit can stand out among the youth cohort. The themes selected for the summit will showcase Indian leadership on these issues to both global and domestic audiences and help fulfil India's vision of making the G20 summit truly participative in nature.

A. Future of Work: Industry 4.0, Innovation, & 21st Century Skills

In the recent years, the rate of technological disruptions has increased manifold impacting employment and employability. In fact, changes are fundamental enough to transform the nature of work and dynamics of workers and workplace in both developing and developed countries. Over the last two years especially, a combination of Covid Pandemic, rising tensions between China and US and conflict between Ukraine and Russia, have led to major disruptions in global supply chain and availability of commodities. Raising of interest rates by US Federal Reserve, initiation of decoupling process by major economies, China's 'Zero Covid' Policy as well as tensions in South China Sea, and overall rise in cost of commodities and capital, are also leading to major disruptions in functioning of organisations across the world resulting in massive layoff across the spectrum of sectors and industries.

Global Uncertainty and its Impact on Job Matrix

As a flipside of globalization, rising uncertainties in terms of global instability, shifting theatre of economic clout, and looming fear of the next pandemic lurking round the corner, is altering the very dimension of how people were habituated to work throughout the 20th Century and up till 2019. While the Covid Pandemic resulted in making 'Work from Home' the 'New Normal' for various industries, the increasing possibilities of reduced consumer demands as a result of global economic meltdown or squeeze in availability of funds are resulting in massive layoffs, which in turn is forcing workforce, among the major countries of the world including India, striving to attain multidimensional skill sets to tide over cyclical downturns which are increasing becoming massive in scale.

Also, in the fast-emerging world of perpetual uncertainties, to deal with different challenges, organisations are increasingly looking for a workforce with not just requisite technical skill sets but are equally armed with key attributes such as critical thinking, resilience, innovative mindset, problem solving ability as well as the dynamism to go through the churns of external challenges and steer organisations safely through such phases.

The Shift: From Job Seekers to Self-Employed, Entrepreneurs & Job Creators

Further, in this cusp of global shakeups where conventional ideas of business and jobs are under constant challenge, it is increasingly becoming clearer that while on one hand, there is an unprecedented surge in aspirations of young minds to break the archetypal shackles of getting into a twenty four- seven job mode, and instead are more keen to take the plunge into the less charted field of entrepreneurial ventures, it is also a reality that for the burgeoning population and rising workforce across every country,

and especially India, while investments by industrial giants are always welcome, there is a limit to how much direct employment such organisations can create especially in this era of increasing mechanisation of key work processes in industries. It is from this perspective as well, there is an immense potential to convert the job seeker into not just a self-employed professional, through institutional support, to capitalise on the ancillary and tertiary work opportunities that major organisations create by their presence in an area, but there is also a major scope for those self-employed people in turn to create work opportunities in their micro or small entities for others as well. Also, a key aspect of the changing dimensions of work can be witnessed in the fact that several sectors of India which were hitherto a No-Go area for the private sector, have now been opened up resulting in creation of a plethora of innovation-based entities in areas like space, defence and geo-spatial mapping to name a few.

Keeping these things in mind, the Y20 theme titled '21st Century Skills and the Future of Work', would focus on the following areas:

1. India's National Education Policy and how it is aimed at gearing up youth for taking on the challenges of the next generation of work opportunities.

2. Research and Innovation as a way of Life: How India is striving towards making itself a hub for global innovation and how nimble footed innovations are driving India's growth in new age sectors such as space, defence, renewable energy, electric vehicles and geospatial mapping to name a few.

3. The Start-Up India Policy and the work it has done in terms of providing institutional recognition to the start-ups sector, resulting in India having the third largest ecosystem for start-ups globally with 77,000 DPIIT-recognised start-ups and more than a hundred unicorns.

4. The MUDRA Initiative and how it has been a driving force in terms of providing institutional support to millions of micro enterprises and how it enhanced the potential of micro enterprises to create job opportunities for India's teeming workforce in the unorganised sector. As of date, Rs 20 Lakh Crore have been disbursed under Mudra Initiative.

5. India's Digital Revolution and how it is bridging the digital divide as well as creating a new generation of work opportunities in the realm of content, remote working, and Small Office-Home Office (SOHO) architecture. Interestingly, one of the most profound reasons why a critical section of India's new age workforce could shift to 'work from home' mode during the peak of Covid Pandemic is because of Government of India's Digital India policies that resulted in unprecedented reduction in price of internet data as well as unprecedented rise in availability of broadband services in India.

6. The Stand-up India Policy and One District-One Product Policy, and how they are creating a new generation of work and entrepreneurial opportunities in rural, suburban and small-town regions of India, that may potentially reverse the trend of migration from rural to urban India.

B. Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life

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मधुवाता ऋतायते मधुक्षरन्तिसिन्धवः।

माध्वीर्नः सन्त्वोषधीः॥

Transliteration

madhu vātārtāyatemadhukṣarantisindhavaḥ |

mādhvīrnaḥsantvoṣadhīḥ ||

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English Translation

"The winds bring sweet (rewards) to us; the rivers bring sweet (waters); may the herbs yield sweetness to us."

Background

The challenges of global pandemics, supply chain shockwaves, rise in prices of commodities, the rising possibilities of a major recession battering people all over again in the near future, and the perpetual threat of regional conflicts converging to give rise to global ones, have sadly relegated the issue of focusing on climate literally at the bottom of the priority list for most countries. However, it has not stopped the effects of climate change creating devastation across the world. From unprecedented floods, rising temperatures in summers and threatening levels of particulate matter in air, the impact of climate change has never been felt so profoundly as   is being felt now. For India with 135 crore population, it has been a never-ending challenge to maintain a balance between managing the climatic goals even while taking care of the aspirations and needs of the burgeoning population through increasing economic activities, building newer infrastructures to enhance connectivity and expanding the ability of the economy to absorb newer investments.

Steps Taken by India in the Recent Past

Yet, in spite of the major challenges that India faces, it has taken some pioneering steps in the realm of climate goals by initiating the formation of International Solar Alliance, setting stringent targets for itself in the realm of renewable energy capacity augmentation, initiating massive investments for developing a green hydrogen development ecosystem, banning of single use plastics, distribution of LPG connections to 80 million households and creating an institutional ecosystem for making electric vehicles viable, to name a few. Also, there have been unprecedented efforts by the Government of India to promote disaster resilient infrastructure as well as capacity building of disaster response units such as NDRF. India remains one of the very few countries of the world with a dedicated Central Police Force for

emergency response to disasters. Further, India has witnessed an increase in forest cover by 1540 sq km.

A critical part of India's quest for sustainable development has been active community participation in conservation of environment. Since eternity, India's cultural traditions have echoed the importance of conserving nature and it has been embedded in the basic philosophy of Indian people. But over the last many centuries much of that has withered. However, we now witness a renewed push by the Government of India forstriking the right balance between economic development and conservation efforts at the same time.

As part of National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC), this theme would primarily focus on the following areas in the Y20 Summits:
- National Solar Mission
- National Mission for Enhanced Energy Efficiency
- National Mission on Sustainable Habitat
- National Water Mission
- National Mission for Sustaining the Himalayan Eco-system
- National Mission for a Green India
- National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture
- National Mission on Strategic Knowledge for Climate Change

Key Projects Under Execution to be Focused Upon

- International Solar Alliance
- Renewable Energy Push
- Push for Development of Green Hydrogen Development Ecosystem
- Ujjwala Yojana
- Push for Making Electric Vehicles a Preferred Option for Transport in Future
- Push for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure
- Capacity Building of Disaster Response Forces
- Application of Space Tech for Disaster Mitigation
- Increase in Forest Space
- Ban on Single Use Plastic
- Push for Inland Waterways for Cargo Transport
- Community Participation in Conservation Efforts
- Institutional Recognition for Efforts of Individuals in Conservation Work
- Role of Start-ups in the Sustainable Development Front

C. **Peacebuilding and Reconciliation: Ushering in an Era of No War**

In an era marked by intense geopolitical tensions, renewal of Cold War conflicts, and rise in violent extremism across the globe, there is a need for new creative approaches to peacebuilding and reconciliation. Through their creativity, dynamism, and commitment, youth can demonstrate agency and lead new methods and coalitions of peacebuilding. The United Nations Security Council Resolution 2250, passed on 9 December 2015, highlights the positive role youth can play in peacebuilding, reconciliation, and prevention of extremism, enumerating five key pillars - participation, prevention, protection, partnership, and disengagement and reintegration.

As the world's largest democracy, India has faced various conflict situations, which have been efficiently handled with the help of a democratic, inclusive and highly empowering model of peacebuilding and reconciliation. Indian approach of reintegrating the parties to the conflict, especially in the North-eastern and Kashmir region of India aims to include them in the socio-economic development process of the country. India has made tireless efforts to use democratic instruments to end conflicts and insurgencies in the country. It is aspiring for the world youth to emulate the efforts taken towards good governance and positive politics in order to respect and acknowledge the cultural diversity of the nation and build a national narrative of inclusiveness to mitigate grievances of all communities.

Enhanced financial support for peacebuilding activities, durable conflict resolution, curtailment of incentivisation of violence by transparent governance and enforcement of law, peacebuilding initiatives through civil society, coupled with institutional mechanism and developmental projects for enhanced integration and connectivity are the major contributory factors for the success of India's model of peacebuilding and reconciliation. The Naga Peace Accord, The Assam Accord and the establishment of the Bodoland Territorial Council in 2003 are noteworthy instances to glorify India's political governance to overcome internal conflicts. Additionally, the Indian government's "priority" of developing and transforming the North-eastern region in order to increase the trade competitiveness of the region is illustrative of a process-oriented approach to peacemaking, and regional integration. Such an approach facilitates the incorporation of the peace process into the practice of everyday politics and over time, the impulse to articulate interests through violence are rendered redundant.

This theme would focus on:

1. Democratic peacebuilding in Northeast India as an example of successful integration and reconciliation brought about by democratic instruments.

2. 'Vikas politics' in India as an enabler in conflict resolution through shared benefits of good governance and development activities within a healthy democratic framework.

3. Peacebuilding in Kashmir as a model of using democratic means to curb violent extremism and promote regional integration through development and welfare agendas.

D. Shared Future: Youth in Democracy and Governance

The focus on youth, in terms of their engagement in the political arena, is a relatively new priority but extremely timely, particularly in light of recent events and democratic transitions in the country. In order to respond to the needs of young people, and to guarantee that their basic human rights are recognized and enforced, young people's active and meaningful participation in their societies and in democratic practices and processes, is of crucial importance. Tailored efforts to inform and communicate with youth are needed to promote an open government culture and include youth as active actors in open government strategies and initiatives. India has recognised the need for participatory structures and greater trust between youth and institutions for greater capacity development. India understands the importance of voicing the democratic opinions of the most vulnerable groups, and various government as well

as civil society initiatives are flourishing with an aim to build political engagement and leadership among young people.

Understanding how young people use technology and reflect their use of traditional and new media into tailored communication strategies has played a central role for the Indian government to efficiently inform, communicate and engage with the youth. Technology and in particular social media has become an important part in young people's everyday life. Consequently, India's digital transformation under the 'Digital India' initiative has propelled the youth engagement in democracy and governance with its pillars and visions focusing on e-Governance. India also depicts an exemplary example of the convergence of democracy and youth through its student-centric organisations. It is therefore, safe to say that India's belief of the role of youth in democracy and governance is explicit of the creative force and a dynamic source of innovation, catalyzing important changes in political systems.

As an incredibly young country, India presents models for dynamic leadership offered by youth across a whole range of organisational and institutional diversity. This theme provides an opportunity to evolve a shared understanding of how young people across the world can become shared partners in transformative agendas of politics and governance.

The theme would focus on:

1. 'Digital India' paving the way for a youth-centric Digital governance which has allowed broader participation by youth through increased access, flexible use, and enabling innovation.

2. 'Student-centric governance' which contributes to a democratic and dialogical involvement of the youth in the country's governance systems.

3. 'Policy sector' in India as a site of active agency for the youth to contribute to governance by formulating and influencing the policymaking process. This point would focus on various state-level policy fellowships in India, initiatives like the Prime Minister's Rural Development Fellowships, and government's promotion of lateral entry for young professionals.

E. Health, Wellbeing& Sports: Agenda for Youth

The concerns regarding the health and wellbeing of the youth have grown immensely after the COVID-19 pandemic. The broader concerns of youth organisations are about the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on mental health, followed by its impact on education and employment outcomes, familial relations and friendships, as well as the limitation to individual freedoms. India has made significant strides in improving the health and development parameters of adolescents and young people. The Rashtriya Kishor SwasthyaKaryakram (RKSK) has moved beyond the existing program norms of facility-based interventions to community and school-based interventions, thereby reaching out to adolescents within their own environment, such as schools and community.

India has made provisions to nurture the youth with regard to their mental, physical and

emotional wellbeing. Initiatives from organisations like PATH[1] have enabled India to encapsulate all the health and wellbeing issues faced by the youth population. Schemes like the National Health Mission have provisions dealing with child care and health programs. Similarly, India's Young Health Program (YHP) acknowledges and attempts to do away with the young deaths caused by non-communicable diseases like cancer and diabetes. Such initiatives would act as a means to sensitise the youth regarding the need for a robust healthcare system to meet the health-related needs right from the grassroot level, from infancy, and also in rural and urban areas alike.

The Y20 members can lead on the Indian example of being vocal about mental health issues. The Policymaker's Forum for Mental Health, India's recent panel discussion in Brussels was an outstanding effort towards overcoming the increasing problem of mental health issues especially after the pandemic. The forum treated it as a priority and realised the need for a multidisciplinary, multi stakeholder approach to propel attention towards a holistic model of care and support.[2] Focus on Yoga and Ayurveda in this theme will also add to the conversation on Indian contributions to the holistic methods of wellbeing. Through this theme, youth can recommend the G20 member countries to cater to mental health issues. This would empower the youth to realise their full potential by making informed decisions about their well-being and health, including mental health.

Owing to India's dynamic and vibrant youth population, the promotion of sports fulfils a vital social need. Significant investments and efforts have been undertaken in order to support youth development and to enable productive youth participation in sports and physical activities. Apart from allocating funds to sports and taking steps to inculcate a culture of sports at the school level, the Indian government has also established sports academies across the country to promote and make sports easily accessible within the country. The Y20 delegates can draw on the Indian example of promoting sports through its inclusive schemes focussed on increasing mass participation and advancement of excellence in sports. The Indian government has been mindful towards providing adequate financial support for promoting parasports in the country. The Indian vision of "Sports for All" would act as an empowering force for the youth to recommend the G20 member countries to cater to physical and mental wellbeing with adequate attention to promotion of sports, including parasports. This would further allow the youth to realise their full potential by making informed decisions about their health and well-being.

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1 PATH

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