



ICON YOUTH 2025 INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

ENVISIONING INDIA'S FUTURE: YOUTH AS CHANGEMAKERS

May 15th - May 16th, 2025
Yendurance Zone
Yenepoya (Deemed to be University)
Deralakatte, Mangalore, Karnataka

ORGANISED BY

**Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports
Government of India**

In Collaboration With
Yenepoya (Deemed to be University)

Participation: The ICON YOUTH 2025 event was held at Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) from 15th to 16th May 2025. It was attended by foreign participants and speakers from countries. The countries included: Lebera, Nepal, Russia, Srilanka, Benin, Cameroun, Thailand, Chadian, Sudan, UAE, Ivory coast, Nigeria, Tibetan, South Sudan.

It was attended by approximate 20 states participants and speakers. Pre-Event Activities: 500 participation in run-up events including students and faculty members from approximately 70 colleges and schools participated in pre-event ice breaking session poster competitions. These discussions generated a great deal of interest and were widely covered in the local media.

Day One(13thMay):

A press brief was held at Pathrika Bhavan at Ladyhill Mangalore. Dr. Ashwini S Shetty organizing secretary ICON YOUTH 2025 and Dr. Mohammed Guthigar Convenor of Press and Media committee Dr. Nagaraj Mangalore city attended the press meet.



Figure1:(L-R)Dr Guthigar Convenor Press and media Icon youth 2025 Dr Nagaraj Shet Assistant Medical Superintendent, Dr Ashwini Shetty Director Directorate of extension and outreach Yenepoya University

ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference started with an Ice-Breaker Session at Yendurance Zone, Yenepoya University Campus by Dr Ashwini S Shetty Director Extension and Outreach and organizing secretary ICON YOUTH2025

DAY 1 Preconference (14TH May): The Inaugural sessions on event day 1 at Yendurance Zone Yenepoya (Deemed to be University).

Address by the Minister for Youth affairs and Sports Govt of India:



Figure 2:

Dr. Mandaviya emphasized the importance of harnessing youth energy for national development, conservation of natural resources, and the realization of sustainable development goals. He highlighted the pivotal role of science and technology in creating lasting solutions to challenges faced by the youth, contributing significantly to the vision of a Viksit Bharat (Developed India).



Figure 3:

Neeraj Mishra Joint secretary MoYA passionately emphasized the pivotal role of youth as the torchbearers of tomorrow, highlighting their immense potential to shape the future of society. He advocated for the creation of meaningful platforms and opportunities that would foster their intellectual growth, broaden their exposure to diverse global perspectives, and provide hands-on experiences that cultivate leadership, innovation, and social responsibility. According to him, empowering young people through education, mentorship, and active participation in nation-building activities is essential for driving sustainable societal transformation and ensuring a more equitable and progressive world."



Figure 4:

Smt. Sara Jayal Sawkmie, Director International Cooperation Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports GOI, in her address, lauded Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) for hosting this significant conference. She emphasized the conferences role in exploring youth perspectives to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, providing a platform for cultural exchange and skill development.



Figure 5:

"Dr. M. Vijaya Kumar, Vice Chancellor of Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), delivered the keynote address, setting the tone for the conference with his insightful remarks. He emphasized the importance of youth engagement and collaborative dialogue in addressing contemporary challenges. Dr. Vijayakumar urged all participants to actively contribute to the discussions, share innovative ideas, and make the most of this platform to foster meaningful change and interdisciplinary learning. His inspiring words laid a strong foundation for the sessions that followed, highlighting the role of academic institutions in nurturing leadership and social responsibility."



FIGURE 6:

"Dr. Yenepoya Abdulla Kunhi, Chancellor of Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), in his presidential address, inspired the youth participants to make the most of this platform as a transformative learning experience. He emphasized the value of such gatherings in fostering critical thinking, ethical leadership, and a sense of social responsibility. Dr. Kunhi encouraged the delegates to actively engage in the sessions, broaden their perspectives, and use the insights gained to shape themselves into empowered individuals capable of driving positive change in society. His remarks resonated deeply, reinforcing the significance of education not just for personal advancement, but for the greater good of the nation."



Figure 7: Inauguration of the ICON YOUTH 2025

Dr. Gangadhara Somayaji, Registrar of Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), welcomed the gathering and introduced the guests. Dr. Ashwini D. Shetty, Organizing Secretary, proposed a vote of thanks. The program was compered by Ms. Shifali and Ms. Priya Menezes.

The conference witnessed the participation of 650 youth delegates, resource persons, and panelists from 20 Indian states and five countries, including Nigeria, Nepal, and Tibet. Eighteen speakers and four moderators from countries such as Sri Lanka, Russia, Nigeria and Thailand are contributing to the event. Key themes include youth entrepreneurship, innovation, gender development, space research, sustainability, and digital engagement.

ICON YOUTH 2025 aspires to serve as a transformative platform, connecting young minds with entrepreneurs, achievers, and policymakers, thereby empowering them to be catalysts for change in building a developed India.

Event Day 1- 15.05.2025

Session 1- Youth Entrepreneurship: Opportunities for Indian Startups"

Speaker: Gurdit Singh Vohra



The session titled *"Youth Entrepreneurship: Opportunities for Indian Startups,"* Mr. Gurdit Singh Vohra emphasized the critical role of young innovators in shaping India's startup ecosystem. He highlighted the supportive policy landscape through initiatives like *Startup India* and stressed the need to bridge academia, government, and industry to foster entrepreneurial growth. He underscored the importance of integrating entrepreneurship into education, improving access to funding and mentorship, and promoting tech-driven,

socially conscious ventures. Encouraging youth to act as changemakers, he advocated for leveraging digital technologies to address local and global challenges, positioning young entrepreneurs as key drivers of India's innovation-led future.

**Session 2- "Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Future" Speaker:
EKATERINA ZHUKOVSKAIA**

The session titled *"Empowering Youth for a Sustainable Future,"* Ekaterina Zhukovskaia highlighted the vital role of young people in advancing global sustainability goals. Drawing from her experience with Rosatom and international collaborations, she emphasized the importance of equipping youth with knowledge, cross-border opportunities, and leadership roles in the green energy transition. She stressed that sustainability is not only an environmental concern but also a social and economic responsibility, urging young leaders to actively participate in policy, innovation, and community-based solutions.

Her talk called for global partnerships and youth-driven action to build a more resilient and sustainable future.



Figure 9: Ekaterina Zhukovskaia, Head of International affairs, ANO "Energy for development" of the State Corporation Rosatom, Russia

Panel Discussion 1

A diverse panel of experts to explore the multifaceted role of youth in social innovation, leadership and sustainable development. Moderated by Nabarun Barooah, Divya Lakshmi S, Thanmaya Prakash, and Mayank Seshadri Chari, the session featured insights from Pasindu Guneratne on youth engagement in governance and policymaking in Sri Lanka; Sergey Tushev emphasized environmental entrepreneurship through grassroots eco-initiatives in Russia; Dhishan Rajshekhar discussed the intersection of policy, consulting, and youth mentorship; Sharan Setty highlighted the power of storytelling and media in youth advocacy; and Dr. George Tersenov shed light on youth involvement in global health and bioethics. The session underscored the need for cross-sector collaboration and empowered youth participation in addressing contemporary global challenges.



Figure10:(L-R)

Moderators: NABAARUN BAROOAH, Author, DIVYA LAKSHMI S Public policy analyst, THANMAYA PRAKASH, Founder at Kannada Guru, Communication Specialist, MAYANK SESHADRI CHARI Tech & Public Policy Analyst, **Panelist:** PASINDU GUNERATNE Former Chairman/ Director General of National Youth Services Council of Sri Lanka Director General of Youth Services of Government of Sri Lanka, SERGEY TUSHEV Co-founder, and Director of Development of the eco-center "Sborka" Social entrepreneur, Russia, DHISHAN RAJSHEKHAR Perplexity Business Fellow | Mentor - Ministry of Youth Affairs, GoI | Adjunct Professor @ MCC | Management Grad @ Imperial | Policy, Consulting & Geopolitics SHARAN SETTY Journalist, Author and Documentary Film maker Bangalore, Karnataka, Dr. GEORGE TERSENOV M.D. (abdominal surgeon), Assistant professor of the Department of Medical Deontology with UNESCO Bioethics Network Section (Tyumen State Medical University), G20 Youth Summit delegate on 'Health, Wellbeing and Sports' track

Panel Discussion 2

It was moderated by Nabarun Barooah and Divya Lakshmi S, focused on the evolving landscape of youth engagement in policy, innovation, and international development. CA Anwesh Shetty highlighted the importance of financial literacy and regulatory awareness among young entrepreneurs. Ekaterina Zhukovskaia discussed the role of youth in global energy cooperation and sustainability initiatives. Antariksh Parichha inspired with his entrepreneurial journey in space technology, encouraging youth to explore frontier innovations. Dr. Bashir Sa'ad Ibrahim emphasized the significance of youth-driven governance and political inclusion in Africa. Jarinya Krittikan shared impactful models of youth volunteerism and civic engagement from Thailand. The session emphasized the value of interdisciplinary leadership and cross-cultural collaboration in empowering youth as global change agents.



Figure11:(L-R)

Nabaarun barooah, Author **Divya lakshmi s** Public policy analyst
Panelist: C A Anwesh Shetty TAX, Financial Accounting and Financial Analyses, Mangalore, **Gurdit Singh Vohra** Building GMoney | ViceChair—Partnerships & Resources at CYC

Ekaterina Zhukovskaia Head of International affairs, ANO "Energy for development" of the State Corporation Rosatom, Russia **Sharan Setty** Journalist, Author and Documentary Film maker

Event Day 2- 16.05.2025

Session 1- "Opportunities for Youth in Space Research and Innovation"

Speaker: ANTARIKSH PARICHHA

In the session titled *"Opportunities for Youth in Space Research and Innovation,"* Antariksh Parichha, Co-founder and CEO of Serendipity Space, highlighted the vast potential for young minds in India's growing space sector. He discussed the democratization of space technology, emphasizing how startups and academic institutions can now actively contribute to satellite development, data analytics, and space exploration. He encouraged youth to pursue interdisciplinary learning, combining engineering, science, and entrepreneurship, and stressed the importance of fostering innovation through incubation hubs and government-backed space initiatives. His talk served as an inspiring call for youth to engage in space research as both scientists and innovators shaping the future of aerospace in India.



Figure 12:

"Opportunities for Youth in Space Research and Innovation" Speaker: Antariksh Parichha, Co-founder & CEO of Serendipity Space

Session 2- “Empowering Youth for Viksit Bharat: Innovation, Leadership, and Nation-Building” Speaker: PASINDU GUNERATNE

In the session “Empowering Youth for Viksit Bharat: Innovation, Leadership, and Nation-Building,” Pasindu Guneratne emphasized the transformative role of youth in shaping a progressive and self-reliant India. Drawing from his leadership experience in Sri Lanka’s youth services, he highlighted the importance of fostering innovation, civic responsibility, and inclusive leadership among young citizens. He advocated for cross-border knowledge exchange, skill development, and policy support to empower youth as architects of national growth. He addressed that with the right opportunities and mindset, the youth can drive sustainable development and be pivotal in realizing the vision of a developed, future-ready Bharat.



Figure13: “Empowering Youth for Viksit Bharat: Innovation, Leadership, and Nation-Building” Speaker: PASINDU GUNERATNE

Session 3- "Youth in the Digital Age: Driving Innovation, Leadership, and Transformation" Speaker: Dr. BASHIR SA'AD IBRAHIM

In the session *"Youth in the Digital Age: Driving Innovation, Leadership, and Transformation,"* Dr. Bashir Sa'ad Ibrahim highlighted how digital technology has become a powerful catalyst for youth empowerment and societal change. He emphasized that the digital era offers unprecedented opportunities for innovation, global connectivity, and leadership development among young people. He stressed the need for digital literacy, ethical use of technology, and inclusive access to digital tools to ensure no youth is left behind. He encouraged youth to harness digital platforms for social impact, entrepreneurship, and governance, positioning them as key drivers of transformation in an increasingly interconnected world.



Figure 14: "Youth in the Digital Age: Driving Innovation, Leadership, and Transformation" Speaker: Dr. BASHIR SA'AD IBRAHIM

Session 4- "Youth as Catalysts: Driving Community Development Forward" Speaker: PASCAL SASIL FERNANDO R

In the session *"Youth as Catalysts: Driving Community Development Forward,"* Pascal Sasil Fernando R emphasized the pivotal role of young people in spearheading grassroots change and community empowerment. Drawing from his experience as a political and public policy consultant, he highlighted how youth activism, civic engagement, and social entrepreneurship can address local challenges and foster inclusive development. He underscored the importance of building leadership skills, nurturing collaboration, and creating platforms that amplify youth voices to drive sustainable community transformation and strengthen democratic participation at all levels.



Figure 15: "Youth as Catalysts: Driving Community Development Forward" Speaker: PASCAL SASIL FERNANDO R

Panel discussion 3-

In the panel discussion, moderated by Thanmaya Prakash and Mayank Seshadri Chari, the conversation focused on the intersection of technology, mindfulness, and youth-led social innovation. Gurdit Singh Vohra shared insights on building partnerships to support youth entrepreneurship, while Sourabh Sindhe highlighted the role of meditation and mental wellness in empowering young leaders. Vijay Raghav Varada discussed leveraging advanced technologies like 3D printing to solve complex problems, inspiring innovation among youth. Pascal Sasil Fernando emphasized youth activism and public policy engagement as crucial tools for driving social change. Together, the panelists underscored the diverse pathways through which young people can contribute to a more mindful, innovative, and socially responsible future.



Panel Discussion 2

Thanmaya Prakash, Founder At Kannada Guru, Communication Specialist, Mayank Seshadri Chari Tech & Public Policy Analyst, Sourabh Sindhe, Founder OMG | Heartfulness Meditation Trainer Antariksh Parichha, Co-founder & CEO of Serendipity Space Dr. Bashir Sa'ad Ibrahim, MCIARN, MCICN, Department of Political Science, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences, Federal University Dutse, Nigeria Pascal R Advocate | Social Activist

Valedictory Programme-ICON YOUTH 2025



VALEDICTORY FUNCTION ICON YOUTH 2025

International Conference on "Envisioning India's Future: Youth as Changemakers" Organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India In Collaboration with Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) Date: 16th May 2025 | Time: 5:00 PM Venue: Yendurance Zone, Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), Mangalore, Karnataka.

The Valedictory Function of ICON YOUTH 2025, a two-day international conference titled "*Envisioning India's Future: Youth as Changemakers*", was held on 16th May 2025 at 5:00 PM at Yendurance Zone, Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), Mangalore. The event was jointly organized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India **and** Yenepoya (Deemed to be University).

The ceremony commenced with the escorting of dignitaries to the dais, followed by a soulful **invocation**, creating a reflective and respectful ambiance. The **welcome address** was delivered by the organizing committee, **followed by a concise** presentation of the conference report, summarizing the key sessions, youth engagements, and outcomes of the two-day event.

The Chief Guest, Shri Randeep D, IAS, Secretary, Youth Empowerment and Sports, Government of Karnataka, in his address, lauded the vision and execution of ICON YOUTH 2025 and emphasized the importance of fostering leadership qualities, innovation, and civic engagement among youth for India's development.

Guest of Honour Addresses

The audience was enriched by insightful messages from the distinguished Guests of Honour:

Shri Chetan R, IPS, Commissioner of Youth Empowerment and Sports, who highlighted the role of youth in inclusive governance and the need for sustained mentorship.

Dr. Prathap Lingaiah, State NSS Officer, Karnataka, who shared his vision for expanding youth volunteerism through NSS platforms.

Dr. D. Carthiguene, Regional Director, NSS, Bangalore, who appreciated the contribution of NSS and youth organizations in aligning with national priorities. Mr. Madhish Parikh, Founding Director, BRICS Youth Alliance, delivered a motivational talk focusing on global youth collaboration, SDG-driven innovation, and India's leadership role in international youth forums.

The winners of the Poster Presentation Competition were felicitated with certificates and prizes, encouraging academic excellence and creative expression among youth participants.

All dignitaries and key contributors were honoured with mementoes as a token of gratitude and recognition for their valuable participation and support.

Presidential Address

Dr. M. Vijaya Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) and Organising Chairman - ICON YOUTH 2025, delivered the **presidential address**, highlighting the collaborative spirit of the conference and its impact in inspiring the next generation of changemakers.

The **Vote of Thanks** was proposed by **Dr. Ashwini S. Shetty, Director, Directorate of Extension and Outreach Activities, and Organising Secretary - ICON YOUTH 2025**, who expressed heartfelt gratitude to the Ministry of Youth Affairs, university authorities, all dignitaries, organizing teams, participants, and volunteers.

Conclusion

The program concluded with the rendition of the **National Anthem**, marking the end of a highly successful and transformative conference that brought together youth leaders, academicians, policy-makers, and changemakers from across the nation and beyond.



POSTER PRESENTATION



Student Interaction with the Panelists and Resource Persons



Cultural Gala followed by the dinner

The final evening was a celebration of youth solidarity, with performances representing Karnataka's folk traditions, African tribal beats, Russian folk dance, and South Indian classical forms. Delegates departed with a renewed commitment to collaborative change-making.



ICON YOUTH 2025- COVERAGES

ONLINE COVERAGES

Publication Name	Headline
Times of India	Icon youth conference to unite young leaders from India and abroad Science and Technology Empowering Youth for National Development
V4 News	Yenepoya (Deemed to be University)ICON YOUTH 2025 International Youth Conference Closing Ceremony Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) ICON YOUTH 2025 International Youth Conference Press meet
Abhimatha	ಅಂತರರಾಷ್ಟ್ರೀಯ ಸಮ್ಮೇಳನದ ಅಂತ್ಯ ಯುವಜನರಿಗೆ ಸಿಗಲಿ - ರಂದೀಪ್, ಐಎಎಸ್
Abakka	Yenepoya(Deemed To Be University)-International Conference ICON YOUTH 2025
Mangalorean	Yenepoya University Announces ICON YOUTH 2025, a Landmark International Youth Conference International Conference 'ICON YOUTH 2025' Inaugurated at Yenepoya (Deemed to be University), Mangaluru 'ICON Youth 2025' Concludes with Focus on Global Youth Empowerment
Daiji world	Mangaluru: Yenepoya University to host 'Icon Youth 2025' on May 15, 16 Valedictory ceremony of international conference 'Icon Youth 2025' held at Yenepoya
News Karnataka	Icon Youth 2025 to Unite Global Youth for Innovation, Leadership, and a Viksit Bharat
Vartha bharathi	ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮೇ 15, 16ರಂದು ಯೆನೆಪೋಯದಿಂದ 'ಐಕಾನ್ ಯೂತ್- 2025' ಯುವ ಸಮಾವೇಶ : ದೇಶ- ವಿದೇಶಗಳ ಪ್ರತಿನಿಧಿಗಳು ಭಾಗಿ

**2-day international conference
Icon Youth 2025 at Yenepoya**

A host of GAO youth delegates, representing over 20 African states and five continents, including Nigeria, Nepal and Tibet, are taking part in the two-day international conference, *Iran Youth 2025*, organised by Yasakumari Zang in Kenepeya (Deemed to be University) campus on Thursday.

He highlighted the pivotal role of science and technology in creating lasting solutions to challenges faced by the youth, contributing significantly to the vision of a 'Vibrant Bharat' (Developed India).

Youth Affairs and Chief Vigilance Officer, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Jinnu Secretary Nitish Kumar Mishra underscored the crucial role of youth as future leaders, advocating for opportunities that enhance their knowledge, exposure, and experience to drive societal change.

International Cooperation, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Dr. Neeraj Kumar Singh emphasised the conference's role in exploring youth perspectives to achieve inclusive and sustainable development, providing a platform for col-



Chancellor of Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) Dr Yenepoya Abdulla Kuthi addresses the gathering during the two-day international conference, Icon Youth 2025, inaugurated at Venduramuzhi Zone in Yenepoya (Deemed to be University) campus on Thursday.

Source: www.fishbase.org, accessed 11/20/2014.

Venepura (Dombivli, to be University) Vice-Chancellor Dr M Vijaya Kumar, in his keynote address, encouraged active participation in the conference deliberations.

Chancellor of Yerevan
(Demand to be University)
Dr Yerevan Abdulla Kandi

providing over the programme period youth participants to seize this opportunity for knowledge acquisition and personal development to emerge as future national leaders.

Finalizing Director, BRICS
Youth Alliance Karthikeyan
Madhavan Parakkal and State
NSS Officer Dr. Puthanji Lin.

growth, among others, will be new here.

Yenirpaşa (Dormitory to the University) Rectorate Dr. Gökçühan Soğanay welcomed the gathering. Key themes of the conference include youth entrepreneurship, innovation, gender development, space research, sustainability and digital engagement.

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Social Media Posts

Sr. No	Post Link	Image
1	<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/</u>	
2	<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/</u>	
3	<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/</u>	

4	<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/</u>	 An Instagram post from the account 'iconyouth2025'. The post features a promotional graphic for the 'ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference'. The graphic has a black background with a large green number '4' and the text '4 Days to go' in white. Below this, it says 'ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference'. There is also a small green circle with a white '1' in the bottom left corner of the graphic. The post has a caption in Indonesian and several engagement icons (heart, comment, share) are visible on the right side.
5	<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/</u>	 An Instagram post from the account 'iconyouth2025'. The post features a promotional graphic for the 'ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference'. The graphic has a black background with a large green number '3' and the text '3 Days to go' in white. Below this, it says 'ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference'. There is also a small green circle with a white '1' in the bottom left corner of the graphic. The post has a caption in Indonesian and several engagement icons (heart, comment, share) are visible on the right side.
6	<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/</u>	 An Instagram post from the account 'iconyouth2025'. The post features a promotional graphic for the 'ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference'. The graphic has a black background with a large green number '2' and the text '2 Days to go' in white. Below this, it says 'ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference'. There is also a small green circle with a white '1' in the bottom left corner of the graphic. The post has a caption in Indonesian and several engagement icons (heart, comment, share) are visible on the right side.
7	<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/</u>	 An Instagram post from the account 'iconyouth2025'. The post features a promotional graphic for the 'ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference'. The graphic has a black background with a large green number '1' and the text '1 Day to go' in white. Below this, it says 'ICON YOUTH 2025 International Conference'. There is also a small green circle with a white '1' in the bottom left corner of the graphic. The post has a caption in Indonesian and several engagement icons (heart, comment, share) are visible on the right side.

8	<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/</u>	
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YouTube Live

Day	Link
Day 1- 15 May 2025	<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Kl5kBCL9VAs</u>
Day 2 - 16 May 2025	<u>https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FmugkbZ01t8</u>

Submitted By
Dr. Ashwini S Shetty
 Organising secretary
 Icon Youth 2025
 International Conference