



"If I Were the leader of my Country..."

The Youth and Their Visions for Southasia

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Hyderabad: Young voices from across South Asia came together online for the 1st South Asian Commemoration of the Doyens of Peace, sharing innovative visions for a united, peaceful, and sustainable region. The event, themed "My Vision for Southasia if I am the President / Prime Minister of my Country", saw participation from 198 youth aged 15 to 25 from Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka.

Organised to honour peace champions Admiral L. Ramdas, Karamat Ali, and Tapan Bose, the programme showcased two top videos from each country — 16 in total — followed by a panel discussion with eight young leaders under 30. The videos, ranging from two to five minutes, reflected a deep understanding of regional challenges and offered creative, non-violent solutions to address them.



Youth from eight countries share visions for South Asia's future at online peace event

At the 1st Southasian Commemoration of The Doyens of Peace, 198 youths from eight countries shared visionary videos on South Asia's future. Top videos were live-streamed, followed by a youth panel discussing peace, innovation, and non-violent solutions for regional progress

Hyderabad: 'My Vision for South Asia if I am the President / Prime Minister of my Country' was the theme for youth at the 1st Southasian Commemoration of The Doyens of Peace, organised online with participation from eight countries.

Around 198 youths created 2 to 5-minute videos showcasing innovative and fascinating blueprints that reflect every South Asian's aspirations, said Mazher Hussain, Executive Director of [COVA](#), Hyderabad, in a press release.

Sixteen videos — the top two from each of the eight countries — were live-streamed, followed by a panel discussion with eight youths below 30 on the visions in the videos for Southasia and the forward.

Common threads in the youth's vision included: reviving and revitalising SAARC; rejecting war and hate in favour of peace and love; ensuring sustainable and dignified progress; tackling climate change urgently; advancing gender justice, economic partnerships, and religious tolerance; prioritising education and healthcare; demanding soft borders for free travel and exchanges; and committing to end terrorism for a non-violent South Asia.

A document titled “Vision of Youth for Southasia”, compiled and released during the event, underscored the belief that the region is “naturally without borders” and must focus on coexistence built on economic, political, social, and cultural cooperation. It called for national employment generation, indigenous institutions of learning, regional student-exchange programmes, and digital school networks.

The youth stressed that peace depends on dialogue, freedom, and cross-border mobility, alongside collaboration on joint river management, emission reduction, diversified energy sources, and ecological economic models. They also advocated for a South Asian economic bloc and reinvigoration of SAARC to strengthen regional integration.

The event concluded with a call to action for young, educated, and innovative citizens to lead South Asia toward a future of equality, sustainability, and unity.



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South Asia's Youth Set to Showcase Bold Visions for a Peaceful and Prosperous Region

Aug 11, 2025



Hyderabad, India – August 11, 2025: The youth of South Asia are gearing up to present their daring and inspiring visions for the future of the region at the **1st Southasian Commemoration of The Doyens of Peace**, scheduled to be streamed live on YouTube on **August 12, 2025**, from **10:00 am to 12:00 noon IST**.

The event, hosted under the banner of **Doyens of Peace**, is a tribute to three towering champions of peace—**Admiral L. Ramdas (India)**, **Karamat Ali (Pakistan)**, and **Tapan Bose (India)**—who dedicated their lives to fostering harmony, cooperation, and mutual understanding across South Asia's diverse nations.

A Youth-Driven Challenge with a Visionary Twist

The central theme of the commemoration is “**My Vision for Southasia if I am the President / Prime Minister of my Country**”. The contest saw **198 young participants** from **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka**, aged between **15 and**

25, submit 2- to 5-minute videos showcasing innovative and transformative blueprints for the region's future.

From sustainable economic models to cross-border cultural exchanges, and from climate resilience strategies to inclusive governance reforms, the entries offer **fresh, unfiltered, and thought-provoking perspectives** on what a united and thriving South Asia could look like.

The **top two videos from each country—16 in total—will be live-casted during the event**, giving audiences a rare opportunity to witness the hopes, priorities, and creativity of the region's next generation of leaders.

Panel of Young Leaders to Debate the Way Forward

Following the video showcase, **a panel discussion will bring together eight dynamic youth under the age of 30**, one from each South Asian country, to deliberate on the visions presented in the videos and chart out possible steps toward turning these dreams into reality.

This cross-border youth dialogue aims to spark **collaboration over competition** and foster mutual trust, breaking down stereotypes and promoting the idea that peace and development in South Asia are shared responsibilities.

Why This Matters for South Asia's Future

South Asia, home to over **1.8 billion people**, faces complex challenges—from poverty and climate change to political instability and social divisions. Yet, it is also a region of immense potential, rich cultural heritage, and youthful energy. Over **60% of the population is under 30**, making platforms like this not just relevant, but essential, for shaping policies and relationships that will define the region's future.

“These young voices are not bound by the baggage of the past—they dare to imagine a South Asia that works for everyone,” said **Mazher Hussain**, Executive Director of **COVA (Confederation of Voluntary Associations)**, the Hyderabad-based organization coordinating the event.

Event Details

- **Date:** August 12, 2025
- **Time:** 10:00 am – 12:00 noon IST
- **YouTube Live Link:** <https://youtube.com/live/hjb5ijczXmc>
- **Alternate Access:** Search “Doyens of Peace” on YouTube
- **Website:** www.peacedoyens.org
- **Contact Email:** peacedoyepnssouthasia@gmail.com

The **Doyens of Peace** initiative hopes to inspire governments, civil society organizations, and individuals across the eight countries to support youth-led peacebuilding and development efforts, turning vision into action.

“South Asia's young people hold the keys to its peace and prosperity. This event is a reminder that their dreams can—and must—be part of our policy roadmaps,” added Mazher Hussain.