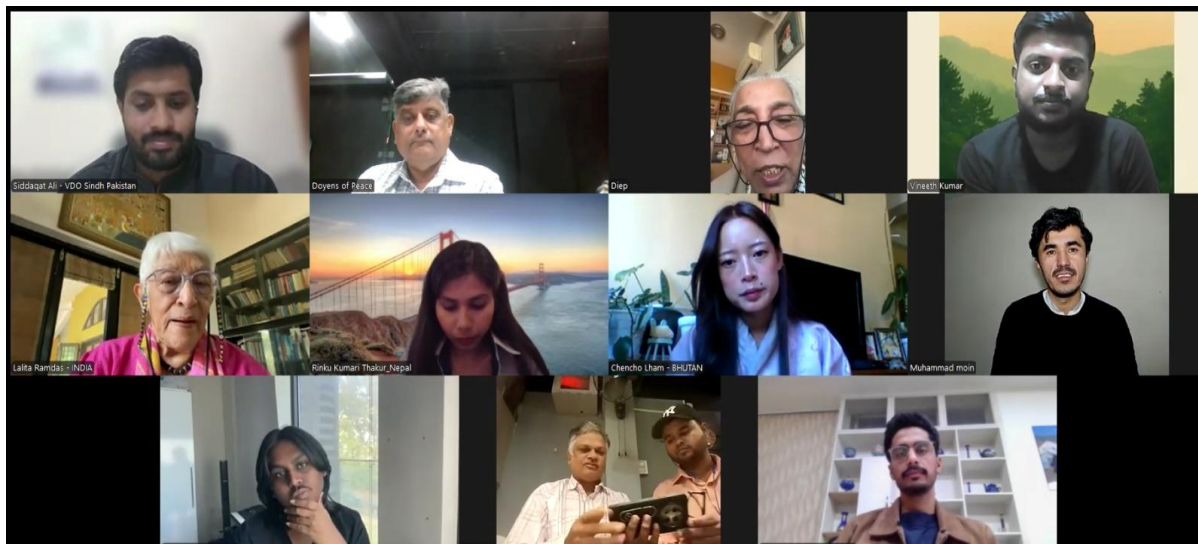


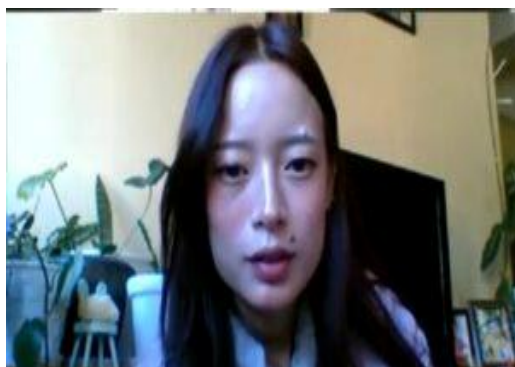
## South Asian Youth Chart a Bold Roadmap for Peace & Prosperity at SAARC Charter Day Commemoration

Dec 8, 2025



Hyderabad: In a powerful demonstration of regional solidarity and youth leadership, *Doyens of Peace*, a Pan-South Asia platform comprising civil society organisations and youth groups, commemorated **SAARC Charter Day on 8 December 2025** with an innovative digital event centered around the theme:

**“How Can Youth Collaborate Across Borders to Reduce Poverty and Promote Peace in South Asia?”**



The event received an overwhelming response from young people aged 15–25 across the eight South Asian nations, with **220 video submissions** of 2–5 minutes each. Fourteen of the most impactful videos were showcased during a live-streamed event attended virtually by hundreds of youth, educators, peace-builders, diplomats, researchers and development practitioners.

The event also featured reflections from youth leaders below 30 years from all eight SAARC nations, followed by a high-level panel discussion titled:

**“Translating Aspirations into Reality: The Way Forward for South Asia.”**

## Youth Panel Representation Across South Asia

- **Afghanistan:** Silab Naseri
- **Bangladesh:** Mizanur Rahman
- **Bhutan:** Chencho Lham
- **India:** S. Vineeth
- **Maldives:** Abhyan Ali
- **Pakistan:** Mohammad Moin
- **Nepal:** Rinku Kumari
- **Sri Lanka:** M. Fathima Nusaika



Mir Kashif (India) welcomed the participants and outlined the vision and programs of Doyens of Peace. **Ms. Lalita Ramdas**, former Chairperson of *Greenpeace International*, delivered a keynote reflection expressing deep appreciation for the initiative and emphasizing the powerful role of youth networks in shaping a peaceful South Asia.

The event concluded with **Arya Goutham of Nepal**, who presented the outcome of extensive youth deliberations—the **Strategic 9-Point Youth Blueprint for Transforming South Asia**, synthesized from the 220 submitted videos.

## Strategic 9-Point Youth Blueprint for Transforming South Asia

1. **South Asian Youth Peace Network:** A structural platform for long-term regional trust-building
2. **Music Unites:** Cross-border cultural diplomacy
3. **Social Media & AI for Peace and Collaboration:** A digital shield against hate; a bridge for cooperation
4. **Virtual Campuses & Open South Asian University:** Education without borders
5. **Regional Youth Innovation Hub:** Catalyzing entrepreneurship and knowledge exchange
6. **Youth-Led Cross-Border Trade Bridges:** A digital marketplace enabling regional economic collaboration
7. **Green Energy Grid Initiative:** Building a regional clean-energy ecosystem
8. **Joint Environmental and Resource Programs:** Collective stewardship of shared ecologies
9. **Disaster Response as a Unifying Force:** Operationalizing regional solidarity



## A Roadmap for Regional Transformation

This blueprint emerges not as isolated proposals but as a **cohesive and implementable vision**, positioning South Asian youth as drivers of:



- Peace and trust-building
- Regional economic integration
- Climate resilience and sustainability
- Innovation and knowledge production
- Cross-border empathy and cultural harmony

The Blueprint reframes South Asia's greatest challenge—**fragmentation**—as its greatest opportunity:

*A unified, innovation-driven, youth-led region where poverty is not destiny and conflict is not inevitable.*

#### **Next Steps: Turning Vision into Action**

Doyens of Peace announced plans to establish **Thematic Community Working Groups** to advance collaborative initiatives derived from the Blueprint, including:

- Education Across Borders
- Climate Change Partnerships
- Regional Youth Innovation Hub
- Social Media & AI for Peace Collaboration



These groups will bring together academics, entrepreneurs, youth leaders, technology experts, and civil society institutions—building a living laboratory for regional transformation.

#### **About Doyens of Peace**

With a mission to **transform the grammar of interactions and collaborations among South Asian youth**, Doyens of Peace seeks to foster trust, foster people-to-people connectivity, and establish a resilient regional ecosystem of peace-builders and social innovators.

– **Bharatesh Kidambi**

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