



The Journal

BY
FOR THE YOUTH



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Quotes

What do you expect out of this session?

An enriching learning experience

- Arjun, TMC

I'm a first timer and it felt so realistic!

- Sakshi, BJP

I had no idea how Parliament really functioned before this

- Angie, AIADMK

Good debate and negotiation and result and deliverance.

- Divyant, INC

The oc is the best I've seen yet and everything is organised well!

—Harris, CPIM

It gets interesting and when the battle starts.

- Arhaan, INC

THE POWER OF YOU(TH)

By Sanjay Jha

We live in extraordinary times experiencing tectonic changes around us; they are so imperceptible on account of their incredible speed that we are not able to recognize the transformation that is happening: We should —especially the youth should. Perhaps the biggest disruptor has been technological innovations, in the areas of an expanding internet, social media explosion and smartphone capabilities. The 2016 US Presidential elections, for instance, saw the triumph of Donald Trump become a controversial conundrum on account of the role of cyberwarfare unleashed by the Russians. Today, the uncovering of data from 50 million Facebook users has resulted in severe criticism of Mark Zuckerberg. It is speculated that deliberate targeted campaigns (particularly focused on the impressionable youth) had a considerable impact on the outcome of the elections. In the Brexit vote, the young were left nonplussed as they were vastly outnumbered as the populists chose to exit the European Union. The bottom-line is: the youth are center-stage in the meandering political theatre of modern democracies. India is no exception.

Ignoring the political process is no longer an option for India's much celebrated youth. Recently, the CBSE Exam paper leaks is a perfect manifestation of poor governance. Unless challenged aggressively, this moribund system will refuse to change. Politics is the perfect platform for enforcing policy changes and equal opportunities for all. Unless India's youth become active participants in questioning the government on their performance, we will continue to experience poor execution of manifestos. We must remember: in a buoyant democracy, every voice matters. It is not just about exercising your voting rights once every five years at the EVM, but also being at the vanguard of protecting one's freedom. It is foolhardy to take our democratic liberties for granted; we have to fight to preserve them whenever they come under threat. The youth of India have to be the lynchpin in this crucial struggle to preserve the sanctity of our constitutional rights. This includes our freedom to express ourselves freely without any apprehensions, especially the threat of being labeled seditious for criticism of establishment failures.

Most importantly, we live in a larger ecosystem that includes poor and disadvantaged sections of society, LGBT community, marginal and small farmers, vulnerable minorities and the physically challenged, among others. Women are still subjected to misogynistic tirades from husbands and brothers with patriarchal mind-sets. If India's youth can engage vigorously in the issues confronting us as a society, our great Indian democracy will come closer to the dreams and ideals that Mahatma Gandhi had envisioned for our nation.

Glimpses of the day

