

# YOUTH MANIFESTO 2026: SOLUTIONS FOR GLOBAL SUSTAINABILITY

## **A Policy Brief by the ICERT-UN Youth Symposium**

*Youth's Voices for Global Sustainability*

Occasion: National Youth Day 2026 (163rd Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)

Lead Division: ICERT–Sophia: Education & Learning Advancement Division

### **I. Vision Statement**

Building upon the leadership of Dr. Navneet Kaur (Director, ICERT-Sophia) and the global insights of Prof. (Dr.) P. K. Rajput (Harvard Square Leadership Excellence), this manifesto represents a collective call to action from 387 young delegates. It transitions from theoretical awareness to action-driven learning, positioning youth not as future leaders, but as current architects of a sustainable planet.

### **II. Core Pillars & Youth-Led Solutions**

#### **1. Green Pedagogy & Sustainable Campuses**

- The Solution: Transformation of schools into "Living Labs" where waste reduction, water harvesting, and solar energy are integrated into the daily curriculum.
- Action: Implementing student-led audit committees to monitor the carbon footprint of educational institutions.

#### **2. Technology for Social Good**

- The Solution: Leveraging AI and digital platforms to bridge the accessibility gap in education.
- Action: Promoting digital literacy as a fundamental right to ensure equitable participation in the global green economy.

#### **3. Holistic Health & Wellness**

- The Solution: Recognizing that environmental sustainability is impossible without mental and physical well-being.
- Action: Integrating "Mindfulness and Peace Education" into school life to build emotional resilience among the youth.

#### **4. Community-Centric SDG Action**

- The Solution: Localizing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through "Impact Stories."
- Action: Encouraging students to develop practical, feasible, and localized solutions for waste management and biodiversity in their immediate neighborhoods.

### **III. Institutional Commitment**

This manifesto celebrates the spirit of the ICERT–UN Young Changemakers and the ICERT–UN Voices of Excellence. To support these voices, we demand:

- Open Access: Ensuring platforms for youth expression remain free and accessible to all, regardless of socio-economic background.
- Mentorship: Establishing direct links between industry veterans and school-age innovators to provide "real-world" feasibility to student projects.

#### IV. Concluding Declaration

"Arise, awake, and stop not until the goal is reached."

Inspired by Swami Vivekananda, the youth of 2026 declare that Sustainability is a Mindset. We commit to fostering innovation with compassion, ensuring that every technological advancement serves the dual purpose of human progress and planetary preservation.

#### Endorsed by:

- Dr. Navneet Kaur, Director, ICERT–Sophia
- Prof. (Dr.) P. K. Rajput, Guest of Honor & Global Industry Leader
- ICERT-UN Youth Symposium Delegates 2026

**INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR JAN 12, 2026, NATIONAL YOUTH DAY INDIA**  
**Jyotiba Phule Govt. College Radaur Haryana, India**  
**International Council for Education, Research and Training (ICERT), USA & India**  
**ICERT-UN Youth Symposium: Youth's Voices for Global Sustainability (163rd Birth Anniversary of Swami Vivekananda)**  
*"Empowering Young Minds for a Sustainable Future: Multidisciplinary Approaches to Innovation, Leadership, and Social Responsibility"*

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Plastic roads are an innovative solution that recycles waste into durable infrastructure. This process not only reduces landfill waste but also enhances road longevity, promoting sustainability in urban environments.

To use an effective solution to sustainability.

**The World We Create**

INCLUSION. INNOVATION. IMPACT.

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

A Global Promise for people and planet.  
 17 GOALS, one shared responsibility.  
 Development with dignity, equity and sustainability.

We reshape that space.

- YouTube Recording: Full Symposium & Award Ceremony