

THE SOCIAL SCIENCE PERSPECTIVE

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PULSE OF THE NATION

**Panel Discussion – Conducted by Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education
(CeRSSE), Jain (Deemed-to-be University)**

August 18, 2021 – 3.00-4.30 p.m.

'The State of the Nation at 74-Youth Voices'

To commemorate India's 74th Independence Day, a panel discussion was organised by the Centre for Research in Social Sciences and Education (CRSSE) Jain (Deemed-to-be University), to better understand and hear the voices of young, bright minds that will tomorrow run the country, ensuring a better future for the population of this beautiful mother land of ours.

Dr. Priyanca Mathur, Associate Professor at CeRSSE and Webinar Coordinator began by welcoming the 342 members in the audience and highlighted the importance of giving agency, voice and participation to the youth. She then welcomed Honorable Vice Chancellor of Jain (Deemed-to-be University) to give the introductory remarks. Dr. Raj Singh proceeded with a very inspiring keynote that emphasised on the role of youth in the future of the country as well as the importance of a positive outlook on all situations in life. Dr. Mathur, then introduced the Chair of the Panel Discussion, Dr. Mythili P Rao, Dean of Languages and Research Coordinator, Jain (Deemed-to-be University), who very poetically captivated the audience and then further introduced the panelists.

Mr. Mohammed Shafiulla R, a Jain University Bachelor of Arts student, threw light on the subcultures and diverse nature of the Indian demographic. He emphasized on the importance of a more accepting and accommodative governance, towards all communities and its members. Shafi also spoke about false information, misinterpretation and the turmoil caused by hearsay along with other areas in our society and nation today that needed improvement. He specifically spoke of the 'post-truth' world that we live in today.

The next speaker, Mr. Chirag G Pradeep, a Biotechnology Masters student at CPGS-Jain University, had very strong thoughts on the role of youngsters in shaping the future being the majority age group in India. He emphasised on each person contributing to the necessary changes by actively working towards it and being service minded humans for the sake of not only the country, but the human race and the planet as well.

Ms. Arishmita Aditya, a Post Graduation student of Media and Communication at Christ University, and former undergraduate of Jain, gracefully wove together theoretical frameworks of the nation-state, citing Benedict Anderson, questioning the ideological framework within which we stand today. She also mentioned the unfortunate yet severe impact of misinformation and disinformation pertaining to social media and its influence on people in current times.

The last speaker was Mr. Punith Raj KN, founder-CEO of an EdTech company-Seminar Room and a Ph.D Research Scholar at Jain University. He emphasized on the contrast of the western definition of a nation with that of all of humanity being one, and stressed on the need of harmony with each other irrespective of normative nationality. Mr. Punith also pointed out the ideology of the sacred motherland-Bharat, and the thought of all things and people around us being our own.

The session was then concluded after each panel member were asked to give two points that according to them, were important necessary changes to strive towards for a better future as a nation. Questions from the audience were also addressed by the panelists. It was an engaging afternoon of four brilliant, actively vocal panelists, who reflected on the past of India, and defined the requirements to be met by younger generations to bring about positive change for all Indians in the future. The varied backgrounds of the panelists and audience ensured the coverage of a broad spectra of views and ideals.