

Terms of Reference: Next Generation India Fellow - Future of Work

Background

Our Future Agenda is a new UN Foundation program that helps young people shape the global policy agenda to tackle the world's most urgent challenges. It aims to deliver impact for the next generation - young people under 30 who make up half the world's population; and future generations - the 10.9 billion people yet to be born this century. It builds on the request by the UN Secretary-General to host a group of young leaders as Next Generation Fellows to contribute to and support Our Common Agenda, his vision for the future of international cooperation.

Their proposals were launched in a standalone report entitled [Our Future Agenda](#), which identifies six thematic priorities raised by young people as priorities for global action: transforming education; jobs and economic opportunities; climate and sustainability; and peace and justice.

The program helps young thinkers, leaders, and activists deliver results. We aim to:

- Support a new cohort of Next Generation Fellows under 30 to drive Our Future Agenda priorities in partnership with the United Nations and the broader international system.
- Engage partners through the Unlock the Future coalition to drive action, commitments, and financing for young people, leveraging its reach of over 875 million worldwide.
- Activate the generation of doers, providing young people with an open, intergenerational platform to design the future.
- Bolster efforts to rejuvenate global institutions and equip them to think, plan, and act for the future across the UN and the broader international system.

2023-2025 Next Generation India Fellowship - Future of Work

Exploring how India can prepare its growing young population for the evolving demands of the future is vital to its economic growth and the global labor market. India's education system must adapt to future skills needs, including tech literacy, critical thinking, creativity, adaptability, and lifelong learning. It must also prepare young Indians for diverse career paths and multicultural environments to drive economic growth and social progress across India and contribute significantly to the global workforce. This Fellow will identify opportunities to build a future where every young person in India can access quality education and decent work. They will also explore how India can harness its young population as an asset to India's long-term economic growth and its role in the global workforce. The Fellow will develop a strategy to leverage India's young population as an accelerator of economic growth and social stability.

Throughout this journey, the UN Foundation (UNF) and the Council on Energy, Environment, and Water (CEEW) will provide the Fellow with comprehensive support to drive transformational changes

at national and international levels. Each fellow is expected to dedicate one day per week over two years. This flexible commitment is designed to accommodate the fellows' priorities and existing commitments. All fellows can travel and engage in two global or regional events. They will also access a tailored leadership, training, and mentoring program.

The fellowship concludes with a publication on the Future of India, a testament to their contributions to this pressing field. The findings will be shared at the 2024 Summit of the Future and officially launched at the 2025 World Social Summit, marking the Fellow's lasting imprint on global health discourse.

This two-year fellowship is an opportunity and a platform for young Indian thinkers to effect significant change transcending national boundaries and impacting the global community. The Next Generation India Future of Work Fellow will be pivotal in creating an equitable and inclusive landscape for the 21st century. This is not just about the future of India; it is about the future of us all.

Roles and Responsibilities

1. **Influence the Global Agenda:** Delve into creative mediums and intergenerational dialogues to consider how India, as a young nation, can contribute to global cooperation and address global challenges to education, job creation, and the future of the workforce.
2. **Engage in UN Foundation Platforms:** Participate in the 2024 Big Brainstorm and 2024 Engine Room in preparation for the Summit of the Future, including designing and participating in intergenerational dialogues about the SDGs and the future of the United Nations.
3. **Support a Flagship Publication:** Prepare a final publication on the Future of India, with initial findings shared at the 2024 Summit of the Future and a launch at the 2025 World Social Summit. This publication, a culmination of your work, will include a series of campaign actions and moments both during and after the launch.
4. **Bring a passion project to a global audience:** Transform innovative ideas into reality by initiating a project that addresses future challenges to be showcased on UN Foundation and CEEW platforms, inspiring change for a more resilient and inclusive future.
5. **Participate in Policy Debates:** Champion young people's priorities and future needs during influential policy gatherings to raise awareness about challenges facing India's workforce and the world.
6. **Develop Global and Regional Networks:** Engage with government officials, international organizations, civil society groups, the creative community, and research institutions to co-create solutions that benefit the broader global community.
7. **Personal Growth and Skills Development:** Utilize the tailored leadership and training program to support your personal growth and skills development.

In summary, the Next Generation India Fellows will gain first-hand experience in understanding and solving the world's most pressing challenges, providing a global platform to explore and champion an agenda for future generations. By drawing on the strength of youth leadership, the fellowship will serve as a powerful catalyst for positive change, not just in India but on a global scale.

Qualifications

- Candidates should be based in India and under 30 at the time of applying.
- Academic or professional background in Economics, Education, Public Policy, Sociology, or a similar discipline.
- Proven understanding of the education system and job market in India, including its strengths and weaknesses, and the ability to identify opportunities for improvement and future growth.
- Experience in policy advocacy and research, with a track record of influencing policy changes in India or other similar contexts.
- Ability to synthesize complex information and translate it into clear, concise reports and presentations.
- Exceptional written and oral communication skills in English, particularly Hindi, would be advantageous.
- Demonstrated commitment to the principles of the UN and the goals of the Next Generation India Fellowship.
- Knowledge of the Indian social, cultural, and political context.
- Flexibility and willingness to dedicate one day per week over two years to participate in the program actively.
- Willingness and availability to travel for the two global or regional events.

Application Process

Interested candidates are requested to submit the following documents:

- Updated curriculum vitae (CV)
- Cover letter highlighting relevant experience and skills (including links to previous work including but not limited to media engagements, research papers,...)
- Examples of previous work related to program management, sustainable development, or youth leadership
- Contact details of three professional references

Note: Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted for an interview.