



National Indian Students and Alumni Union (UK)

PRESS RELEASE

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For immediate release

NISAU releases important findings on what the young Indian diaspora wants from, and for India

The National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU), the apex body for young people of Indian origin in the UK, has released its findings on the concerns and recommendations of young Indians living outside India, both students and working professionals.

Through feedback gathered through a survey and focus groups, the research has been primarily aimed to understand the issues that matter to young Indians living outside India, both that relate to them as the Indian diaspora, as well as relating to India's development.

As India votes its next national government to power in the coming weeks, the NISAU hopes that these concerns and recommendations are considered by all political parties who are contesting the 2019 Lok Sabha elections.

Commenting on the results of the findings, **NISAU Chairperson Sanam Arora** said *"The theme is clear. Roti, Kapda, Makaan – i.e. let's focus on issues, let's talk about real issues that matter. It is no surprise that young people are concerned about unemployment, education and healthcare. Meaningful employment opportunities are the need of the hour, and there is a huge amount of concern that our demographic dividend where 65% of our population is under the age of 35, will become a demographic liability unless we do something quite serious about jobs and education"*.

NISAU President Mohanish Borana elaborated on how *"the future Indian government has to heavily focus on academic freedom, educational investment, focused promotion of modern science as well as on the development of scientific and entrepreneurial temperament in the country. I hope all political parties take the concerns of diaspora youth into consideration when voted to power especially their demands related to expats' welfare and a separate ministry for NRIs."*

Key findings include:

- India to permit **dual nationality**
- Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) **representation** in the **Indian Parliament**
- **NRI voting rights** enabling them to cast their vote from outside India
- The 3 most pressing issues for the global young Indian diaspora in relation to India are **unemployment, corruption and investment in education**
- Indian Government to start a separate **ministry for issues specifically related to NRIs**
- A great amount of **concern** was expressed **over job prospects both within and outside India**. Students complained about a 'double whammy' effect. They explained the increasing difficulty of getting employment outside India, especially in the UK, and how the limited number of jobs in India are 'already taken' by the time students finish their studies and return to India
- The **concern** about their job prospects outside India was in line with another concern raised by respondents – the apparent **global rise of an anti-migrant sentiment**
- Respondents believed that there is **scope for improvement in India's foreign policy since 2014**
- Respondents believed **significant investment was required in the agricultural and healthcare sectors**. **"Health for all"** and the UK's National Health Service as an example were frequently cited
- Respondents expressed **concerns about increasing communal tension in India**, and would like future Indian governments to keep appropriate distance between religion and governance
- Respondents wanted the Indian government to consider **direct flights from major cities abroad to prominent destinations** like Agra for tourism, Amritsar for pilgrimage etc.



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- Respondents advocated for **lateral entry in Indian government services** for experienced and qualified NRIs
- Respondents recommended that the “SC/ST Act”, “**Reservation based on economic basis**”, and the “**Smart Cities**” be discontinued by future governments as these were felt to be policy interventions having the least amount of impact
- Respondents would also like some **social welfare scheme for NRIs in need**

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Notes to editors

About National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK

The National Indian Students and Alumni Union UK (NISAU) is the pan-national umbrella organisation representing UK university students & alumni of Indian heritage. NISAU was created to provide a unifying voice for students with Indian heritage and promote, educate and celebrate Indian culture with people of all communities. NISAU aims to bring together all Indian student societies and alumni in the UK on one platform and is creating a unique, youth-led ecosystem to foster entrepreneurship, patriotism and leadership. Its ultimate vision is to enable & empower the young Indian diaspora in the UK to contribute positively to India, UK, and the UK-India relationship.

Visit www.nisu.org.uk for further information.