

REPORT ON

GEN Z High Tea Discussion on “Future India”

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Department Number	24-USO-053
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Programme	"Gen Z High Tea: India's Future Through Young Eyes"

Participation and Significance

I had the privilege of participating in the GEN Z High Tea Discussion on “Future India”, held at Cottingley, British Deputy High Commission, Chennai, on 23rd September 2026, as part of the commemoration of International Youth Day. The programme brought together young participants for an interactive exchange on India’s future, the role of youth in public life, inclusive development, innovation, education, and the responsibilities of the emerging generation in shaping society.

Recognition and Representation

I was nominated as one of the “100 Brightest Minds in Chennai” for this youth engagement. Representing the Department of Sociology and Loyola College in such a forum was a valuable opportunity to contribute to discussions on youth participation and to interact with peers from diverse academic and professional backgrounds. The experience also helped me connect sociological learning with contemporary questions of development, citizenship, institutional participation and social responsibility.

Learning Outcomes

The discussion highlighted the importance of creating meaningful spaces where young people can move beyond symbolic participation and engage with issues that shape the country’s social and developmental future. The programme encouraged critical thinking, respectful dialogue and collaborative exchange. It reinforced for me the value of combining academic knowledge with real-world exposure and of recognising young people as stakeholders in conversations on governance, education, technology, inclusion and sustainable development.

Acknowledgement

I express my sincere gratitude to Loyola College for providing opportunities that enable students to participate in important academic and public forums beyond the classroom. I am especially thankful to Dr. J. Vanitha, Head, Department of Sociology, for nominating and encouraging me to take part in this programme. I also extend my respectful thanks to Dr. P. Nanci, Vice Principal, Shift II – Academics, for her support and encouragement. Their guidance made this opportunity possible and contributed meaningfully to my academic and personal development.

Reflection

The GEN Z High Tea was a memorable learning experience that strengthened my understanding of the importance of youth voice, informed participation and interdisciplinary dialogue. I am grateful for the opportunity to represent my institution and department, and I look forward to carrying the insights gained from this engagement into my academic work, student leadership responsibilities and future public-oriented initiatives.

GLIMPSES FROM THE GEN Z HIGH TEA DISCUSSION



Photographs from the youth interaction at the British Deputy High Commission, Chennai.