

TODAY'S NEWS

Quotes | Notes

Keynote Piyush Goyal

Minister Goyal spoke extensively about the need for green energy: renewable, sustainable, clean energy is and ought to be at the forefront of our generation's attention.

Talking Politics

"The problem with India is that politicians over-commit and under-perform. We need to start under-committing and over-performing." - MP Scindia

Liberal Arts and Conservative Societies

BD Somani Principal quotes Cardinal Newman's *The Idea of a University*: "Knowledge is capable of being its own end," in the morning discussion on the need for the liberal arts in conservative societies. From Ashoka University to domestic leadership initiatives, we need to persuade others and ourselves of the intrinsic and instrumental value of the arts.



The Harvard US India Initiative is about ideas—the origin of ideas, the challenging of ideas, and promotion of some over others. Yesterday's panelists approached the development of ideas from a variety of diverse perspectives, from the Arts, sciences and politics. What was particularly striking about yesterday's events was how our panelists used their experiences to illustrate how crucial it is that we do not take the ideas and opinions that form our society for granted. Each discussion yesterday ended with a call from our panelists to reevaluate our visions of success, value and society. Bombay High Court Judge, Gautam Patel, invoked the hard-won freedoms of our country, urging students on his panel not to disregard the sweat and





On India’s responsibilities:

We cannot be exclusive in the world if we cannot be inclusive at home. Surely, the traditional Indian commitment to democratic values, to secular values, respect for plurality: these are all very important issues. And if you want to be treated with exclusivity and specifically in the world, then we must show that we can be inclusive at home.

On Mentorship and Education:

Mentors and role models play a very important role. It’s important for education in India to further stimulate a spirit of questioning and inquiry. Too much of our education is rigid, structured, rote-learning, exam-oriented, and visa-oriented. It has to be challenging conventional wisdom; that’s the spirit of education. You know, the aim is to turn out people who are constantly challenging established patterns of thinking. They should not be seen as eccentrics or ‘out of the box,’ but as people who are actually bringing about change.

blood that has been poured into the formation of our liberal democracy. Keynote speaker, Jairam Ramesh, called upon the students to recommit to the democratic principles of India’s founding: liberty, an appreciation and understanding of rights, a commitment to a seemingly elusive equality. From public intellectuals to economists to diplomats to artists, yesterday’s panelists offered us different angles on how we as Indian youth might construct the narrative of our country for the world. It is in considering how we want to think of ourselves, and how we wish others to think of our country that I would urge participants to search for the nuance within the dichotomies, the hard question within the simplistic ones, and the uniqueness within our diversity.

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Science and Society

Indian education can and should be revolutionized by the introduction of experimental learning, such as research capacity, in-class lab experiments, flipped classroom learning, and real-world problem analysis.

Professor Jacqueline Bhabha, HLS

What India really needs to improve the condition of Human Rights is not big fancy laws but implementation of the laws that are already in place.

Jumping Ahead

"It's not a competition between manufacturing and services, there is a synergy between the two sectors, and we must promote both."

"What is lacking is not individual productivity, but the productivity of a system, which is dependent on an institutional system."



If yesterday's events urged participants to immerse themselves in the world of ideas, today's panelists gave us diverse and exceptional examples of how to apply these ideas in practice. We explored the treatment of women from the womb to the workplace on the Girl Child and Yes Ma'am panels. We discussed the ethics and efficacy of the non-profit world in several of our afternoon sessions. Our keynote speaker this morning, Mirai Chatterjee, gave us an eye-opening presentation on the detail and planning that is involved in the roll out of universal healthcare. Our discourse today was characterized by representation from different areas of the public sphere, yet each of the panelists placed a certain conscious emphasis on creating value.

Yet, in every sphere—public and private, urban and rural, conservative and liberal—today's presenters stressed the importance of assigning value to what we do. As our country enjoys greater importance





Jayant Sinha

“There are three main values that you should keep with you in life that I have learned along the way: integrity, competence, and versatility.”

on an international stage, we must look to development of our own social consciousness in every sphere. In India, a country that shelters one-fifth of humanity, the narrative that our generation crafts cannot be the narrative of our forefathers—we simply cannot afford it. The cost of moving forward without attention paid to our conscience and moral growth is too heavy for our society, government and even economy to bear.

Akanksha Hazari, the founder of m.Paani, called upon audience members to redefine their understanding of success and value. Quoting her mother, she asked the audience to think about the value of their life and the legacy that they hope to leave behind. The legacy of our generation ought not to be measured in rupees and stock shares, but rather in the court cases that we hear and resolve, the scientific innovations we make, the people we empower, and the lives we change. At the Harvard University India Initiative, we hope that these speakers and discussions have convinced you that it takes creative and collective effort to create the ecosystems of a better India this weekend.

Thank you delegates for your excellent participation!

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