

'YOUTH GRAVITATING TOWARDS FAR RIGHT A DISTURBING TREND'

During a panel discussion on "Youth and the Politics of Tomorrow", organised as part of Bharat Summit, young political leaders, scholars and activists from across the world tackled some of the most pressing issues facing global youth today: climate change, inequality, political polarisation and civic disengagement. The session featured participants from India, New Zealand, Latin America and several other regions, each bringing their own unique perspectives shaped by their cultural and political landscapes. Transport Minister Ponnam Prabhakar, MP G Vamshi Krishna, MLC Balmoor Venkat, NSUI

president Varun Choudhary, New Zealand MP Arena Williams, Liinesh Selluandan, Maina Hay, James Steve Serrano and Jesus Tapia participated in the panel discussion. Panelists expressed serious concern about growing political polarisation, particularly among youth. "There's a disturbing trend of young boys gravitating toward the far right, fuelled by social media algorithms that reward sensationalism over substance," said the New Zealand MP Arena Williams. This

phenomenon, she noted, is reshaping democratic discourse and influencing voting behaviour in dangerous ways. Answering a question on nepotism in politics, minister Ponnam Prabhakar stated that there were many leaders like him who have come from grassroots without any backing. He said that youth should take part in the parliamentary proceedings. The discussion concluded with a strong consensus: young people are not just stakeholders in future policies — they are essential participants in shaping them now.