

28 December 2023

**To**

Shri Narendra Modi  
Prime Minister of India

**Subject: Invitation to the Backout Festival 2023-24**

**Dear Narendra Bhai**

You were born in 1950 when India was 3 years old. A leader of the future born in free India. In a few days the calendar will change to 2024, the year you turn 74 and contest the national elections to win a historic third term. This election is the first time the largest people on the planet will be voting, as India surpassed China in population (2023). In this election, you will also have the first big batch of those born in the 21st century (2001-2006) who will become eligible to vote. You will soon turn 75 in 2025 and these kids born after 2000 will turn 25. India is now 77 years old and 50% of its population is below 25. By the count of age, you are separated by all Indians born in the 21st Century by a minimum of 50 years. Half a century. In less than half of this, in less than a quarter of a century, the world has gone through a digital transformation from information to intelligence and now we've entered the age of AI. It's a challenge to understand, let alone empathize with the next generation just behind us because of this vast valley of changes that separates our peaks of being and doing. I wonder how you deal with being responsible for this majority with this major gap of age and times that separate you. And vice versa.

India is one of the youngest nations and it's this collective youthful energy that is propelling not just all of us but also the world, into the future. I'm sure you agree. The future is bright. A blazing bright. Quite literally so with the rapid turn of climatic events - we've gone from global warming to global boiling in a heartbeat. Whether this is man-made or an inevitable coming, it's clear that we haven't done enough or are doing enough or are planning or committing to do enough as all living habitats and the ecological organization crumbles and collapses. And it's fairly easy to not do enough when one doesn't have skin in the game. It's the 50% under 25, the 65% under 35, and all those even younger born and living in India who are hanging by the skin of their futures.

You have been a very successful politician, party leader, and prime minister. I'm only curious to know whether you have aspirations to play a father to a youthful nation, and I also wonder whether you are actively doing things to be a good ancestor. It's of course just human to not be caught up in such Gandhian ideals and instead focus on the now, keep your head down and keep marching ahead until you achieve your ultimate political and social vision - your rendition of India. In 2019, you won a record 38% of the votes in a turnout of 67% voters from an eligible voting population of 912 million - adding up to 225 million votes for you. India now has over 1400 million people. With 65% under 35 and roughly a billion eligible voters in 2024, you have

an even bigger canvas to paint with your own colors and ideas. Statistically it is amply clear that the majority of the population voting for you in the next national elections are not from a religion or region, but from an age bracket. This majority happens to be at stages of their life that stretch across personal and professional development building their lives and legacies from scratch. These are the inheritors of the 5 trillion economy that you will easily achieve if you win the third term. But it's also a moonshot to do so sustainably because our cities are already, constantly and consistently featuring in the top 10 most polluted places on the planet. The year gone by has been the hottest ever on record and it has been marred by further loss of biodiversity and a spate of calamities more violent than we've ever seen before. The inheritors and the greatest sufferers of this predicament are also the same bunch that belong to an age bracket.

What should our priorities be - to expand into a 5 trillion economy on a timer or at the least limit our habitat to 1.5 degrees of temperature rise? This is not a question for you. It is a question for the youth of India. And there's no doubt that they may not have a straight answer. While the eternal optimists will be sure to say that they will find a way to achieve both, and that would be ideal because there is no questioning that like the rest of the world before it, the next of the world would also have the same human aspirations - to thrive, to flourish, to experience the new, to capture the future, to continually progress. In any other era this would not be a confounding choice but just a natural progression. But the choices we need to make today and help others make in the favor of their futures and justice should also be aptly clear for you as a decision maker for these billions of destinies. Life is a progression and so we're always moving ahead in time and then there is social progress which is the trajectory of a civilisation. Progress is inevitable but the question for you today as the leader of one of the world's youngest populations is - in which direction should we progress and even more significantly, how?

Narendra Bhai,

We are pleased to invite you to The Backout Festival 2023-24. It's an urgent call to consider and take two steps behind in your thoughts and actions. Stepping back lets us see the bigger picture, and what all those young people behind you are seeing and seeking. It's not a full stop to progress, it's a pause to realign our collective purpose and pursuits with the changing laws of nature. The time is now. The alarms are ringing from Kanyakumari to Kashmir.

You can do it. You have brought sweeping social changes overnight with demonetisation, or the pandemic lockdowns, and each time India has responded to your call - and it's clear with the popularity you still enjoy that while these changes brought initial criticism and social inconveniences, you managed to activate billions to follow through. If you can bring the same disruption and order on ecological issues, no matter how stringent or strict your approach needs to be, you can truly leave behind a legacy like no one else ever has in the history of humankind. Kings and dynasties across eras saw natural disasters but they never had to secure their people from the severity of our current day climate crises. You have a future to save for the world's largest people, and through them the world at large.

**Back out from being the man in 'manmade' disasters.**

Dissociate with all ongoing and upcoming ecologically sensitive infrastructure projects. Be ruthless in what you represent and promote ecologically just as you do religiously and spiritually. Develop a 100 trillion economy if you can but let not even 1 cent of that be associated with unethical or greedy ecological decisions. Don't leave one more blemish on how the future reads you. Not a single world leader today holds such popularity and power as you, to take a planet-saving position and perspective. Be the change, the world needs to see.

### **Back out of the old school.**

Flush your party and cabinet with 50% young leaders under 40. They represent the true majority of India. They cannot be easily understood by their elders. They are systematically kept away from active politics and its craftwork, while a handful are whisked away by party ideologies. Make way for the youth of India to lead and learn. The greatest service you can do for this majority is not going to be through welfare schemes to improve their lives and forecasts but giving them the steering wheel of the vehicle that belongs to them on the road to their future.

Narendra Bhai,

Our Backout Manifesto and Philosophy is only 2 lines long:

**2 Steps Behind.**

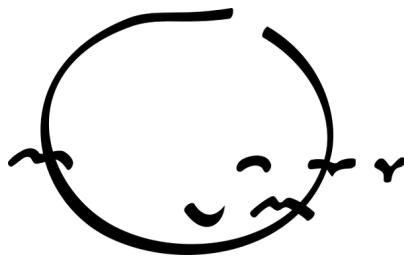
**One Giant Leap for Humankind.**

Happy Backing Out :)

Happy New Year :)

With ❤️

from The Backout Festival 2023-24



S.S.

The Blackout Festival