Mayor For a Week
by Devanshi Sahu

If I was given the privilege to serve as mayor for a week, I would not consider it an office of power but an opportunity to drive change that transforms people's lives. A week may be brief, but I believe even a couple of days in leadership can plant seeds of change in many individuals' hearts. I would be committed to making my city a place where everyone feels included, and not neglected.

One of my initial objectives would be to simplify technology, particularly artificial intelligence, so that it's easier for older individuals to use. Grandparents and elderly citizens are too frequently excluded from the world of Artificial Intelligence because the equipment seems complex. However, it is these individuals who have spent their entire lives educating, and mentoring us. They should have the right to access loved ones easily, gain new knowledge, and witness the miracles of technology without terror. I would implement local initiatives where volunteers sensitively teach seniors to utilize AI in simple, accessible manners—helping them write letters, create art, or simply get the news more effectively. I see a grandmother learning how to video call her remote grandchildren, smiling through tears streaming down her gaunt cheekbones because she feels connected again. I see an elderly gentleman learning to type his life stories on a computer so he can pass them down to his family. These are small things to others, but to them, it's everything.

Another objective of my leadership would be to fight racism and hate crimes. Too many people still live in fear, get bullied, or worse because of the color of their skin, religion, or country of origin. I would proudly declare that hate is not welcome in our city. My goal would be to create safe communities where people can freely share their experiences, learn to embrace differences, and heal together. Schools could offer forums for discussing fairness and compassion, and communities could hold cultural

festivals celebrating diversity rather than dividing us. We would remind the world that respect is stronger than hate by living in compassion.

To remind people of these principles, I would give the city a simple motto: RISE—Respect everyone, Include others, Spread kindness, End hate. These would not just be words hung on signs or spoken at rallies but lived every day in the way we treat one another. RISE would serve as a reminder daily that we are at our best when we encourage each other and make a community where everyone belongs.

Even though I would be in office for merely a week, this movement can continue on for years to come. The initiatives and programs that I propose might start out small, but their possibility could grow as the people continue to carry them on. If one teenager teaches an elderly person how to use technology, or one stranger denies hatred and instead gives kindness, that flame could spread throughout the community. Change doesn't necessarily occur overnight—it starts with small acts of compassion, understanding, and courage.