## ****Biography of Ayaan Malik – The Quiet Architect of Change****

Ayaan Malik was born on February 18, 1987, in a small town near Jaipur, India. From the beginning, he was different—not louder, not faster, but deeper. A child with quiet eyes and an old soul, Ayaan spent most of his childhood immersed in books, sketching buildings from his imagination, and listening intently to the stories of the people around him.

His father, a humble schoolteacher, and his mother, a homemaker with a passion for folk music, raised Ayaan with strong values of integrity, curiosity, and compassion. Money was tight, but stories were plenty, and love never ran out in their small two-bedroom home. It was under their tin roof that Ayaan first started dreaming — not just of tall buildings, but of a better world.

At the age of 12, Ayaan witnessed his school collapse during the monsoon rains. Though no lives were lost, the event scarred him. But more than that, it shaped him. He didn’t just want to be an architect to build structures; he wanted to create spaces that protected people. Places where children could learn without fear, families could gather without worry, and communities could thrive.

He worked tirelessly through school, always at the top of his class, and was eventually awarded a full scholarship to study architecture at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) in Kharagpur. While his peers focused on grand designs and corporate ambitions, Ayaan was drawn to the overlooked: rural homes, flood-prone schools, earthquake-affected villages. While others chased skyscrapers, he chased stories—of resilience, of simplicity, of survival.

After graduating, Ayaan could’ve worked for one of the top firms in the world. He got offers from London, Dubai, and Singapore. But instead, he chose to return to the very village that shaped him. With just a sketchpad, a bicycle, and a head full of ideas, he started **“Sapaan”—a grassroots design initiative** aimed at building climate-resilient, low-cost infrastructure in rural India.

His approach was unique. He didn’t walk into a village with blueprints. He walked in with questions. He sat with elders, played with kids, and learned from local masons. Then, blending modern engineering with local materials and ancient techniques, he built schools that could survive floods, clinics that stayed cool without electricity, and homes that felt both safe and sacred.

Word spread. NGOs reached out. So did governments. And within a few years, Sapaan grew into a nationwide movement. Under Ayaan’s leadership, it completed over **1,200 community projects** across 10 states, directly impacting the lives of over **300,000 people**.

But Ayaan remained grounded. He still preferred dusty roads over boardrooms. He rejected awards that required expensive travel or tuxedos. When Time Magazine named him in their “100 Most Influential People” list, he responded with a simple post on his website:  
**“Influence doesn’t come from being seen. It comes from being useful.”**

In 2021, Ayaan faced his toughest challenge yet: rebuilding parts of Uttarakhand after a deadly landslide. The terrain was hostile, the locals were grieving, and resources were limited. But through sleepless nights and countless cups of chai, he led a team of volunteers and locals to rebuild 3 villages within a year — stronger, smarter, and more sustainable.