

Report on Youth Parliament 2019



NATIONAL YOUTH PARLIAMENT

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REPORT ON YOUTH PARLIAMENT 2019

BACKGROUND

One of the rationales of democracy is that in it everybody gets a chance to be heard. All citizens have the right to express their opinions freely and thereby contribute to the taking of right decisions and passing of good laws that govern the country. To actively and meaningfully participate in the democratic functioning of our civic and political institutions, citizens are required to have certain competencies. It is, therefore, necessary that a suitable programme is devised to train youth for their role as citizens in a democracy. Education should make students competent enough to consider public issues and form their opinion on them judiciously. Youth is a season of hope and aspiration. It is proper to take advantage of this and develop in our young students the necessary civic competence. The Youth Parliament is a programme in which group discussion and role-playing techniques can effectively be used.

Citizenship is not a subject; it is a way of living. Therefore, it's learning demands appropriate practice in the living of it. Our approach must be, not "What does a good citizen know?" but "what does a good citizen do, and what must he know to do it?" Citizenship education cannot be imparted merely by providing students with information. We must think not only in terms of developing competencies in students but also in terms of influencing their attitudes which are essential for running democracy in the country on right lines. This is possible if we pay some attention to designing and organizing purposeful activities for students' participation. The Youth Parliament is one of such activities by which we can impart some real citizenship education.

Holding of mock sessions of parliament in schools and colleges in the country is quite an old practice. The tradition of holding mock sessions must be taken advantage of and at the same time there is a need to eliminate the deficiencies of 'mock parliament' and give it a more educative content. From this point of view a scheme of 'Youth Parliament' has been launched. Parliamentary democracy has taken roots in our country and, therefore, from the point of view of further strengthening democracy the Fourth All India Whips' Conference held in Bombay in 1962, conceived the idea of encouraging the Youth Parliament in educational institutions. The Conference recommended that "Government should encourage holding of mock Parliament in Educational Institutions and through Panchayats in rural areas".

This recommendation was reiterated by all the successive All India Whips' Conferences. When the scheme was started in 1966-67, it is used to be called mock parliament competition Scheme. However, the Eight All India Whips' Conference held at Bhopal in November 1972 recommended that the name of mock parliament should be substituted by Youth Parliament, Consequently, the scheme is now known as the Youth Parliament Competition Scheme. The Ministry of a Parliamentary Affairs is also extending all possible financial and technical assistance to the states and union Territories to conduct these competitions.

Globally, National Youth Parliaments have emerged as a credible mechanism to promote active-citizenship. Despite differences in structure, composition and operating procedures youth parliaments across the globe, essentially provide platforms for young people to articulate, specific youth related issues and concerns but most importantly, to share their perspectives on the matters of national importance. In India, with increasing emphasis on civic engagement of youth; youth parliament

provides a clear strategic push to enhance participation of young people in matters of national interest including in politics and governance.

Youth Parliament intends to create a permanent forum on local and national levels where all young people can discuss and reflect on topics that concern them and to address themes arising from the common lived experiences and share with others. It acts as a platform for them to voice their opinions which will help them analytically examine the society which we inhabit. In India too, there has been a growing focus on civic engagement of youth and a clear strategic push to enhance participation of young people in matters of national interest including in politics and governance. Governance requires an active citizenry and given that the youth in the age group of 15-29 years comprise 27.5% of the population, it is considered essential to create more opportunities and mechanisms for civic engagement of youth. One among the eleven priority areas in the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2014 is that of 'participation in politics and governance', which mostly talks about facilitating participation and civic engagement at all levels of governance. As guided under the NYP 2014, youth are the future of the nation and must be encouraged to participate in politics at local and national levels. They must be provided the necessary training and tools to become effective policy makers and to be able to execute Government schemes and programs.

With the overall aim of strengthening the roots of democracy, inculcate healthy habits of discipline, tolerance of the views of others and to enable the youth to understand the working of the Parliamentary institutions, UNV India in collaboration with Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports conducted Youth Parliament in 2019 at two levels - District and National level covering 20 states of the country under the GoI-UNDP Project "Strengthening NYKS and NSS .

The following were the key objectives of the Youth Parliament:

- Develop broad understanding of procedure and insight into the working of parliament among youth in India.
- Develop leadership qualities among youth to enable them to realize their full potential and in the process, to contribute to the nation building.
- Develop Youths' understanding on public issues and form their opinion
- Orient youth in the technique of group discussion
- Develop youths' ability to build consensus through deliberations
- Inculcate and develop youth to have respect and tolerance for the views of others
- Develop among youth an understanding that respect for rules is essential for conducting any discussion systematically and effectively.
- Create awareness among youth of various problems facing our society and the country.

KEY STEPS TAKEN TO CONDUCT YOUTH PARLIAMENT

Background Research

To realize the aim of materializing and executing a National Youth Parliament, necessary steps had to be taken for collection of required data, preparing the personnel as well as the Young participants to be able to participate effectively. One of the first steps taken for the same was to conduct secondary research in different districts of India to get a preliminary understanding of various socio-economic issues that are affecting the youth of the region. Various governmental reports, census and survey results along with data of different NGOs working in such districts were used to compile information and analyse the situation of the youth in these districts. For further understanding, the District Youth Coordinators of the UNV team, were contacted to get their understanding and experience of working with the youth of the districts and their analysis of the situation. This helped in comprehending better the secondary data that was collected and provided a wholesome picture of the socio-economic status of different youth in various parts of the country. The reports on every district were shared with the respective DYCs as a necessary research document that would serve as a starting point and would help the DYCs discuss these issues with the youth of their districts and get the perspective of the youth and encourage them to think of solutions on how to deal with them.

Training of Trainers

UNV India in collaboration with The Dais Foundation organization organized one-day (19th January 2019) Training of Trainers (ToT) for UNV-DYCs on Conducting Youth Parliament at district level, the overall idea of the training programme was to enhance the understanding and capacity of UNV DYC's on conducting district Youth Parliament. The training programme was initiated by two facilitators from Dais Foundation, the facilitators were introduced to the group of 35 UNV DYC who then helped them understand the context of each district which the UNV's were representing. The training was focused on the specific outcome that by the end of the training programme, the DYC will be well equipped to conduct district Youth Parliament with a high clarity and understanding of different procedures which will also be reflected in their session plans.

The ToT program adopted a range of activities for ensuring active engagement of the participants, dissemination of content, brainstorming and noting down the opinions of the participants, working group discussions and presentations besides reflections on each day.

The ToT aided the participants in acquiring comprehensive understanding of the critical aspects of Youth Parliament. The ToT was also helpful in providing the necessary perspective of bridging the Indian Parliament's processes and policy issues in local governance with the role of youth in the same. The focus of the YP and ToT was to enable the DYCs to be able to introduce and expose youth to legislative processes and certain tips for association-based learning and content delivery timelines were also discussed with DYC's. For convergence, the UNV Team assured the DYCs for a more regular feedback-based system will be used to set the final structure for the National Youth Parliament.

The training session was concluded by providing each UNV DYC with the final copy of district research, the idea behind this was that it would give the DYC an understanding about the themes to be followed in the District Youth Parliament. The DYCs were also given the freedom and flexibility on finalizing their local structure for simulation as per their knowledge and experience of the district.



Group exercise during Training of UNV-District Youth Coordinators at We The People hall at UN House, New Delhi

Simulation Design

Post ToT, a Guidance Note was developed and shared with DYC's which included guidelines to conduct the District Youth Parliament in terms of aims and objectives of the program, selection criteria for selecting youth for block level, district level and national level Youth Parliament, processes and period of youth parliament, logistical arrangements for it and desired outcomes from the entire program. A template was also shared with the DYC's for them to make a concept note based on it describing how they will conduct the youth parliament in their districts, timeline and budget of the same, number of participants and topics to be focused on during the discussion.

Conducting District Youth Parliaments

The District Youth Parliament simulation was designed by the respective UNV-DYC's according to the socio-economic structure of their district. It was organized among the 28 districts, to provide a platform to the youth to make them understand about the issues affecting them and to have a better understanding about the parliamentary procedures.

The UNV DYC's provided a draft before the DYP to the National UNV Team which included the details for simulation design, the total number of candidates, the venue, the issues selected for the District Youth Parliament. This draft helped the National Team and the District Team to have standardized structure to conduct the District Youth Parliament and evaluate their educative content, and their efficaciousness in encouraging political participation among the youth.



District Youth Parliament conducted in Mangalore district, Karnataka

After the completion of DYP, the DYCs shared a report with the national team mentioning the details of 2 days during which the parliament was conducted, issues discussed and recommendations for the same. By the end of August 2019, District Youth Parliaments were successfully completed in 28 districts by their respective DYCs and UNV national team.



District Youth Parliament conducted in Sirmour district, Himachal Pradesh

The major thematic areas of discussions included the following:

1. **Education:** It was observed that in most of the districts, lack of quality education and high drop- out rate amongst students especially in the age group of 10-15 years is a major concern to be focused on. Further, government schools and low-end private institutions has lack of basic infrastructure to provide quality education and mostly students are seen to drop out of

schools after 8th or 10th standard. Right to education being a basic right of all citizens of India, this issue must be deliberated upon to understand the deeper causes of it and realize potential and innovative solutions for the same.

2. **Health:** Health issues among youth and women are major focus areas discussed upon in the maximum districts. Issues such as cases malnutrition among women, lack of pre and post-natal care, lack of basic health services, substance abuse by the youth and spread of HIV were discussed on health sector.
3. **Climate change and water conservation:** Another major topic was climate change and water conservation under which topics like environment protection bill, Swachh Bharat Abhiyan, sanitation and hygienic values, waste management and ban on plastic were discussed. With growing focus on sustainability, these topics were debated upon in detail and possible recommendations were suggested taking into the local factors into consideration.
4. **Gender and Inclusion:** Issues of women empowerment and inclusion in all sectors of the society was discussed in majority of districts as the gaps has been monitored and highlighted in major parts of the country. It was highlighted out of discussion that formation of an inclusive society needs to be done considering all the beneficiaries equally.

For the National Youth Parliament, from each district a minimum of 2 shortlisted participants from the DYP were asked to represent their district at NYP.

Orientation and Preparation for Simulated Parliament

UN House, NEW DELHI

DAY 1: 18th SEPTEMBER

Introductory Session

To acquaint all 80 participants coming from different regions of the country with each other, the day began with a 'Bingo Session'. After the activity, each participant introduced themselves and mentioned their district/region, the Member of Parliament they would be representing and the social cause they're working upon. This session gave the participants a chance to get acquainted with the social and linguistic diversity of the youth coming from different regions of the country.

The participants of the event were the winners of various District Youth Parliaments that were held in 28 districts with the objective of raising awareness among the Youth regarding the social issues that affect them. During the introductory session, the diversity of the Youth was visible in the room. At the end of introductory session, a ground rule was set up by the facilitators involving the participants for the two days events and the participants were informed that based on these rules each of them would be assessed and given the major MP profiles during the Simulated Parliament.

Technical Session

The training session was moderated by Mr. Keshav Gupta from DAIS Foundation. He has started the orientation and simulation exercise by making the participants aware of the objective, procedure and performance of Youth Parliament. He started by sharing his insights about the importance of Youth Parliaments. Topics related to the Youth Parliament were introduced and the participants were asked to present their thoughts on the same.

1. Role of Parliamentarians: It was suggested that the decorum in the parliament should be maintained by these parliamentarians and they are often strategic, considerate and down-to-earth in person since everyone is treated equally in a parliament.
2. Presumptions: In an activity, participants were asked about their opinion on reservations. When participants interpreted reservations for employment and education, and participants were cautioned against presuming the meanings of the spoken words in session.
3. What is Parliament?
During the session, participants were asked to opine on Parliament. Some of the responses listed were: Policy-making, Law, Diplomacy, Representative, Accountability, Collaborative, Authentic, Ethical, Democracy, Secular, Authority, Diversity, Nationalism

The structure of parliament, role of Lok Sabha and Rajya Sabha was explained in the later session.

4. What is Youth Parliament?
In response to the definition of Youth Parliament, the participants have shared their understanding such as youth representation, exposure, platform, form of learning, personality development, connection, voice, respecting other viewpoints, innovative ideas, engaging.

It was explained to the participants that Youth Parliament is a platform where you must enact a Member of Parliament. Like science, model parliaments are used to study parliaments.

The participants set objectives and aims of Youth Parliament for themselves. These aims are listed below such as tolerance, youth leadership, problem solving, thinking from legislative perspective, confidence, honourable, sincere, dedication, moral character, and discipline.

It was demonstrated and pointers pointer were given on the following:

- Structure of speaking time
- Procedure of opening statement, zero hour, discussion hour, and legislative session.
- The difference between speech and assertion
- Components and language of a bill, amendment procedure, and implications of a bill
- Stake holder analysis of an issue

Simulation Session

Theme 1- Education

A simulation exercise was conducted to provide the participants with a first-hand experience of conducting a Parliament session with all its rules and proceedings. The theme for the mock session was Education. The participants presented various issues associated with the Education sector in a Parliamentary manner which provided them with necessary insights required for a full day parliament session on selected four themes for the next day. Session started with opening statement from Leader off the House, subsequently zero-hour, discussion and legislative sessions were conducted, the day ended with introduction of draft bill on education.

Issues discussed (Education):

- Poor quality of education in government schools
- Compulsory higher and tertiary education
- Low learning outcomes of children
- Poor condition of Mid-day meal programme
- Use of technology in classrooms
- Low budget of education

A draft bill was introduced to the participants to make them understand parliamentary procedure on debate and amendment of the bill.

Some of the inputs given by the parliamentary body for amendments to the bill:

1. RTE should be amended to make education compulsory for all children up till 18 years of age.
2. Policy to provide free education to 25% population in private schools should guarantee free education and free dresses, shoes and books to facilitate greater inclusion.



Simulation exercise on Youth Parliament was conducted on Day 1 during the orientation program.

Allocation of Profiles

Based on the active participation during the simulation exercise, important profiles were who played to candidates; like relevant cabinet ministries, Leader of House and Opposition, Speaker and Deputy Speaker. Individual's information on the parliamentary procedures and understanding on the topic of education sector were evaluated to assign them portfolios. This provided the jury with a chance to evaluate participants based on their articulation of points, their discipline and observance of parliamentary rules etc. to allocate the profiles for conducting the simulation session.

Conclusion

The day ended with providing the participants relevant documents that will be helpful in preparation for the final day of Youth Parliament. The facilitators tried to clarify all the doubts of the participants; this was beneficial to the participants as they had a clear picture about the proceedings for the next day. The simulation exercise along with various research documents encouraged the participants to deepen their knowledge for participation in the Youth Parliament.

Simulated Parliament

India Habitat Centre, New Delhi

DAY 2: 19th September

The opening session was chaired by Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India, Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Country Coordinator of UNV India.

Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Country Coordinator of UNV India highlighted the objective of National Youth Parliament to train the youth constantly - first at the district level and then at the national level. He emphasised on pointing out that India's youth is the social capital of the country and training India's youth for leadership is essential to achieving development goals of the country.

Ms. Nadia Rasheed, Deputy Resident Representative, UNDP India noted the excitement and passion in youth to participate in the development of the nation. She noted that 2019 elections saw 15 million youth added to electorate. The Election Commission of India noted that Lok Sabha 2019 had the highest voter turnout which was 67% in the history of Indian elections. Further, Ms. Nadia stated that UNDP is engaged in activities to impart skills and provide employment opportunities to youth and talked about project DISHA which creates employment opportunities for young women. UNDP recognises the importance of providing a platform to youth to voice their opinion. Charcha for Change, an initiative of UNDP and National Youth Parliament provide the forum for youth to discuss issues and engage with each other for social change.

Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports emphasised the importance of listening to others and respecting their viewpoints. He said that young people should be active listeners. He also recognised that the themes for the Youth Parliament are very relevant to inculcate in everyday life and that youth should inculcate spirit of inclusion, environmental conservation, gender equality in their everyday life.



Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports addressing the participants during the inauguration session of National Youth Parliament 2019

After this, Mr. Arun Sahdeo with the permission of the Chair has invited two of the participants Ms. Chandrali Mukherjee and Ms. Ishwari Sharma to share their experiences of District Youth Parliament.

Ms. Chandrali Mukherjee who played the role of Leader of Opposition reflected that in her interactions at the District Youth Parliament in Varanasi district, she learnt that the youth are “stakeholders of democracy” and active contributors to the development of the nation.

Ms. Ishwari Sharma who played the role of Speaker of House marvelled at the multi-cultural learning experience that the participants shared during their stay in New Delhi. She further shared that during her conversation with people from other states, she realised that many development challenges faced by people are common across the country.

In the end, Mr. Arun Sahdeo thanked the participants, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Ms. Nadia Rasheed and UNDP’s constant support, UNV team, Youth Ki Awaaz which was social good partner for the event, and DAIS Foundation for extending their support for NYP 2019.

The Simulated Parliament was conducted, and the proceedings are as under:

Ms. Ishwari Sharma was elected as Speaker of the House and Ms. Chintana ID as the Deputy Speaker of the House. The Speaker requested Leader of the House to make opening statement on the selected theme of Health.

Session 1: Opening Statement

During the opening statement session, Mr. Anshuman Tripathi who played the role of Prime Minister said that the government has made adequate measures for the health sector in the country. He further stated that with the progressive initiatives taken under his government, he is optimistic for the healthy future of India.

Ms. Chandrali Mukherjee who played the role of Leader of Opposition started her opening remarks by raising question in the house that if India has been successful in providing services to the masses? She questioned the Prime Minister about his declaration that by 2015, expenditure will be 2.5% of GDP and then, in 2017, changed the target for 2.5% of GDP to 2025. She questioned the formation of and allocation of funds to AYUSH Ministry in 2014 when Health Ministry was in already in place. She closed her statement by pointing out that the people suffering from cancer almost doubled from 2016 to 2018 and there is a lack of healthcare schemes for the rising epidemic of cancer.

Mr. Harsh Bhargav who played the role of Home Minister, stated that according to World Health Organisation’s definition, health is physical, mental, and social health, however in India, merely the physical dimension of health is given significance. He highlighted the following issues and schemes:

- Poor health services for rural population; 75% population of the country is rural population and only 35% population which has access to the doctors are available for most of the population.
- 2017- National Health Policy aims at undertaking preventive measures in early stages of the disease.
- Schemes such as Laksh and Mission Indra Dhanush have been successfully fighting malnutrition.

He urged the opposition to work together with government for development.

Mr. Pragat Singh assigned the role of MP from Sangrur made his opening statement by urging the ruling government for stronger health infrastructure. He stated that doctors are required in primary

health centres where only nurses are available. Districts hospitals don't have CT scan machines, sub-district hospitals. For terminal illness, villagers have to travel miles to receive health care. He quoted WHO recommendation's according to which for every 1000 people, there should be one doctor. As per WHO's report, India needs 14 lakhs more doctor.

Mr. Nitesh Pandey who was assigned the role of Health Minister addressed the queries raised by Leader of Opposition. He explained that Yoga has become people's movement and made India famous globally which comes under AYUSH Ministry. He acknowledged the epidemic of cancer in India and said that the Health Ministry has executed a preventive 4 step screening process for people from 30 years and older for cancer. He talked about subsidised medicines for the poor. Under Prime Minister's Aayushman Bharat scheme 55 crore people have been treated at free of cost.

Ms. Afrin Vajiha M. who played the role of MP from Thoothukudi, Tamil Nadu pointed out that India tops the list of malnutrition in children. 46 million children are stunted in India. In Tamil Nadu, 72.7% children and 54.6% pregnant women are anaemic. She questioned the steps taken by the government.

Mr. Sy. Muzammil Jamal who played the role of Minister of Environment, Forest and Climate Change defended AYUSH Ministry and stated that under the National Medical Council Act 2019 has Bridge course for 6 months who can function as public health servant.

Mr. Lalwinder Singh who played the role of MP from Fatehgarh explained that paddy farming consumes water in huge quantities which causes global warming. Government of Punjab has implemented policies to reduce paddy production.

Mr. Deepak Kumar who played the role of Minister of Women and Child Development informed the house that the government has implemented scheme for tackling anaemia under Village Health Sanitation and Nutrition Committee in every village to identify total number of children which are anaemic. Further, it was informed that the Ministry is working on 6 major issues with anganwadi workers on supplementary nutrition, pre-school formal education, nutrition and health education, immunisation, and health check-up. Under Beti Padhao Beti Bachao abhiyan, out of 640 districts, 414 districts have completed all the targets. In 2017, Poshan Abhiyan was started. The month of September has been declared as Nutrition month.

Session 2: Question Hour

For this session, the Speaker of the House requested members of opposition to submit three questions on each of the three selected themes – health, gender and inclusion, and climate change.

Mr. Sairam Nethi who played the role of MP from Maldaha Dakshin questioned the government on its scheme to prevent death of infants, pointing out that 8 lakh infants died last year in India due to lack of incubators in hospitals. Mr. Nitesh Pandey who played the role of Health Minister replied that Mission Indradhunash for vaccinations and National Nutrition Mission to target malnutrition to prevent death of infants and children.

Mr. Deutie Singh, who played the role of MP from Patiala questioned the government on the measures it has taken to address climate change. Mr. Shreyansh Chauhan, allotted the role of MP of Tehri Garhwal replied by stating that out that India is fifth largest producer of solar energy in the world. By 2022, the government targets to produce 1.78 GW solar watt energy and he claimed that the forest cover has increased under the current government.

Mr. Shiva Pant Singh assigned the role of MP from Kolkata Dashin questioned the Treasury Bench about the measures being taken for equality and employment of transgender communities. Ms. Renuka Singh who played the role of Surguja constituency replied by stating the policy which supports pre-matric and post-matric scholarship and vocational training to transgender population in India.



Session 3: Discussion on Health

The next session was a discussion on selected theme of Health with alternate speeches by Treasury benches and Opposition.

Ms. Anisha Gupta, who played the role of MP from Barpeta quoted the study by World Health Organisation found that 1 in 5 people in India (i.e. 200 million people) suffer from depression in their lifetime but only 10-12% seek professional help. Stressing the urgency of action on the issue, she recommended that mental health awareness should be added to academic curriculum in schools.

Md. Merajuddin Shirani who played the role of MP from Domariyaganj pointed out the health schemes under Modi government such as Ayushman Bharat Scheme is one of the best schemes in the world. He stated that 50 crore people have been compensated upto Rs. 5 lakh annual healthcare to poor families across India every year and Pradhan Mantri Surakshit Matritva Abhiyan provides quality antenatal care, free of cost, to all pregnant women on the ninth of every month.

Ms. R. Mageshwari who played the role of MP from Ramanthapuram pointed out that there are insufficient number of government hospitals and poor quality of health service in rural areas when compared to urban areas. She raised the concern of denial of healthcare services to the marginalized population.

Session 4: Legislative Hour

Gender & Inclusion major issues raised

- Government policy must tackle gender discrimination and inequality by gender mainstreaming

- Violence against women and transgender people
- Rights of Lesbian, gay, bisexual, intersex and queer people including tackling discrimination in accessing healthcare, education and housing market.

A Draft Bill named “Gender Inclusion Bill 2019” was introduced by Mr. Anshuman Tripathi who played the role of the Prime Minister. **(Copy of Bill is placed at Annexure -1)**

The discussion on the draft bill followed.

Ms. Candie Larisuk Nongrum who played the role of MP of Tura contextualised the Gender Inclusion Bill in terms of current women empowerment schemes and the attempt of policy making towards gender mainstreaming. She defined gender equality in a society where both genders can fully exercise their rights and freedoms. She said that gender mainstreaming in planning is necessary in a patriarchal society. She listed government schemes for women empowerment such as Beti Bachao Beti Padhao, One Stop Centre Scheme and UJJAWALA scheme for women. She hopes that the bill can address empowerment of women, children and trans-genders equally.

Mr. Sairam Nethi who played the role of MP from Maldaha Dakshin did not approve of the bill because it doesn’t have provisions for gay, lesbians, bisexuals, intersex and queer community. He pointed out that despite the abolition of decriminalisation of homosexuality in India, there is no law protecting the rights of those who identify as gay, lesbians, bisexuals, intersex and queer.

Ms. Henna K who played MP from Aroor suggests the government to make education system LGBTQ-friendly. She suggests that curriculum that empowers LGBTQ community in school. She supported the bill for the reservation of transgender people in employment and education.

The speaker requested amendment from Opposition side.

Ms. Chandrali Mukherjee who played the role of Leader of Opposition presented the amendment to add clause to encourage equal participation of people who identity as lesbian, gay, bisexual, queer, etc. in education, parliament, and employment and prevent discrimination.

The Hon’ble Speaker requested voting for including rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and queer people in Gender Inclusion Bill 2019. The amendment did not pass.

Mr. Anshuman Tripathi who played the role of the Prime Minister in the closing speech stated that the Treasury Bench would be taking suggestions of opposition forward and make similar bill for lesbian, gay, and bisexual people.

A Draft Bill named “Climate Change and Water Conservation Bill 2019” was introduced by Ms. Chandrali Mukherjee who played the role of Leader of Opposition. **(Copy of Bill is placed at Annexure -2)**

Climate Change and Water Conservation major issues raised

- Climate change affects monsoons which in turn leads to farmer distress
- Harmful effects of water intensive crops
- Promoting water conservation by adopting sustainable methods to irrigate crops

Discussion on Draft Climate Change and Water Conservation Bill 2019 began after the Leader of Opposition presented the Bill in the House.

Mr. Manikant Jha Himanshu who played role of MP from Sitamarhi pointed out that the state of Bihar is constantly flooded due to rivers. Flooding causes low crop yields which takes a toll on farmers. He urged the Opposition to include remedies to mitigate floods and protect farmers.

Mr. Archishman Mishra who played role of MP from Azamgarh, contextualised the bill in present day wherein scientists forecast adverse effects of climate change in the near future. He says that in an agriculture economy like India where majority of people depend on agriculture for their livelihood, climate change is affecting the monsoons which harms the agriculture population which is primarily dependent on rainfall for cultivation.

The ruling party was asked to raise amendments. The Prime Minister did not raise any amendments.

The Leader of Opposition concluded that we have an agrarian society and the interest of farmers lies at the heart of the bill.

The Speaker and Deputy Speaker conducted voting on both the bills.

The Gender Inclusion Bill 2019 passed with a majority of 32 over 29. The Draft Climate Change and Water Conservation Bill 2019 did not pass.

Mr. Anshuman Tripathi who played the role of Prime Minister concluded the session with thanking the Members of Parliament for creating an excellent learning experience and productive session. He hopes that deliberation on these issues happen in the future and the urged the Members of the House to work together for development of the country.

The session was closed by the Hon'ble Speaker.

After the Legislative Hour, Mr. Keshav Gupta from the DAIS foundation in his closing remarks said that Youth Parliament has helped the participants to learn from their peers and avoid repeating mistakes of others. He also mentioned that the participants by working together improved each other's debating quality.

Closing remarks

In the closing remarks Mr. Arun Sahdeo, Country Coordinator, UNV India retreated the importance of organising youth parliament which was aimed at enhancing the understanding of young people towards government procedures of how laws are made. Mr. Sahdeo opined his view of how youth parliament are providing opportunity for young people to understand the political process along with giving them a sense of responsibility which would help the young people to bridge the existing gap which many young Indians feel between themselves and decision makers.

Mr. Arun Sahdeo congratulated the participants for actively participating in the National Youth Parliament. Highlighting the importance of youth engagement in the overall community development process, Mr. Sahdeo urged the youth to build a network of diverse, cohesive, open communities where everyone could participate and share their opinion. And to create that space, it is very crucial to give young people a voice. Give them opportunities and the necessary skills and competences to become active, independent citizens who take control of their lives, are ready to support others and can make the most of the opportunities offered today in the competitive world. He also acknowledged the fact that some of the participants have not received equal opportunity to speak and express their view points but that doesn't mean their role was any less than others. He further requested those participants who couldn't express during the parliament to share their experience at the closing remark.

The day ended with the award ceremony to facilitate the speakers and representatives for their commendable performance. At last, Mr. Arun Sahdeo expressed his gratitude for the National Youth Parliament and thanked the participants and UNV team for the same.

During the debate and discussions and debates in the two days of the Youth Parliament, participants learnt the skill of problem solving and collaboration by discussing solutions to India's pressing problems. It provided the participants with a unique opportunity to understand the importance of Indian political scenario. The participants role-play as Member of Parliaments representing their constituency in either house of the Parliament gave the participants the deep understanding of how the parliament works. With the background research which was given to all the participating youth, gradually the participants became well-versed with the process and terminologies of the Parliament and enjoyed their experience as a parliamentarian thoroughly. Receiving a positive feedback, the UNV team further plans to undertake youth centric activities in the districts to develop the train and develop the leaders of tomorrow.

Way forward

- 1.** Creation of Alumni Network of Youth Parliamentarians who will act as resource person for the next Youth Parliament wherein the alumni network would support the participating youth as resource lead in the respective districts.
- 2.** Organizing District Level Youth Parliament in maximum number of districts in the country
- 3.** 2020 National Youth Parliament to be conducted as culmination of district and regional level youth parliament

Gender Inclusion Bill 2019

Section -1

1. a) This is Gender Equality Act 2019
b) The jurisdiction of this bill is India.
c) This bill will come into effect when gazette issued by Central Government will feature this bill.
2. The definition for this Act will be taken from India's Constitution.

Section- 2

3. a) 5th September will be celebrated as "Gender Equality Day".
b) Every state is responsible to observe 5th December as Gender Equality Day.
4. The government proposes reservations of 35% of seats in parliament for women and reservation of 10% seats in parliament for transgender people.
5. Transgender people will be given reservation in educational institutions and government offices.
 - I. Reservation of 3%, 2% and 1.5% seats will be given in primary, secondary and tertiary education.

Climate Change and Water Conservation Bill 2019

Chapter 1

Ganga and all the rivers of India

- I. This act may be called the Conservation of Natural Resources and Minerals Act, 2019.
- II. Declaring climate change as a crisis.
- III. It shall come into force with the commission which will consider the opinions of the concerned ministries, their bureaucrats, along with the renowned ecologists, climatologists, and hydrologists.
- IV. In this bill, the Central and the State governments must come together to make a fruitful addition to the existing acts associated with the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and Water (Prevention and control of pollution), 1974.
- V. Adapting to the SDGs with respect to ecological balances mentioned in UNDP.
- VI. Community residents should have at least one tree planted in their houses.
- VII. More emphasis on the National Water Policy which focuses to keep track of water protection, channelization of rivers, and ways to divert flood waters.
- VIII. Channelizing and storing the flowing water that could have been wasted away from the natural waterfalls in different parts of the country.
- IX. Adapting drip and nozzle irrigation in agricultural lands in order to reduce water consumption.
- X. Advising on the linkage of rivers dependent on the geographical circumstances and locational possibilities, in relation to proximity.

Total no. of participants in 28 District Youth Parliament

Sr. No.	DISTRICT	STATE	Total no. of participants
1	Araria	Bihar	44
2	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh	150
3	Barwani	Madhya Pradesh	75
4	Chandel	Imphal	41
5	Dahod	Gujarat	35
6	Dharamshala	Himachal Pradesh	48
7	Gajapati	Odisha	45
8	Garhwa	Jharkhand	70
9	Gaya	Bihar	40
10	Guna	Madhya Pradesh	65
11	Haridwar	Uttarakhand	78
12	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan	40
13	Mahasamund	Chattisgarh	43
14	Maldah	West Bengal	85
15	Mangalore	Karnataka	86
16	Nahan	Himachal Pradesh	38
17	Palamu	Jharkhand	70
18	Patiala	Punjab	50
19	Rajnandgaon	Chattisgarh	45
20	Ramnathpuramu	Tamil Nadu	45
21	Ri Bhoi	Meghalaya	41
22	Siddharth Nagar	Uttar Pradesh	48
23	Sitamarhi	Bihar	97
24	Thane	Maharashtra	139

25	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh	41
26	Vizianagram	Andhra Pradesh	60
27	Wayanad	Kerala	29
28	West Sikkim	Sikkim	42
Total number of participants in District Youth Parliament			1690

List of Participants for National Youth Parliament 2019

Sr. No.	Name of participant	Gender	District	State
1	Sy Muzammil Jamal	Male	Araria	Bihar
2	Yazdan Anjum	Male	Araria	Bihar
3	Ramesh Kumar Yadav	Male	Bahraich	Uttar Pradesh
4	Koras Gehlot	Male	Barwani	Madhya Pradesh
5	Peniwar Khumlo	Female	Chandel	Manipur
6	Naomi Jajo	Female	Chandel	Manipur
7	Dhara Nilesh Kumar Panchal	Female	Dahod	Gujarat
8	Tejas Pravin Kumar Upadhyay	Male	Dahod	Gujarat
9	Anil Kumar	Male	Dharamshala	Himachal Pradesh
10	Shivani Sharma	Female	Dharamshala	Himachal Pradesh
11	Snehashish Padhi	Male	Gajapati	Odisha
12	Jasti Pawan Teja	Male	Gajapati	Odisha
13	Upendra Kumar Dubey	Male	Garhwa	Jharkhand
14	Sunidhi Yadav	Female	Garhwa	Jharkhand
15	Aman Kumar Mishra	Male	Gaya	Bihar
16	Prabal Pratap Singh Raghuwanshi	Male	Guna	Madhya Pradesh
17	Jaydeep Raghuwanshi	Male	Guna	Madhya Pradesh
18	Harsh Bhargava	Male	Guna	Madhya Pradesh
19	Priyansh Tyagi	Male	Guna	Madhya Pradesh
20	Gautam Khattar	Male	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
21	Ajay Kumar	Male	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
22	Shreyansh Chauhan	Male	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
23	Vinay Kumar	Male	Haridwar	Uttarakhand
24	Ranveer Dan	Male	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan
25	Pawan Singh	Male	Jaisalmer	Rajasthan
26	Gulab Kumar Sen	Male	Mahasamund	Chattisgarh
27	Nilesh Kumar Tiwari	Male	Mahasamund	Chattisgarh
28	K P Sai Surya	Female	Mangalore	Karnataka
29	Chinthana I D	Female	Mangalore	Karnataka

30	Deepak Kumar	Male	Nahan	Himachal Pradesh
31	Virendra Dutt	Male	Nahan	Himachal Pradesh
32	Akshay Kumar	Male	Palamu	Jharkhand
33	Satish Kumar Tiwary	Male	Palamu	Jharkhand
34	Deutie Singh	Female	Patiala	Punjab
35	Rishav Sharma	Male	Patiala	Punjab
36	Pragat Singh	Male	Patiala	Punjab
37	Lalwinder Singh	Male	Patiala	Punjab
38	Ishwari Sharma	Female	Rajnandgaon	Chattisgarh
39	Anamika Vaishnav	Female	Rajnandgaon	Chattisgarh
40	Laxmi Sharma	Female	Rajnandgaon	Chattisgarh
41	Lalit Kumar Sahu	Male	Rajnandgaon	Chattisgarh
42	R. Mageshwari	Female	Ramnathpuram	Tamil Nadu
43	Afrin Vajiha M	Female	Ramnathpuram	Tamil Nadu
44	Sylvester Mawthoh	Male	Ri-Bhoi	Meghalaya
45	Candie Larisuk Nongrum	Female	Ri-Bhoi	Meghalaya
46	Nitesh Pandey	Male	Siddharthnagar	Uttar Pradesh
47	Anshuman Tripathi	Male	Siddharthnagar	Uttar Pradesh
48	Vikas Pandey	Male	Siddharthnagar	Uttar Pradesh
49	Archishman Mishra	Male	Siddharthnagar	Uttar Pradesh
50	Manikant Jha	Male	Sitamarhi	Bihar
51	Ranvir Paswan	Male	Sitamarhi	Bihar
52	Ramdas Raghunath Lahare	Male	Thane	Maharashtra
53	Dattatray Shantaram Patil	Male	Thane	Maharashtra
54	Rishikant	Male	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
55	Chandrali Mukherjee	Female	Varanasi	Uttar Pradesh
56	B.Venkatakrishna Rao	Male	Vizianagram	Andhra Pradesh
57	Dooda Praveena	Female	Vizianagram	Andhra Pradesh
58	Henna K	Female	Wayanad	Kerala
59	Amal Abraham	Male	Wayanad	Kerala
60	Tenzing Ongmoo Bhutia	Female	West Sikkim	Sikkim
61	Manish Rawat	Male	West Sikkim	Sikkim