

On 5th December, 2018, United Nations Volunteers (UNV) India celebrated International Volunteers Day (IVD). The IVD theme for 2018 was “Volunteers Build Resilient Communities” and aimed at recognizing and celebrating volunteers with a special focus on local community volunteers – those who contribute to making their communities more resilient against natural disasters, economic stresses and political shocks.



As part of IVD 2018, UNV India hosted ‘V-Awards’ to recognize local community volunteers from across India who have conducted exceptional work at the grassroots level. ‘V-Awards’, an initiative of UNV India, aims to celebrate young people, who are making the world a better place for all, through their acts of volunteerism, every day and everywhere. This year, more than 450 applications from various regions of India were received for this prestigious award and a five-member expert jury was constituted to carefully select the most deserving candidates. The shortlisting process was grueling yet rewarding and the ten finalists were revealed in a grand event hosted at the UN House in New Delhi on the occasion of IVD.

As an extension to the award, the awardees were also given an opportunity to interact with and get to know the inner-workings of our partner organizations UNICEF, iVolunteer and MASH through a series of workshops conducted over a 3-day period.

Also, in the spirit of exploring the theme of, IVD-2018, UNV India hosted ‘Youth Adda’ in collaboration with partner organizations Pravah, CYC and Restless Development. ‘Youth Adda’ is an informal platform consisting of motivated youngsters who, through a participatory approach, discuss, learn, assimilate and form a consensus around a Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). In line with the theme of IVD-2018, this iteration of ‘Youth Adda’ was based around SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities. The workshop helped participants realize the importance of resilient communities and the roles they may play in strengthening the same through volunteering.

The day concluded with a musical evening that synchronized and harmonized the spirit of volunteerism through inspirational songs. This was followed by a networking dinner.

