



युवा कार्यक्रम और खेल मंत्रालय  
MINISTRY OF  
YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS



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Resilient nations.



# Youth Volunteering India

OCTOBER- DECEMBER 2017

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## Message by the Joint Secretary

Dear Reader,

Welcome to the fifth edition of 'Youth Volunteering India!'.

Hon'ble Prime Minister of India, Shri. Narendra Modi has always emphasized on the importance of India's youth, particularly in the age group of 15-29 years, in country's development. I am happy to note that the District Youth Coordinators from the project districts took several initiatives during the quarter and continued to make efforts towards youth empowerment and youth development.

I wish to highlight two key events organized during the quarter namely; World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) in Sochi (Russia) and International Volunteer Day 2017.

The World Festival of Youth and Students was celebrated in Sochi, Russia from 15-22 October 2017 with the objective of

uniting the community of young leaders of the world around the idea of justice, strengthening international ties, as well as promoting international and intercultural cooperation. The event brought together over 20,000 young people from 150 countries.

International Volunteering Day was organized all over the world including India on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2017 emphasizing the role of volunteers as first responders in times of crisis. Held every year on the 5 December, International Volunteering Day seeks to promote the contributions of volunteers at the local, national and international level, together with communities, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, government authorities and the private sector organisations across the world.

**By Shri. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary,  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports**

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## International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning (IYEPL)



**Jakarta (Indonesia) 21<sup>st</sup>-November-15<sup>th</sup> December 2017:** The second International Youth Exchange through Peer Learning (IYEPL) was organized by UN Volunteers and United Nations Development Programme. The exchange visit to Indonesia under the IYEPL aimed to promote the spirit of south-south

knowledge exchange and best practices.

Under the exchange programme, five youth volunteers from India were selected to undergo a residential one-month immersion programme from 21<sup>st</sup> November- 15<sup>th</sup> December 2017 in Jakarta with the objective of contributing towards strengthening

of NYKS work at their own respective districts. The five youth volunteers were from Mangalore, Ri Bhoi, Anantapur, South Kolkata and Khammam.

The exchange programme was implemented in collaboration and coordination with UNV and UNDP Indonesia along with support from youth based organisation from Indonesia. The youth volunteers who participated in the exchange gained valuable hands-on experience to learn about and better understand youth and volunteerism. The exchange also provided an opportunity for Indonesian youth volunteering organizations to learn about youth volunteering in India. After returning to their respective countries, the youth volunteers developed year-long action plans to build on their participation.

## World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) in Sochi, Russia

**Sochi, Russia:** Thirty-six UN Volunteers from thirty-two countries participated in the World Festival of Youth and Students (WFYS) in Sochi, Russia, held on 15-22 October 2017. UN Volunteers provided organizational support to the festival, engaged in inspirational talks, and proactively underpinned youth inclusion for sustainable development. Besides speaking in Thematic Talks and Speaker's Corner, the three UN Volunteers from India (Anil Mishra (UNDP), Sumant Rao (UN Women), Gauri Talwar (UNHCR), Shreya Bose (UNHCR)) provided volunteer management at UNV booth in the festival arena, supported the organization of the festival, and raised awareness about United Nations Volunteers mandate and vision.



## Performance Review Meeting of UNV DYC's



Review meeting conducted by Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary, MoYAS.

**New Delhi, 16th December 2017:** A review meeting was convened under the chairmanship of Mr. Asit Singh, Joint Secretary, Youth Affairs and National Project Director of the

project “Strengthening NYKS and NSS” on 16th November 2017 at Shastri Bhawan, New Delhi. The objective of the meeting was to review the progress made under the project as well as performance of the UNV District Youth Coordinators and establish a clear understanding of the project expectations, process and implementation approach.

The meeting was attended by UNV DYC's working in 29 districts, who shared their project experiences, challenges, lesson and good practice so as to properly plan for the better implementation of the project in the year 2018.

## International Volunteer Day 2017



**New Delhi, 5th December 2017:** “Volunteering is a part of Indian culture. The Government of India has always relied on these volunteers, and they have been important partners in all kinds of nation-building activities” said Asit Singh, Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth and Sports, Government of India while addressing a gathering of over 800 youth at the National Conference on International Volunteer Day (IVD), 2017.

To celebrate International Volunteers Day on 5th December, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) in

collaboration with the United Nations Volunteers (UNV) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) organized a National Conference on ‘Volunteers Act First’ in New Delhi.



Held every year, on the 5th of December, the IVD seeks to promote the contributions of volunteers at the local, national and international level, together with communities, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, government authorities and the private sector the world over.

The 2017 IVD theme, Volunteers Act First, highlighted the crucial role played by volunteers in times of crisis

all over the world despite the security risks they often face. Wherever there is suffering, volunteers act to save lives and restore human dignity. They are often first responders in times of natural disasters, economic instability, forced migration or humanitarian emergencies. More than a billion people across the world volunteer each year. These numbers always go up when tragedy strikes.



As part of the motivational speaker, Suresh Raina, member of the Indian Cricket team emphasized on the power of youth, he said, “India’s true power lies in the hands of its youth. Believe in yourself. You have the power to change the entire country”.

## International Volunteer Day Campaign, 2017



**New Delhi, 21<sup>st</sup> November -05<sup>th</sup> December 2017:** To celebrate the spirit of International Volunteering Day, UN Volunteers India conducted an Online Volunteers Campaign, aimed at creating awareness on the International Volunteer Day, by using various social media platforms. The campaign successfully managed to gather a commendable number of 7000 pledges to volunteer in the times of crisis in a span of three weeks.

The concept of online pledge to volunteer in times of crises was also introduced as an integral part of this campaign.

Around 500 Online Volunteers were selected nationwide, to encourage volunteerism, create awareness about the role of youth in times of crises and create an assemblage of committed online volunteers.

150 Online Volunteers were awarded Certificates of Appreciation for their commendable contribution to the campaign while over 700 online volunteers were added to 'UNV India Volunteer Group', on Facebook. 800+ photos were shared by people around the country to celebrate International Volunteer Day with the poster on "Volunteer Act First. Here. Everywhere."



## Regional Consultation on Promoting Social Entrepreneurship & Skills Development amongst Youth

**Guwahati, 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017:** With an idea behind broadening the understanding on the role of social entrepreneurship and skill development and their relevance to youth development in the context of North East States in India, the regional conference was organized in Guwahati on 24<sup>th</sup> November 2017 at Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship. This Consultation was the joint effort of UNV, UNDP and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS) with an idea behind broadening the understanding on the role of social entrepreneurship and skill development and their relevance to youth development in the context of North East States of the country, the regional conference on promoting social entrepreneurship and skill development amongst youth in

northeast region was organized in Guwahati on 24th November 2017. This Consultation was a joint effort of UNV, UNDP and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS). The consultation was attended by 350 youths across the northeastern states of India wherein 350 youths across the northeastern states of India participated.

The consultation was a collaborative effort by Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship and National Service Scheme, which witnessed the participation of esteemed organizations like NASSCOM Foundation, National Skills Development Corporation, Assam Skills Development Mission, Ashoka India, Yunus Social Business, India and 300 students from across the North- East region.

## Promoting handicraft products at Lok Utsav Festival



*SUTP products at display during a fair*

**Goa, 2<sup>nd</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017:** Nehru Yuva Kendra South Goa participated in a two-day local festival 'Lok Utsav' from 2<sup>nd</sup>- 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2017 to display and provide a direct marketing platform market for the products made by the members of NYK club under Skill Upgradation Training Programme. The festival not only provided the platform for displaying the work of the NYK members but it also created opportunities for future market linkages. Products such as Jute bags, ornaments, wall hangings and other decorative items were displayed in the exhibition.

"Most of our members have never received a formal training, but they make beautiful products. There are a lot of opportunities available for such products locally and we work continuously so that individuals can collectively leverage on these opportunities for their benefits", said Tanmay Acharya, UNV DYC, South Goa.

The event was organized by local authorities of Goa at Adarshgram, Canacona. The fair was attended by 500 visitors and had 60 kiosks put up by artisans, Self-Help Groups and NGOs.

## Empowering differently abled youth through skill building

**Tikamgarh, 19<sup>th</sup> September 20<sup>th</sup> -November 2017:** Recognizing the need to create a more inclusive society with equal participation, a two-months long residential training programme on building new skills among person with disability (PwD) was organized in Tikamgarh. The training was on "Two-Wheeler Repairing which was conducted under the leadership of UNV DYC Gyanendra Vishwakarma from September 19<sup>th</sup> to November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017 in Tikamgarh, Madhya Pradesh which was attended by 22 differently abled youth.

The objective behind organizing this training was to provide a platform for people with disabilities residing in rural areas to become economically self-reliant through income generation as small-scale entrepreneurs. It was the enthusiasm and willingness of the trainees who believed that the training will give them the tools necessary for improving their livelihood.

One of the beneficiaries of the training was Harish Chandra Ahiyar, a resident of Tikamgarh district, Harish is 80% disabled and belongs to a poor family. Noting his interest in studies, his elder brother carried him each day on his shoulder to a school near his village, where he completed his class 12th. After completing his schooling, he took up a small job at a cycle repairing center.

However, Harish lacked technical knowledge and therefore, decided to join the two-months Residential Special Training Programme. Today, Harish has his own two-wheeler repairing center where he does all kinds of cycle and motor cycle repairs. "After I began rehabilitation training, I recovered much strength and became economically self-reliant and more confident about the future", said Harish.

## Celebrating International Day of Persons with Disabilities



To mark the 'International Day of Disabled Persons', the UNV DYC's organized a series of state and district Level Advocacy initiative to bring voices from the community and to ensure recognition of people with disability in the larger platform.

The UNV DYC's organized a variety of IDPD events in collaboration with key stakeholders including Government officials, NGO's working on the rights of Persons with Disabilities. The activities included advocacy workshops on "Rights of Person with Disabilities Act, 2016", painting competitions and awareness campaigns to promote an understanding of disability issues and to mobilise support for the dignity and rights of disabled people.

Since 1992, the United Nations International Day of Persons with Disabilities (IDPD) has been celebrated annually on December 3 around the world.

## Testimonials

*“We organized a state level declamation programme for the first time since 2015 in our district where apart the NYK Club other organizations like All India Radio and Mizoram polytechnic took active participation. The contestant debated on the topic of ‘Patriotism and Nation Building’. It was good to learn about their love for the country. The winners got cash prizes of 25,000/- and 10,000/- and will now represent Mizoram state at the national level”.*

*- Zo Mauna, UNV DYC, District Lunglei*

*“We have encouraged 20 girls to join "Hunar" Programme for Skill Deveopment and Training in collaboration with Jharkhand State Rural Livelihood Programme. We are getting positive response. Today, more and more girls want to join the programme”.*

*-Raja Gupta, UNV DYC, District Gumla*

*“As part of the Inter State Youth Exchange Programme, we successfully concluded the two-week exchange program between Odisha and Maharashtra youth. The event garnered a lot of attention and interest among youth from both states. It included learning and development activities wherein over 200 youth participated. The programme also provided an opportunity to learn about each other’s culture through folk songs and traditional dance performances”.*

*-Kusum Sasane, UNV DYC, Maharashtra*

### Key achievements of the quarter October-December 2017

<b>Total no. of Youth clubs formed</b>	<b>1,593</b>
<b>Total no. of Youth mobilized</b>	<b>21,823</b>
<b>Skill Upgradation Training Programme</b>	<b>Total Programmes: 93 Male: 353 Female: 1905</b>
<b>Training on Youth Leadership and Community Development (TYLCD)</b>	<b>Male: 228 Female:160</b>
<b>Thematic Debates</b>	<b>796</b>

### **FURTHER INFORMATION**

**United Nations Volunteers (UNV) [www.in.undp.org/unv](http://www.in.undp.org/unv)**

**To provide feedback please contact: [unv.india@undp.org](mailto:unv.india@undp.org); [anshu.singh@undp.org](mailto:anshu.singh@undp.org)**