

UNV Newsletter

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Let's Volunteer and Be the Changemakers

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International Year of Volunteers
10th anniversary
2011

**The year 2011
marks the 10th
anniversary of the
International Year of
Volunteers declared
in 2001.**

Home Headlines

10th Anniversary of the International Year of Volunteers (IYV+10)

United Nations Volunteers (UNV) India is proud to be part of the Global Call of Action to celebrate the 10th Anniversary of International Year of Volunteers. It will be engaged in a number of initiatives to mark the tenth anniversary of IYV in India and offer chance to raise the profile of volunteering and mobilize many more volunteers.

In November 1997, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2001 as the International Year of Volunteers. UN General Assembly provided a valuable framework and established a favorable environment leading to a more strategic use of volunteer contributions. UNV was designated as the focal point.

In celebrating IYV+10, we commemorate volunteering as an expression of our common humanity and as a means of building mutual respect, understanding, trust, solidarity and reciprocity. We embrace volunteering as universal and inclusive, and recognize volunteering in its diversity, as well as the purpose that sustains it: a firm belief in the values of equality, solidarity, civic engagement as well as individual and collective freedoms.

(Quote from the UNV Vision Statement)

National Committee on IYV+10

The first IYV+10 planning meeting was organized on 16 February, 2011 in New Delhi by UNV Country Office. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss formulation of the National Committee and taskforce to plan IYV+10 activities. Twenty organizations participated in the meeting and included representatives from the Government, UN agencies, civil society organizations, educational institutes, media and corporate houses.

UNDP India announced formulation of the National Committee on IYV+10 in consultation with the Government. The committee is represented by an array of stakeholders from the Government, NGOs, media, academic institutions and corporate sector. It is co-chaired by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and United Nations Development Programme.

Along with the National Committee for IYV+10, four taskforces have also been formulated based on the four pillars of IYV+10: Recognition, Facilitation, Networking and Promotion.



First IYV+10 Planning Meeting in progress



UNV Program Officer Visits Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh

UNVPO Mr. Anoj Chhetri made a field visit to Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh to meet with UN Volunteers and observe Capacity Development for District Planning Project.

Madhya Pradesh



UNVPO interacting with a Women Self Help Group



UNVPO planting a sapling at Ubdee in Khargaon

During his visit in Madhya Pradesh, Mr. Chhetri met with three local NGOs (PRADHAN, Swami Vivekanand Shiksha Samiti, Mahila Chetna Manch) and UNICEF State Chief in **Bhopal**. The focus of the discussion with all these organizations remained on IYV+10 events, collaboration with UNV and promotion of volunteerism. A primary school was visited by Mr. Chhetri in **Rajgarh** where a young student of class eight was teaching students of class third as a volunteer. Mr. Devendra Sharma, a member of the working committee of Ahimsa Welfare Society informed that Ahimsa was running a project called Bal Chetna for awareness raising among the school children. The discussion in **Khargaon** focused on how the 10th anniversary of IYV could enhance people's participation in the planning steps. Mr. Kedar Sharma, District Collector agreed to organize a large scale programme in the district in support of Nehru Yuva Kendra, Jan Abhiyan Parishad and Farmer Club NABARD. Mr. Ratnesh Vijayvargiya of Janabhiyan Parishad presented a brief report on the youth volunteers' groups.

Chhattisgarh

Mr. Chhetri met with the District Collector, Mr. Rajpal Singh Tyagi in **Korba** and discussed how to strengthen the planning process and recognize volunteerism as a powerful force through IYV+10. Mr. Tyagi expressed willingness to support recognition of volunteers on special days. Mr. Chhetri also met with Mr. A.K Sinha, District Project Officer, and Literacy Mission to understand how volunteers are mobilized for Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA)—education for all campaign. Mr. Sinha shared success story of a woman named Ms. Laxmi Bai who lives at Badebuka block at Pali. She was awarded by the Chief Minister for her exemplary contributions to the SSA activities. Local NGO whom Mr. Chhetri met have mobilized volunteers for addressing health related issues. NGOs were encouraged to celebrate contributions of volunteers during IYV+10 events in 2011.

In **Surguja** the discussions focused on providing support to the planning, particularly for vertical and horizontal convergence with line-departments. It also covered volunteerism and IYV+10. Mr. Chhetri highlighted NYK, NSS, NGOs, and CBOs contribution to DSO and district administration and advised facilitating the process of convergence of line-department to create a model of convergence in the district promoting spirit of volunteerism. Two NGOs (MSSVP and Path Pradarshak) were visited by Mr. Chhetri and advised to organize 'Green Surguja Campaign' mobilizing thousands of volunteers and making them aware of the planning process. He also advised DSO to organize joint activity for community mobilization and decentralized planning at the block level with the support of volunteers.

Following an interaction with women and men in **Jashpur**, Mr. Chhetri discussed how community is being mobilized for their own holistic development. A meeting was also held with a local NGO representative and master trainer Dr. Mithilesh Mishra, secretary of Tribal and Rural Development Society. Mr. Chhetri encouraged him to organize events for recognition of volunteers and develop a NGO network in the district to facilitate the planning process at the block level.



Interaction with a women Self-Help Group



International UN Volunteer Marjo Maenpaa interacting with local NGOs



UNVPO in discussion with a Sarpanch at Korba

Women's Day Celebration in Jabalpur

A one day meeting of Elected Women Representatives (EWR) was organized on 8 March, 2011 at MGSIRD, Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh on the occasion of International Women's Day. The objective of the meeting was to encourage participants to form an EWR network.

The Director of MGSIRD, Jabalpur, inaugurated the event in which about 35 EWR's from 13 different districts participated. The importance of networking of women was discussed during the orientation. All EWR suggested a handholding support to make the networking of women more effective and sustainable in other districts.

EWR supports network of women in the village and encourages them to participate in the decision making process of the Gramsabha. A study carried out in 2010, in two sample blocks of Mandla (tribal block) and Jabalpur districts under the CDLG project highlighted that women actively participate in the village development process when supported by EWR. These findings were discussed during a workshop of EWR in November, 2010. A networking structure at the village, block and district level was proposed during the workshop and was shared with the Panchayat Raj Development GoMP. The initiatives to organize and facilitate all these activities were taken by UNVs.



Elected Women Representatives discussing the importance of EWR Network

Village Volunteer Transform their Village

The village called Hiwre-Bajar in Ahmednagar district of Maharashtra demonstrates how volunteerism can transform livelihood. It is a well known village in India that has transformed itself into a developed village where the Gramsabha is empowered by community volunteers.

This transformation was made possible by a group of 9-10 volunteers during late 1980's. They inspired the entire village to participate in village development through various activities such as watershed project, change in agriculture pattern, dairy development and animal husbandry. All these development activities helped Hiwre-Bajar to become a model village in India. At present 223 families reside in Hiwre-Bajar and every household is above poverty line with an average family income of more than Rs. 30,000 per annum. This model is replicable to CDDP project districts as well.



Community Volunteers from Hiwre-Bajar

Bonn Bulletin

IYV+10 Conference in Bonn

The IYV+10 Conference Sharing Global Voices brought together IYV+10 National Committee members in Bonn, from 20 – 22 February, 2011 from “North and South” to share learning and experiences, in coordination with the European Year of Volunteers.

IYV + 10 Regional Workshops

Preparations for the four regional IYV+10 workshops in Ecuador (28-30 Mar), Turkey (17-19 Apr), Philippines (3-4 May), Senegal (date to be confirmed) and the global IYV+10 conference in Kenya are underway.

State of the World Volunteerism Report (SWVR)

SWVR is being drafted with regional consultations.

Meet Your UNV Colleagues



UNV staff learns from representatives of national volunteer committees and bodies at the Sharing Global Voices 'Share Fair' in Bonn.

New UNV Colleagues

Ms. Amita Dahiya	National Coordinator IYV+10	New Delhi
Mr. Jisu Pattanaik	Technical Support Officer	Orissa
Mr. Manoj Kumar Jha	Technical Support Officer	Bihar
Ms. Marjo Mäenpää	Governance Support Officer	New Delhi
Ms. Ruchi Chaturvedi	Technical Support Officer	Rajasthan

Sandeep Saxena: A Dedicated National UN Volunteer

Sandeep Saxena is a committed and dedicated National UN Volunteer who is working as a District Support Officer under the Capacity Development for District Planning Project in Rajgarh district of Madhya Pradesh. Sandeep has a postgraduate degree in Sociology and B.Sc. (agriculture) from Jawaharlal Nehru Krishi Vishwavidyalaya, Jabalpur. At present he is studying Masters in Social Work at IGNOU, New Delhi.

Sandeep has more than ten years experience at the grass root level in the interior tribal pockets of Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh on various development projects. He has also written many articles and success stories on these projects. His write-up on watershed project titled—Sat gaon ne milkar banaya Sapsagar Stop dam —has been published in KrishakJagat Bhopal in 2003.

“Volunteerism for me is- believing in a cause with such dedication and sincerity that it shows in each and every effort that is made towards achieving the set goal successfully”, says Sandeep.

Amit Chourey: A Committed National UN Volunteer

Amit Chourey is working as a UNV District Support Officer with the Capacity Development for District Planning Project in Khargaon, Madhya Pradesh for the past one and half years. Amit holds a postgraduate diploma in social work with specialization in community development from Devi Ahilya University Indore and a graduate degree in science from Barkatullah University Bhopal.

Amit has played a catalyst role with his valuable contribution in planning, facilitating, training and providing technical support to the decentralized district planning in Khargaon. He also successfully mobilized community members especially the marginalized families, for planning, implementing and monitoring various developmental activities at the village level. His efforts have been appreciated by the district administration. Amit was awarded for his exemplary work in district planning on the occasion of Republic Day on 26 January, 2011.

Amit has been involved in social development projects since 2003 in various capacities. In the past, he has also worked to strengthen the capacity of many community based organizations and mobilized many deprived families for improving their livelihood status through micro finance and micro enterprise promotion activities.

Aheibam Swarnamayee: An Enthusiastic National UN Volunteer

Aheibam Swarnamayee is pursuing her volunteer service as a District Project Support Associate for a Global Environment Facility- United Nations Development Programme (GEF-UNDP) under Directorate of Soil and Water Conservation, Kohima, since July 2010. She is working on the project called —Sustainable Land & Ecosystem Management in Shifting Cultivation Areas of Nagaland for Ecological & Livelihood Security|| and contributes to sensitize the community by creating awareness reporting and writing articles related to the project.

Swarna is a postgraduate in bioscience with specialization in biotechnology, from Barkatullah University, Bhopal. She has been engaged in social development since her school days and has volunteered with many organizations on environment and health related projects. She shows interest in learning languages and can speak Hindi, English, Manipuri and Japanese.



Sandeep Saxena



Amit Chourey



Amit receiving the award for exemplary work from the District Collector



Aheibam Swarnamayee

Swarna conveys that volunteers are people with unique vision and dream, bringing about a difference in the society and the individual. They can see the unseen; feel the unfelt, with the only sense of citizenship. The value of volunteerism is absolute: Noah's Ark was built by volunteers, the Titanic was built by professionals.

Recognition for UN Volunteers

UN Volunteer Neha Bhat has been selected for the International Summer School in Forced Migration, University of Oxford, UK. It is one of the most prestigious summer schools for Refugee Law. At present Neha is working as a Refugee Status Determination Specialist with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees in New Delhi.

UN Volunteer Kumar Ujjwal has been selected to pursue a Master degree in Development Studies at University of Sussex in the UK through the Ford Foundation's International Fellowship Programme. He will be joining the programme in October 2011. Ujjwal aims to work with the underprivileged in India upon the completion of his degree. Currently he is working as a District Support Officer with the Capacity Development for District Planning Project in Bihar.

UN Volunteer Ms. Temjenmongla working as District Project Support Associate with GEF-UNDP Soil & Water Conservation project in Nagaland, has been conferred a National Award for Overseas Post-Doctoral Research by the Government of India.

UN Volunteer Minaram Patnaik who is working as a District Support Officer in Orissa has produced a captivating video on UNV activities in India with the support of another UN Volunteer Elisa Patnaik and UNV country office. The video showcases the significant role played by National UN Volunteers and also captures some of the important events organized by UNV in 2010. Please see this interesting video at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O7nhZPRWbg4>

UN Calendar

World Health Day	April 7
World Environment Day	June 21

Upcoming Official Holidays

Good Friday	April 22
Buddh Purnima	May 17

“If you want to change the world, be that change.” - Mahatma Gandhi

APRIL 2011

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3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30

MAY 2011

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22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

JUNE 2011

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26	27	28	29	30		

IYV+10 News

UNV Country Office invited slogans from all UN Volunteers working with various UN agencies in India to select a slogan for IYV+10 celebrations. The selected slogan will be used for communication and publicity materials related to IYV+10. Volunteers responded with great enthusiasm and sent many innovative slogans. After rounds of selections the following seven slogans were shortlisted:

Slogan	Contributed by
Be the change-maker of your life – go and volunteer!	Marjo Maenpaa
Join Hands, Bridge the gaps	Aheibam Swarnamayee
UNV Volunteer Express-come on board at least once	Amita Dahiya
Do something different this year - Volunteer	Amita Dahiya
We uplift others to uplift ourselves	Aheibam Swarnamayee
Responsibility breeds volunteers, not choice	Aheibam Swarnamayee
Reach out and lend a hand. Volunteer to make the world a better place	Elisa Patnaik

Based on consultations with UNV country office team and the headquarters, the slogan contributed by Marjo Maenpaa was finalized with minor modification.

Final Selection

Let's Volunteer and Be the Changemakers



RIGHT every WRONG (REW)

Conclave for Social Justice
& Citizen Action

&

KARMAVEER PURASKAAR (KVP)

National Award for Social Justice
& Citizen Action

Together as ONE we can RIGHT every WRONG

'UNV Karamveer Chakra'

UNV India and Indian Confederation of NGOs (iCONGO) have agreed to recognize the unsung heroes of social change with 'UNV Karamveer Chakra' in 2011. The Chakra will be given to those volunteers who have contributed their time with innovative ideas, freewill, commitment, active engagement and solidarity for socio-economic causes and for contributing to the achievement of MDGs.

IYV+10 National Committee Meeting

Preparations are on for the first meeting of the National Committee in April.

UNV and IYV+10 Taskforces are currently engaged in consultations, resource mobilization strategies, and networking to bring together multiple stakeholders for the success of IYV+10 in India.

The VIO Network met on 24 February, 2011 to discuss advocating volunteerism policy, active civic participation and IYV+10.

UNVPO Mr. Anoj Chhetri gave a presentation on volunteerism, IYV+10 and shared UNV modalities with the Community Media Network fellows on 17 March, 2011 in New Delhi. He encouraged the fellows to volunteer and also capture success stories on volunteerism through the media they use. Mr. Rajiv Chandran, UNIC National Information Officer shared his views on grassroots media and collecting grassroots stories on youth leadership and voluntary action.

For further queries, email: anoj.chhetri@undp.org

Please visit our website: www.undp.org.in/unv

National Coordinator for IYV+10, Ms. Amita Dahiya attended a two day National Workshop on 'Future of Social Entrepreneurship in India' from 24-25 March, 2011 organized by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar. She shared information on UNV programs and IYV+10 with the university students, faculty and other participants at the workshop. The participants were encouraged to contribute to IYV+10 and join volunteer programs to add value to social development projects in their area.

IYV+10 on Facebook

A **facebook** page on IYV+10 has been created for faster dissemination of news and information related to IYV+10. It will also be helpful to reach out to a large audience to motivate them to contribute to IYV+10. **Link on facebook:** <http://www.facebook.com/home.php#!/pages/International-Year-of-VolunteersIYV-10-India/135315026537749?sk=wall>

IYV+10 Taskforce

Four organizations volunteered to take lead on the taskforces set up in the first IYV+10 planning meeting. They are as follows:

Taskforce

Recognition
Facilitation
Networking
Promotion

Chair

Times Foundation
People's Institute for Development and Training
Voluntary Service Overseas
Chitrakaar

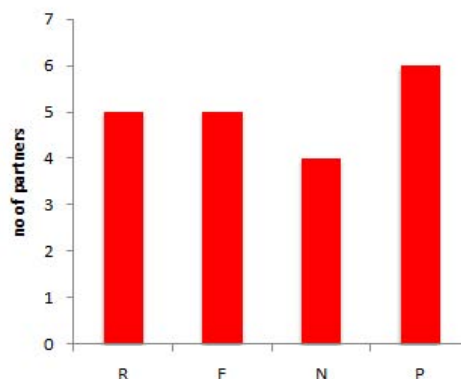
IYV+10 National Committee Members

Name

Organization

Mr. Ankur Sethi	Chitrakaar
Ms. Ashraf Patel	Pravah
Ms. C. Indira Dasgupta	People's Institute for Development and Training
Dr. C.S. Pran	Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan
Mr. Jeroninio Almeida	Indian Confederation of NGOs
Ms. Julie George	Skillshare International
Dr. Lalit Kumar	National Foundation for Communal Harmony
Ms. Martha Farrell	Society for Participatory Research in Asia
Ms. Mita Nangia Goswami	World Wildlife Fund
Mr. Pooran C. Pandey	Times Foundation
Ms. Priya Modi	iVolunteer
Ms. Rakhi Sarkar	Voluntary Service Overseas
Ms. Sharda Khan	National Service Scheme

IYV+10 Taskforce Members



R- Recognition

F- Facilitation

N-Networking

P-Promotion

Advisors: Bengt Messing & Ibrahim Hussein
Managing Editor: Anoj Chhetri
Coordinator: Amita Dahiya
Special Supports: Gul Bery & Krishna Raj