

# YOUTH VOLUNTEERING INDIA

## NEWSLETTER

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### From the State level



Felicitation of UNV NYC Toney Thomas  
by Hon'ble Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan

### Honouring Volunteerism!

**30th May 2017, Ernakulam, Kerala:** The cleaning drive which was launched on 1st April 2017, as part of the district administration's 100 Ponds in 50 Days has turned out to be a role model for the conservation of water sources. Recognizing the effort, Hon'ble Chief Minister of Kerala, Shri. Pinarayi Vijayan honored the UNV District Youth Coordinator (DYC) Toney Thomas for his work in mobilizing volunteers for a cleaning drive in Ernakulam. Under this project, the volunteers from UNV National Youth Volunteers (NYV), and local youth club members finished cleaning 150 ponds in sixty days. The Chief Minister applauded the contributions of the NYK Ernakulam and UNV DYC towards mobilizing the youth volunteers.

The ponds were categorized between "cleanable" and "non-cleanable ponds" with a maximum area of one acre. The DYC collaborated with the local authorities and NGOs to pave the way for rejuvenating the natural water sources; a pivotal issue with states impacted by climate changes.

The maintenance of these ponds, with a monitoring mechanism already in place, has been handed over to the local authorities and community, wherein the local youth have taken the initiative forward.

## Paving the Way for Women Entrepreneurs



**Pine product made by women from youth clubs in Nahan**

**Nahan, Himachal Pradesh:** Recognizing the importance of encouraging women entrepreneurs for promoting livelihood opportunities, in the year 2016, Mukul Sharma, the UNV DYC, initiated a handicraft training programme for rural women of the Nahan district. The women were introduced to the pine needles art and craft, which is a centuries-old craft using long pine needles gathered from the forest floor.

The training started out at four Youth Clubs with 25 participants, and has now grown to become a strong association of over 100 women participants. The participants became economically independent towards the end of their training. The total proceeds from the earnings of the participants were later credited to the accounts of these Youth Clubs or Mahila Mandals to fund their future initiatives. The participants come from economically weaker backgrounds where developing a sustainable livelihood model could augment their income and help support their families.

With a high demand for their product, the youth club members have been invited to showcase their work in other cities like Dehradun and Manali in Himachal Pradesh. They have also been invited to participate in local fairs and events, further boosting their confidence and providing them with a venue to display their talent.





## From the National level

### Consultation on Designing the Framework for Youth Resource Centers

**New Delhi, June 27, 2017:** A one-day consultation was organized in Delhi to design the framework for youth resource centres which can be introduced as “knowledge hubs” in the rural communities. The consultation brought together key stakeholders and institutions like Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNID), American India Foundation, Quest Alliance, Save the Children, and Pravah, among others, to share their models which are currently operating in various districts. The discussion was based on designing a community based approach model which is sustainable and scalable. ation and voice in peace and sustainable development programmes.

The Consultation highlighted the need for a robust mechanism which can address challenges such as lack of resources, project implementation techniques and career guidance, thereby enabling youth to become more aware, and better prepared to enter the workforce.



Participants at the National Consultation on YRC in New Delhi

## Fixing the Future

### Two-Wheeler Repair Vocational Training Empowers Young



Prabir Sutar with UNV DYC Raghumi Chatterjee in his office

**Kolkata, West Bengal:** As part of the core activities of NYKS on skill development of the youth, Raghumi Chatterjee, UNV DYC for Kolkata, organized a four-month long bike repairing vocational skills course for rural youths. 25 youths between the age group of 15 to 25 years participated in the course. Out of the 25 youths who participated, 23 youths managed to get placement with major automobile companies like Honda.

Sharing his experiences from the course, Prabir Sutar, who is now working in a Honda showroom as Network Manager, expressed his enthusiasm and passion for bikes which is now his regular job.

According to Samiran Chakraborty, trainer of this course, "Prabir was one of the brightest students, who had a zeal to learn and earn. He did not miss a single day in this four-month training session".

Raghumoni Chatterjee, UNV NYC says, "Looking at the potential of the automobile industry, we zeroed in on two-wheeler repair training. This largely engages the youth in our area and ultimately benefits them in getting employment. We plan to have many such courses that could upgrade vocational skills and help to achieve professional excellence."

The training course was organized by UNV NYC Raghumoni Chatterjee as part of the Nehru Yuva Kendra (South Kolkata) in collaboration with CYSEC (Calcutta Youth Self Employment Center). Nehru Yuva Kendra (South Kolkata) in collaboration with CYSEC (Calcutta Youth Self Employment Center).

## Days of National Importance

### International Yoga Day



Over thousands of yoga enthusiasts gathered to perform "asanas", marking the third International Yoga Day across 29 states in India. The theme of this year's Yoga Day was "Yoga Health", which aimed to promote healthy and harmonious lifestyles, focusing on both physical and mental well-being. The UNV NYCs used the platform to create awareness about lifestyle disorders and encourage the participants to incorporate Yoga into their daily lives.

People of all ages groups participated in special yoga sessions organized by United Nations Volunteers across the country. Through a resolution on December 11th, 2014, the United Nations declared June 21st as the International Day of Yoga. Today, the International Day of Yoga is celebrated in more than 180 countries, with ever increasing popularity.

## World Environment Day



Youth participating in plantation drive on Environment Day

From cleaning drives to awareness drives, from planting saplings to placing nests for birds, the UNV NYC's, in collaboration with the local youth, celebrated the World Environment Day 2017 with full fervor. Under the theme 'Connecting People to Nature', the volunteers strove to bring people closer to nature and take action to preserve the ecosystem. Awareness campaigns advocated the ever-increasing need for protecting the earth and forests. The volunteers highlighted the need for conserving the green cover for future generations and discussed about the environmental concerns in their areas.

## Testimonials

"It's a wonderful experience when we reach out to the rural youth through our programs. Our open-mic sessions help build their communication skills and give them a platform to share their opinions and ideas". - **Phyeobemo Lotha, UNV NYC, Dimapur**

"As part of the Youth Leadership and Community Development Programme (TYLCDP), we organized a five day training programme in association with Vivekananda Artha Samajik Vikash Mancha, from 24th to 28th of January 2017. The training was attended by 57 participants (36 male and 21 female participants) who visited the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati for interactive sessions with the faculty and students". - **Gayatri Bhuyan, UNV NYC, Nalbari**

"Riyaz Mir worked diligently for the 'Walk for Water' universal safe water campaign in Jammu & Kashmir. He worked hard for the successful implementation of mass awareness events on the water crises and available solutions, in the weeks leading up to the World Water Day on 22 March 2017". - **Perala Sekar Rao, Vice Chairman, NYKS, Ministry of Youth and Sports Affairs**

## 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)