

## STRENGTHENING NEHRU YUVA KENDRA SANGATHAN (NYKS) and NATIONAL SERVICE SCHEME (NSS)

'Strengthening NYKS and NSS', is a joint project between the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports (MoYAS), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Volunteers (UNV). The project aims to:

- i. Strengthen the infrastructure for youth volunteerism;
- ii. Increase the number of youth volunteers;
- iii. Increase recognition of youth volunteering in India.

The project is led by Mr. Lalit Kumar Gupta (Hon'ble Joint Secretary, MoYAS) as National Project Director – along with a National Project Manager, 3 UNV Management Associates and 29 UNV District Youth Coordinators. In order to cover youth aspirations and concerns from across the country, the 29 UNV have been recruited and placed as UNV District Youth Coordinators (UNV DYCs) in districts across each and every one of the 29 states of India for the duration of the project. Find out more [here](#).



The 'Strengthening NYKS and NSS' Team

## Message from Hon'ble Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India



*With a growing demographic dividend in favour of the youth, it is important to direct our energies to support the strengths of this segment of the population. Volunteerism has played a great role in the development of our country. It also provides an opportunity to channelize the energy of the youth for national development. The 'Strengthening Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and National Service Scheme (NSS)' project has the potential to mobilize millions of young volunteers to work for the development of their communities and themselves. I am sure that the team of 33 members will implement this project effectively and all will see the results soon.*

Mr. Rajeev Gupta  
Secretary (Youth Affairs)  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI

## Welcome Message by Hon'ble Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India



Mr. Rajiv Gupta (Hon'ble Secretary, Youth Affairs, MoYAS, GOI), Mr. Lalit Kumar Gupta (Hon'ble Joint Secretary Youth Affairs, MoYAS) and Mr. Jaco Cilliers (Country Director UNDP India) signing the MoU for 'Strengthening NYKS and NSS' project

*Welcome to the very first edition of Youth Volunteering India! This e-newsletter will highlight some developments in the world of youth volunteering at a national level, voices from youth volunteers and news updates. It will also attempt to show case international practices. The newsletter will be brought to you once every two months and is an initiative under the project on 'Strengthening NYKS and NSS'. I am keen to engage with you through this newsletter and look forward to hearing views and suggestions.*

Mr. Lalit Kumar Gupta  
Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs)  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, GOI

## MAIN PROJECT ACTIVITIES 2016

**Introduce** an academic course on youth volunteerism at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute for Youth and Development (RGNIYD).

**Generate** evidence-based studies on youth volunteerism, disaggregated by gender in India.

**Support** in the development of National research on the state of volunteerism in India.

**Support** exchange of experiences on youth volunteerism through peer-to-peer learning with other countries.

**Create** a knowledge exchange platform for youth networks, volunteer-involving organizations, civil society, governments and the private sector to promote recognition of youth volunteering with the country.

**Facilitate** a discussion platform for and of experts on youth development and volunteering issues.

**Encourage** national and state-wide debates on youth volunteering for advocacy and promotion of volunteerism focused on Sustainable Development Goals.

**Strengthen** capacity of rural youth clubs by orientation and training of District Youth Coordinators and functionaries of youth associations.

**Develop and disseminate** knowledge products on youth volunteerism for capacity development and training of rural youth.

## Voices from the Field

### Money Saving Approach Extends Government Scheme Three-fold

**Himachal Pradesh** – Kilometers away from a small town called Una, a group of 30 young entrepreneurial girls are engaged in a skill upgradation training programme (STUP) at Pandoga, Himachal Pradesh and are given a stipend of INR 1000 for 4 months under a NYKS scheme. Realizing the impact of the training, the girls saved INR 300 every month out of their stipend to carry on this scheme beyond 4 months. As a result of this innovative thinking they are now able to extend the scheme for 12 months instead of 4 months. Today these girls in this are well versed with computers, internet and whatsapp!



A UNV DYU undertaking a training with young women in Patiala, Punjab

## Project Updates

11 December 2015- 8 January 2016: Flagging off the project 'Strengthening NYKS and NSS', the project team including 32 UN volunteers went through a month long professional development training at the Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) Regional Centre, Chandigarh. The training at RGNIYD introduced the UN Volunteers to strategies with which to promote volunteering in different contexts. This training is currently being developed as an academic course available for other youth workers. Read more [here](#).

## Voices from the Field

### Embracing Local Traditions to Generate Employment

**Manipur:** One of the hallmarks of a successful enterprise is sustainability. When a UNV District Youth Coordinator in Tamenglong, Manipur whilst encouraging volunteerism saw the alarming level of unemployment in his district, he wanted to create volunteering opportunities which benefit the local communities. Being rich in fruit production, the NYC had an innovative idea to combine the local strength with financial growth. He is now working with the Medium, Small and Micro Enterprise Development Institute to develop a one month course on entrepreneurship skill development in the area of food processing. The course will train young people on creating and marketing fruit products like pickles, juice, candy, etc. This course will allow the young people to volunteer in the communities whilst providing them skills for employment. The course should be in place within the next six months.



The Tamenglong UNV-DYC with youth in his district

## Voices from the Field

### Building Active Citizens – From Facebook to the Narendra Modi App

**Bihar –** One of the toughest obstacles for youth workers is connecting with young people and facilitating their involvement in social and political processes. A UNV District Youth Coordinator is using an innovative approach to reach out to youth in his district (Sitamarhi, Bihar). While conducting awareness workshops on the Narendra Modi mobile app, he realized that although the youth had a lot to say about the issues impacting their community, they had no forum to share their thoughts. To remedy this, he has started a [Facebook page](#) where young people are now more excited to voice their views and concerns about the community and to work together to address them.



Major General Dilawar Singh, Director General NYKS in Bengaluru, Karnataka for an interaction with youth

### Note from Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan

I am happy to learn that UNV project team is taking out a newsletter. This is a project initiated and directed by the Government of India. We all welcome the project and wish the team the best in their endeavor. Our special thanks to Shri Rajeev Gupta IAS, Secretary (Youth Affairs) and Shri LK Gupta, Joint Secretary (Youth Affairs) and Project Director for taking upon themselves to guide and direct the project. NYKS staff is happy to welcome the UNVs and will provide all the cooperation. Jai Hind.

Major General Dilawar Singh  
Director General, Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan  
Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India



## Youth Volunteers - An Exciting Opportunity to 'Start-Up India'

Beginning the year with strong focus on youth, Prime Minister Narendra Modi unveiled the '[Start-up India](#)' scheme on 16 January 2016. The scheme will provide many benefits to new ventures in India. While launching the scheme, Hon'ble Prime Minister, Mr. Modi spoke about the important role of youth in solving the nation's issues by using this opportunity to start their own ventures.

There are close to 11 million young volunteers under the NYKS and NSS schemes. These volunteers provide an available and large base for agencies to link with the Start-up India campaign. By providing awareness of this scheme during volunteering, young people can be made aware of starting innovative and successful entrepreneurship ventures across the country.

## Voices from the Field

### Breaking Barriers in Kerela

**Kerela:** Awasthy R. Nair, a 21 year old woman from Kerela, has been paving new paths in Ernakulum district. While volunteering as a National Youth Corps, she doubles as a Grama Panchayat council member representing ward 2 in Idukki District. Being a woman as well as a young person, her unique status in the community comes from her long association with the NYK structure. Awasthy has been a part of the NYK youth club in her community from many years. A natural leader, she took it upon herself to take up many projects for the betterment of her community through the club. Not only did this increase her self-confidence, it also highlighted her dedication and talent to the community. In November 2015, she was nominated for the Grama Panchayat elections and won the seat. She now continues to serve her community through as an NYC as well as a council member

## HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE 29 DISTRICTS ACROSS INDIA

**MEERUT** – Participated in Clean Ganga campaign, identified 40 additional villages for expansion of campaign.

**THANE** – Interacted with different youth and youth clubs to access their needs and aspirations.

**DIMAPUR** – Set up a youth club and Self Help Group and interacted with different youth groups and community members.

**SIKAR** – Conducted training of National Youth Corps.

**SOUTH KOLKATA** – Provided awareness on employability and education opportunities for 27 young people.

**RIBHOI** - Interacted with various youth clubs to help them articulate their challenges and needs.

**NUAPADA** - Initiated WhatsApp group for all youth clubs in the district.

**UTTARKASHI** - Initiated 40 new Youth Clubs which will work on cleanliness and other issues.

**UDAIPUR** – Collaboration initiated with United Bank to provide awareness on entrepreneurship for youth.



**MAHENDARGARH** – Providing career counselling to National Youth Corps.

**MANGALORE** - Exploring opportunities with HSBC Skills for Life skills programme for youth members of clubs.

**ERNAKULAM** – Re-energized 40 youth clubs and visited 50 gram panchayats to enhance NYK visibility.

**TAMENGLONG** – Engaging youth clubs in fruit and milk processing in collaboration with Department of Micro and Small, medium enterprises.

**ANATAPURAMU** – Developing a project, 'Ripple' on language training to youth members of youth clubs.

**TIKHAMGARH** – Organized four skill building workshops on language and computers.

**PATIALA** - Training on youth leadership, community development and HIV AIDS awareness.



# YOUTH VOLUNTEERING INDIA

Jan-Feb 2016 – *Building youth volunteering in India*



Empowered lives.  
Resilient nations.

**NAHAN** - Established Resource cum Creativity Centre to provide volunteering guidance to youth.

**RAJKOT** – Meeting with youth clubs and mahila mandals.

**SARGUJA** - Started a youth club of **differently abled youth** and provision of computer training with support of District Collectors office.

**KANYAKUMARI** - Started one new youth club and linking mahila mandals with Skill Upgradation & Training Program (SUTP).

**NALBARI** – Working on developing a first of its kind Youth resource centre in Nalbari for provision of soft skills.

**TAWANG** - Discussion with Indian Institute of Entrepreneurship (under Ministry of Skill Development & Entrepreneurship) **for training to with Youth clubs and Mahila Mandals.**

**SITAMARHI** - Initiated **Facebook page for youth members of youth clubs of Sitamarhi.** Currently 300 listed members.

**SOUTH GOA** – Training youth members of clubs on the Prime Minister's Employment

Guarantee Scheme and assisting with proposal writing.

**GUMLA** - Collaboration with Public health and Engineering Department for open defecation programme.

**KHAMAM** – Conducted training for National Youth Corps.

**SOUTH SIKKIM** – Assisted in preparation of training curriculum and training for National Youth Corps.

**RAJOURI** - Initiated WhatsApp group for Nation Youth Corps and discussion with NSS for joint collaboration.

**LUNGLEI** - Collaborating with Environment & Forest department and Public Health Engineering department for volunteering opportunities for youth members of youth clubs.



## FURTHER INFORMATION

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports [www.yas.nic.in](http://www.yas.nic.in); Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development (RGNIYD) [www.rgnyid.gov.in](http://www.rgnyid.gov.in);  
National Service Scheme (NSS) [www.nss.nic.in](http://www.nss.nic.in); Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) [www.nyks.org](http://www.nyks.org); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) [www.in.undp.org](http://www.in.undp.org); United Nations Volunteers (UNV) [www.in.undp.org/unv](http://www.in.undp.org/unv)  
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