



GYPF-2016

11th GLOBAL YOUTH PEACE FEST

September 28 - October 2, 2016, Chandigarh-Shimla, India

Celebrating 11 Years of Youth Leadership,
Sustainability Thinking & Action

MISSION

There are capable young leaders in every global community, who can become catalyst or 'Agents of Change'. Bringing those leaders together to '**Inspire Change towards Inclusive Citizenship for Nurturing a Culture of Peace & nonviolence**' is the mission of the Global Youth Peace Fest (GYPF).

INTRODUCTION

Peace can't be measured by defense expenditure, government policy, or by the number of wars waged in the world. Peace is not just lack of weapons or careless citizens. But when hundreds of youth travel miles from their homes for the annual Global Youth Peace Fest (GYPF) to Chandigarh India, it's apparent that without knowing exactly how or why, the world is becoming a more peaceful place. Peace may not be a finite concept, or the easiest road to take, but it is a quality that every person has within them. Initiatives like Global Youth Peace Fest (GYPF) help to plant new seeds of peace, but also to nurture those that are innate in every human, and ready to grow in every young mind.

BACKGROUND

GYPF was initially started to unify young people of two historically conflict ridden neighbouring countries India & Pakistan. Both countries chose an arms race fueled by security concerns burdening their limited resources thereby crippling their individual and collective ability to fight poverty, malnutrition, illiteracy and infrastructure development. Over the years the main organizers of GYPF, Yuvsatta (Youth for Peace-an NGO) realized that situation is no different in other countries as well and hence extended invitations to young people from other parts of the world. In the 10th Global Youth peace Fest-GYPF 2015, over 300 young people from 29 countries of the world & 20,000 locals joined hands on important occasions for a better world.

GYPF 2016- MAJOR HIGHLIGHTS

- Global Citizenship Education
- UNESCO Heritage Peace Trains
- Asia Level Regional Meet on 'Rights & Dignity of Girls'
- Youth Leadership Summit
- Sustainability Thinking & Action
- Presentation of 'Global Youth ICON Awards'
- Inclusive World Campaigns
- Multicultural evenings & Yoga retreat

THE PLANS

Now, taking a giant leap forward the organizing team of GYPF 2016 is gearing to host one of the biggest events in this region with expected participation of delegates from around 50 countries of the world at the 11th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF 2016, from September 28th to October 2, 2016, International Day of Nonviolence & birth anniversary of apostle of peace Mahatma Gandhi.

And during GYPF 2016, an important part of the initiative will be organized at Shimla-the beautiful capital city of hill state of Himachal Pradesh in India. All international delegates will travel to Shimla in style in the most sought after UNESCO World Heritage Train, which will be christen **PEACE TRAIN**. Started during the reign of Lord Curzon in November 1903, this rail route features in the Guinness Book of World Records for offering the steepest rise in altitude in the space of 96 kilometers. More than two-thirds of the track is curved, sometimes at angles as sharp as 48 degrees. Laid out on a 96 km long narrow gauge track that passes through 103 tunnels and across more than 800 bridges and viaducts, it is one of the most beautiful hill railways in India. It was considered the “crown jewel” of the Indian National Railways during British times.

The organizers hope that the continuity of organizing GYPF will be infectious and it will inevitably lead to similar initiatives elsewhere to grow into a global youth movement for peace & harmony in the world.

GYPF 2016: THEME - YOUTH OF THE WORLD UNITE

Today, the world is multi-cultural, multi-religious and multi-ethnic. No country can be monocultural, mono-religious and mono-ethnic. Equal respect for all religions, all cultures, all languages, all races, and all ethnic groups can ensure a society of permanence. Even if there is equal distribution of wealth but if one culture looks down on another there is going to be violence of one kind or other.

And to better anticipate and address global challenges in key areas of global citizenship education, women empowerment, sustainability thinking & action and campaign for inclusive society, it is essential to maximize power of young people and unite them so that they play an important role of catalyst to inspire change. This is where GYPF comes, as GYPF 2016 will provide all delegates a platform for increased cross-fertilization of ideas so that they become true global citizens in thought and action. The effort is to create volunteer action which shall co-create a future befitting the energy and vision of their vast potential. To further propel that goal Yuvsatta has initiated a Global Youth Peace Forum & another big campaign with futuristic vision of enrolling ‘1,00,000 youngsters for a Visa-free 1 SAARC’.

Yuvsatta (an NGO)-THE MAIN ORGANIZER

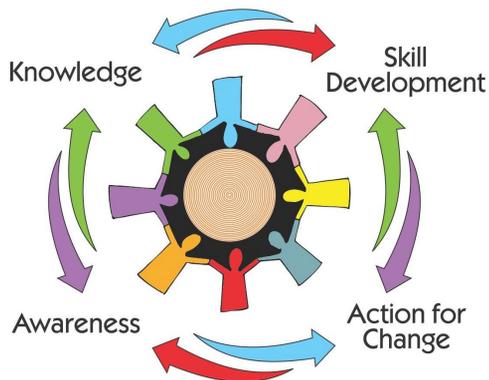
Yuvsatta (*Youth power*)-an NGO is steering change in a vast range of geographical and demographic domains, by inspiring young people towards implementing Gandhian ideals. They are engaged in *Constructive Programme*, based on voluntary effort and individual & community action.

Yuvsatta’s work to promote the spirit of volunteering amongst the generation next is timely, as the chasm and barriers of race, religions, nationalities, gender and economic divides are growing. Each day the newspaper headlines remind us of the human cost of this divide. The hatred and distrust is growing more intense by the day. Yuvsatta organizes an annual Global Youth Peace Fest (GYPF), to work towards creating a more just world by empowering young change makers. Here, the stress is laid on a combination of cross cultural learning workshops, volunteer service and youth activism, which is aligned with grassroots NGOs, policy makers, and other stakeholders.

GYPF 2016 AGENDA- INSPIRING CHANGE

Learning from the decade long dedicated sustained organization of annual Global Youth Peace Fest(GYPF) at Chandigarh and launch of a Global Youth Peace Forum in GYPF 2015, the organizing team of GYPF 2016 decided to further strengthen and support the awareness, knowledge, skill development and activism among participating delegates.

Supporting the continuous engagement of youth beyond organizing the annual GYPF is critical to their evolution as a global citizen. This continuous engagement must support their aspiration to effect change in their community by providing them mentoring to practice the skills that they pick up both formally through the workshops organized for them and informally through the exchange of ideas and experiences that happens at the GYPF.



The awareness and knowledge components are built into the GYPF 2016 programmes in the form of workshops. A unique feature this year's GYPF 2016 would be the support that would be made available by GYPF 2016 through online mentoring over a period of three months by organizing team partner institutions and organizations. And after a three months mentoring programme, participating youths will be

invited to submit a programme of action in the shape of a 'Project' which is designed to bring about change in their areas of influence/community back home. This would be supported both by the GYPF Team and the Partner mentors. These final projects as a positive and vibrant outcome of GYPF 2016 will be on its themes of 'Global Citizenship Education, Empowerment of Girls & Women, Sustainability Thinking & Action, Youth Leadership and Mindfulness Training & Meditation'.

The organizers envisage a certification process to accompany this programme of action. The certification process would ensure that the youth's capacity in terms of responding to global crisis is recognized. In years to come GYPF organizers hope that with the help of their national and international partners one can turn the GYPF into a platform that promotes transformative change.

INSPIRATION

"I don't have a message. My message is my life."- said Mahatma Gandhi, who remains immortalized in this ideal. His persona left a deep impact on the thought process of his contemporaries. Even today he is present in the heart and minds of the young. GYPF 2016 organizers effort is to bring more youth into the fold of Gandhain philosophy, a source of inspiration for peace activists across the globe.

Annual Global Youth Peace Fest and its 'Global Youth Peace Forum' is a unique youth campaign to spread Mahatma Gandhi's universal message of living in peace & harmony, with man and nature alike.

TENTATIVE PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

DAY 1- Wednesday, September 28, 2016

- 06.00 a.m.-07.15 a.m.: **Yoga for Ageless Bodies & Timeless Minds**
08.15 a.m.-09.15 a.m.: Breakfast
10.00 a.m.-11.00 a.m.: Mindfulness Training & Meditation for World Peace
11.15 a.m.-01.00 p.m.: **Presentation of Global Youth ICON Awards 2016**
01.00 p.m.-02.00 p.m.: Lunch & refreshments
02.00 p.m. – 03.30 p.m.: **Youth Panel Discussion** on five themes of GYPF 2016
1. Global Citizenship Education
 2. Educate Girls- Empower World
 3. Green Citizens – Sustainability Thinking & Action
 4. Mindfulness Training & Meditation
 5. Youth Leadership
- 03.30 p.m.– 04.00 p.m.: Fresh-n- up break
04.00 p.m. - 06.00 p.m.: **Cooperative Games & Kite flying**
06.00 p.m.-07.30 p.m.: **GYPF Fusion**-an evening of music & dance.
08.00 p.m.-09.00 p.m.: Dinner and end of the day

DAY 2- Thursday, September 29, 2016

- 06.00 a.m.-07.00 a.m.: Nature Walk & Yoga for all
08.00 a.m.-09.00 a.m.: Breakfast
09.30 a.m.-01.00 p.m.: **Plenary sessions on sub-themes of;**
1. Global Citizenship Education
 2. Educate Girls- Empower World
 3. Green Citizens – Sustainability Thinking & Action
 4. Mindfulness Training & Meditation
 5. Youth Leadership
- 01.00 p.m.-02.00 p.m.: Lunch break
02.00 p.m.-04.00 p.m.: Enhancing ideology into action (*Participants again have to join in their respective groups to analyze issues learned in various sessions and issue sharing activity held earlier to come up with a **Project idea's** on the allotted themes. Basic purpose of this is to prepare young minds for setting action plans.*)
04.00 p.m.-05.00 p.m.: A joint session of group presentations of Action Plans.
05.30 p.m.-07.00 p.m.: **One World Fashion Show & Panorama of Music & Dance**
07.30 p.m.-08.30 p.m.: Dinner and end of the day

DAY 3-Friday, September 30, 2016

- 05.00 a.m.-06.00 a.m.: Travel to Kalka Railway Station & boarding UNESCO Heritage train
06.30 a.m.-12.30 p.m.: On the Train journey to Queen of Hills Shimla –the capital of Himachal Pradesh (Yoga, Google with Monk, project ideas on GYPF 2016 themes)
01.00 p.m.-03.00 p.m.: Travel & Check-in at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla
03.00 p.m. – 06.00 p.m.: Multicultural Welcome Meet & interactive dialogue on '**Promoting Inclusive World**' at Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
06.00 p.m.-07.00 p.m.: **All Religion Prayers & 'Candle Light Vigil' for World Peace**
07.00 p.m.-08.30 p.m.: Dinner & end of the day

DAY 4- Saturday, October 1, 2016

- 06.00 a.m.-07.30 a.m.: **Yoga & Sports for Change**
08.00 a.m.-09.00 a.m.: Breakfast
09.30 a.m.-11 a.m.: '**Unity March for Inclusive World**', at Mall Road, Shimla
11.00 a.m.-01.00 p.m.: Free time at Shimla
01.00 p.m.-07.00 p.m.: Travel back to Chandigarh in UNESCO Heritage Train
07.30 p.m.-08.30 p.m.: Dinner & end of the day

DAY 5- International Day of Nonviolence: Sunday, October 2, 2016

10.00 a.m.-.01.30 p.m.: **Launch of GYPF 2016 Resolutions & Valedictory Function**
01.30 p.m.: Lunch & time to move ahead...

INTERNATIONAL PARTNERS

World Assembly of Youth (WAY), Malaysia
Ashram Gandhi Puri, Bali, Indonesia,
Peace Revolution Project, World Peace Initiative Foundation, Thailand,
International Youth Centre, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia,
Moscow Youth Multifunctional Centre, Moscow, Russia,
Peace International Foundation, Hong Kong,
Thailand Peace Network Foundation, Thailand,
Association for Communal Harmony, USA,
Jagriti Child and Youth Concern, Nepal,
Justice, Aid and Development (JAD) Foundation, Pakistan,
African Youth Volunteers for Peace (AYVP), Uganda &
Bumerang Association, Bucharest, Romania.



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Yuvsatta-1990-2016: 26 years of peace building & service