In consultative status with United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)

# Civil Participation

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**EDITORIAL** 

Dear Reader,

The XIX International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) World Volunteer Conference on 'Volunteering for Peace in Multicultural Societies' was a significant event in the history of volunteering in India. It was held at India Habitat Center, New Delhi from 10th to 13th November, 2006. About 550 delegates from 69 countries participated in the event which helped them share the best volunteering practices with fellow volunteers from other parts of the world. The Conference focused on the fact that all countries of the world are multicultural in one way or the other and provided a platform for sharing experiences of development and human welfare in multicultural environments whether in pre-conflict, post-conflict or no-conflict situation.

The Conference was inaugurated by Hon'ble Minister of State for Labor and Employment, Government of India, Mr. Oscar Fernandez and had a galaxy of prominent speakers. It saw an eagerness and readiness to mix-up and learn about other cultures, values and traditions. During the Conference, it was felt that the ritual practices which discourage volunteering must pave the way for the new world concepts of peace, courage, knowledge, freedom and responsibility. Volunteering, it was felt, is about bringing positive change in the life around us. It is taking the opportunity emanating from change. This issue is carrying the highlights of the Conference (please see page 3 onwards).

PIDT Lokshala, Jagdishpur, recently organized a two-day workshop on Nai Talim (New Education – a concept propounded by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi) in collaboration with Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi. 94-year-old Acharya Rammurti, a pillar of Sarvodaya as well as voluntary movement, and Chairperson/Member of a one-man Commission on Education constituted about 18 years ago by the then Prime Minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, addressed the participants about what he meant by education. A report by Dr. Ratna Prakash.

A write-up about the struggle of Arvind Kejriwal, a former Indian Revenue Service (IRS) officer who resigned from service to champion the cause of transparency through his crusade for the Right to Information (RTI). Founder of Delhi-based NGO, 'Parivartan', he received Ramon Magsaysya Award for Community Leadership for his efforts.

How one can become a good leader? A good leader understands the needs of his or her people, identifies and affirms qualities in others, honors his/her team, practices good people's skills and does not just set goals, but sets standards as well.

And many uplifting news stories.

Happy reading.

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### FRONT PIECE

### Seven blind men and the elephant

One day an elephant made its presence among seven blind men who could not see the whole elephant, but only feel its parts. They were all curious to know what this strange object was. The first blind man felt the feet of the elephant and declared that the strange object was a pillar. The second blind man felt the trunk of the elephant and declared that it was a snake. The third blind man felt the tusk of the elephant and concluded that the strange thing was a spear. The fourth blind man felt the head of the elephant and informed everybody that it was a great cliff. The fifth blind man felt the ear of the elephant and told everybody that it was a fan. The sixth blind man felt the tail of the elephant and declared that it was indeed

But the seventh blind man refused to conclude on the basis of partial inquiry. He felt the strange object up and down, left and right and indeed from all other possible angles. Finally, he concluded that the strange new object was indeed sturdy as a pillar, supple as a snake, wide as a cliff, sharp as a spear, breezy as a fan and stingy as a rope, but altogether that something was not a pillar, snake, cliff, spear, fan or a rope, but an elephant. All the other blind men agreed with him.

Moral of the story – A part may give a partial truth, but real wisdom comes from seeing the whole.



### ENROL AS A MEMBER of International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE)

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### AND

### Indian Association for Volunteer Effort (Iave)

- Make friends and network with volunteers from all over the world.
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- Call on Iave specialist speakers and resource persons to attend programs organized by your organization.
- Use library and resource center of the National Volunteer Center for reference purposes.
- Get information on volunteer opportunities in NGOs.
- Receive 'Civil Participation' Quarterly. Network with like-minded people and organizations.
- Share information and receive national and international volunteers.

### Membership fee for IAVE:

Individual

Annual \$ 30 US

Biannual- \$ 50 US

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2: OCTOBER-DECEMBER 2006: CIVIL PARTICIPATION

### **World Volunteer Conference – Highlights**

The XIX International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE) World Volunteer Conference on 'Volunteering for Peace in Multicultural Societies' was a significant event in the history of volunteering in India. It was held at India Habitat Center, New Delhi from 10<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup> November, 2006. About 550 delegates from 69 countries participated in the event which helped them share the best volunteering practices with fellow volunteers from other parts of the world. The Conference focused on the fact that all countries of the world are multicultural in one way or the other and provided a platform for sharing experiences of development and human welfare in multicultural environments whether in pre-conflict, post-conflict or no-conflict situation.

The Conference was held at a time when India as a Nation is celebrating 100 years of Satyagraha (non-violent action centering around truth) which was started by our Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi, on September 11, 1906 at Johannesburg, South Africa that led the world to a new order with the use of non-violence as an active strategy. It was designed as a large platform where volunteers were encouraged to invite their friends to form defined focus groups and organize workshops within it for lobby and advocacy.

Societies are multicultural with believers of a wide variety of standpoints and viewpoints where the cultural and strong value base of one may impinge on or be different from another. The matter, it seems, is amplified when the economic and socio-political disparity of different cultures becomes apparent or led to points of debate and confrontation. Volunteers have the innate motivation to seek to ameliorate situations, either within their cultural groups or beyond. In either case, they need to communicate effectively with right attitudes and knowledge base in increasingly challenging situations. They seek to develop peace and well being in situations of unrest and inequality as they build bridges of understanding.

The Conference saw an eagerness and readiness to mix-up and learn about other cultures, values and traditions. It was felt that the ritual practices which discourage volunteering must pave the way for the new world concepts of peace, courage, knowledge, freedom and responsibility. Volunteering, it was felt, is about bringing positive change in the life around us. It is taking the opportunity emanating from change.

During the event, a multitude of topics were discussed. These were meticulously prepared and systematically scheduled. Various tools and strategies on the methods of volunteering were described at length. The objective was to gather and strengthen social coherence with the help of various strategies, building processes by engaging communities, providing free services. A young volunteer, during the course of the Conference remarked, 'With each progressing discussion and workshop, it became evident that volunteering is altruistic in nature. It requires willing participation of young and old through awareness building'.

Although volunteering can be corporate at times, in most instances, it is working at the grassroots level for and by local communities. Local problems, very often, cannot be solved by international awareness alone. Setting up personal examples and proximity to the issues helps involve willing participation. It is almost always best to employ indigenous, cost-effective solutions to local problems. In local communities, volunteering at disorganized and subconscious level is in far greater percentage than the organized and conscious one. Surprisingly, the benefits of both types of volunteering do not carry a big difference. The real difference is in the system and the easy work process of one over the other.

### **Youth Conference**

The main Conference was preceded by Youth Conference. Youth as Change Agents – was the slogan of the IAVE World Youth Conference held in New Delhi on November 9 and 10, 2006. Over 300 young people from 21 countries from all parts of the world came together to discuss, deliberate and explore how their actions can affect positive social change. Hearing speakers, convening in workshops and presenting their messages formed the core of the Conference proceedings, while evening activities such as dinner, songs and dance wrapped the event in a peaceful and welcoming manner.

Leaders in the volunteer sector served as speakers, moderators and facilitators in various sessions, including IAVE President, Liz Burns, and UNDP representative, Jerome Souvage. An address from Tara Gandhi Bhattacharya, a grand daughter of Mahatma Gandhi, was warm and welcoming as well. Among these highlights, the brightest were the youth of the Conference who debated various issues related to

volunteerism such as the role of the media, sustainable development, humanitarian action, partnerships and peace. On the second day of the Conference, workshop groups presented their discussion results and contributed towards a collective statement of youth volunteerism.

The Conference had delegates from all over the world. There were large delegations from India, Taiwan and Korea, as well as youth from Uzbekistan, Egypt, Israel, Afghanistan, Syria, South Africa, Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Hong Kong, USA, Canada, Scotland, Spain, Bolivia, Panama, Venezuela and Brazil. Diversity of the participants proved a valuable asset to discussions and the exploration of what peace and volunteerism really meant to each delegate. It was a wonderful gathering of youth who lived together, ate together and relaxed together at the Gandhi Darshan.

After two days of discussion and networking, the result was not only a lasting memory, but a vision for where youth volunteerism is today and where it should be headed to continue to foster social change. At the end of the Conference, final statement was issued which is as follows: Today the world is hungering for peace. Violence, in its myriad forms is consuming peace and development. The need of the hour is to work and volunteer towards evolving a culture of non-violence, tolerance, mutual understanding, solidarity and the ability to solve disputes and conflicts peacefully. It called for:

Volunteering for peace, harmony and non-violent action – Called for encouraging volunteering at the individual, family and community levels. Implementing peace, education and training of peace volunteers through educational institutions. Examples of campaigns that mobilize peace volunteers are 'make poverty history' and 'peace city'.

Volunteering for sustainable ecological development— Exhorted youth to reorient thoughts and actions in daily lives towards sustainable development, to continue to advocate for higher commitments from governments, civil society groups and corporations and to encourage more involvement of volunteers in critical environmental areas.

**Volunteering for humanitarian action** – Asked for following the philosophy of 'live simply so others can simply live', investing in the future by contributing resources towards holistic development strategies.

Inclusive volunteering for peace – Called for learning and understanding others in a more human and sensitive way by encouraging accessibility, both physical and emotional, to volunteer groups, promoting child and youth participation in decision-making and development processes.

Volunteering for socially responsible communication processes and media – Asked for strengthening the process of media literacy within communities to develop critical understanding of media actions and objectives thereby widening the scope and role of traditional community and new media to promote peace.

The young volunteers of this Conference challenged all youth around the world to continue to pursue partnerships and networking opportunities and strengthen the issues discussed above. 'Through networks such as IAVE, we hope to achieve peace hand-in-hand', the statement said.

### Inauguration

After the welcome to delegates by Prof. K.K. Sen, Executive Secretary, Indian Association for Volunteer Effort (Iave-India), Prof. Subhachari Dasgupta, Chairman, XIX IAVE World Conference Organizing Committee said, 'IAVE is a very simple organization. It has a lot of freedom. In it, people have lots of ways of doing things in their own way and yet it works. It has survived so many years. It was started in 1970 and it has now come to XIX World Conference. Conferences have been the basis of its spreading the message of volunteering throughout the world and also to get people from all over the world who think similarly come together. And now we have people from Pacific island to coast of Peru. On this side, if you go, you will find people from Mongolia and there is no bar. Six people from China have joined this Conference. We may soon have our next Conference in China or some other time when they will be able to have 200 countries together, if there are so many countries'.

Dr. Liz Burns, President, IAVE said, 'It is my privilege and great pleasure as President of IAVE to welcome you all to this Conference. I bring a very special message from Ms. Mary Ripley who was the first-ever President of the IAVE and one of its founding members. Many of you will remember her from VIII IAVE Asia-Pacific Regional Conference in November 2001 that was held here in this very building. She sends her best wishes for the success of the Conference for us all and is extremely sorry that her health does not permit her to travel at this time, but she will be with us in spirit and Mary Ripley has tremendous spirit and to have her spirit with us gets us all on to a good track.

'I have on good authority that the evidence of first-ever world Conference of any kind anywhere anytime points to India, primarily to this part of India, where 2500 years ago, people from countries all around the world came to a cave to hear the Buddha. So, we in the World Volunteer Conference in New Delhi, here, are following the very good prospects. For

those who went to that cave 2500 years ago, let us make our opportunity as important and vital as then was. Please enjoy the Conference. We are all looking forward to making it with you a grand success'.

Mr. Larry Schwartz, Minister, Counselor for Public Affairs, US Embassy in India said 'The hundred years of Gandhiji's movement for peaceful existence and independence of India has inspired people throughout the world. It has also inspired many of the Americans and it inspires many Americans today. We have deep respect for NGOs and the work they do around the world. It is very fitting that we are here in New Delhi, the capital of India, a very young country that is inhabited by young people that you get a chance to meet people who are incredibly idealistic for themselves and their country's future sometimes shaming us all'.

Mr. Shakeel Ahmed Khan, Director General, Nehru Yuvak Kendra Sangathan said, 'NYKS is working towards building a strong youth force for constructive activities in India. We strongly believe that young people are a major human resource for development and key agents for social change, economic development and technological innovation. Youth energies are essential for the development of the society in which they live. The problems that the young people face as well as their vision and inspiration are essential components of the challenges and prospects of today's societies and future generations.

'The way in which the strength and problems of the young people are addressed by today's policy, influence social and economic conditions and developing livelihood of future generations. Our organization is working with two major goals – youth empowerment and youth club development through which they can be engaged in the nation-building process. I hope that a network among the development agencies around the world can be developed in the near future to work together for a better world and for such a cause NYKS under the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Government of India will always be committed'.

Mr. Ad de Raad, Executive Coordinator, United Nations Volunteers said, 'The theme chosen for this IAVE world assembly – Volunteering for Peace in Multicultural Societies – is a highly appropriate one. The 2004 Human Development Report focused on issues around multiculturalism. It made the point that attaining MDGs calls for the building of inclusive and culturally diverse societies while not forgetting that full cultural expression is also an important development end in itself.

'Cultural liberty is a vital part of human development. Being able to choose one's identity without losing the respect of others or being excluded from other choices is important in leading a full life. People want to be able to practice their religion openly, to speak their own language, to celebrate their own ethnic or religious heritage and to do so without punishment. Struggles over cultural identity, if managed poorly, can quickly become a great source of instability within and between states and can trigger conflict that will take development backward. Managing diversity and respecting cultural identities is a challenge facing almost every country.

'Volunteerism has a very significant role to play in building societies that are more inclusive. This Conference should throw light on the main issues and how they are being addressed. Let me close with recognition of the superb work you are undertaking in support of the development and peace agenda – as individual volunteers and as leaders of volunteer-involving organizations. UNV is committed to continue to remind policymakers and others that achieving the MDGs will require the ingenuity, solidarity and creativity of millions of ordinary people, young and old, through all forms of voluntary action.

'We will continue to make the case that networks such as IAVE have a very important role to play in this. That is why, we in the UNV, have worked closely with the organizers of this event and why we hope to work even more closely with IAVE in the future. Together we can maximize synergies between our organizations to help bring about the changes that we all aspire to see, globally and at the national and local levels'.

Mr. Jeff Hoffman, Vice-President, Disneyland said, 'This Conference is really a collaboration between people around the world, the countries, the NGOs, the government and the companies all working together to make our society a better place to live in. That is the way I ask my colleagues here to be an example of how companies can work with NGOs. We are working with Points of Light Foundation and we have 330 volunteers across United States working in various centers. We are able to connect with citizens with those opportunities.

'We are committed to getting children in the community – perfect way to do with the family. Everybody has to go out for his or her job, so it is difficult to find time for the family, that is, the quality time with the family. With better quality time the family can go out and volunteer for the community. It really serves a message and teaches our children the importance of going back to the society and teaching them volunteering'.

Mr. Oscar Fernandez, Minister of State for Labor and Employment, Government of India said in his inaugural address, 'We are here for a great cause today. We have a fight against disease and hunger. In India, we have a quarter of population below poverty line. If we have to bring them above poverty line, we need peace. If there is peace, there is going to be development. If there is no peace, there can be no development. Then you will have to direct every rupee, every dollar, every euro that you earn to buy armaments. What we need is food, what we need is employment, what we need is education, what we need is medicine.

'Can we not join hands to wage a war against poverty? I see all of you from different countries as beautiful flowers coming all the way to India. I am sure you will go back with memories of freedom struggle led by Mahatma Gandhi not only for India, but for the whole humanity'.

After Dr. Liz Burns proposed the vote of thanks, there was a dance recital by Padmashri Ms. Uma Sharma entitled 'Peace'.

### IAVE, UNV and CIVICUS sign MoU for cooperation

Dr. Liz Burns, Mr. Ad de Raad and Mr. Henri Valot (representing Mr. Kumi Naidoo from CIVICUS) jointly announced agreement on a MoU to increase cooperation among the three leadership organizations. The MoU acknowledged that the three organizations 'have distinctive, yet complementary missions, that each makes an important contribution to volunteering and that each can benefit from working together'. It stressed that a 'key area of collaboration is to demonstrate the indispensable role of voluntary action and volunteers in achieving the MDGs'. The objective of the collaboration covered by the MoU is 'to undertake joint activities that serve to promote and generate greater awareness of the contributions of volunteers and the value of volunteer action to the society'.

The highest priority joint activity to be undertaken over the coming year is 'to develop a joint publication on Volunteering and Activism to narrow the division between the two and recognize and build upon the importance of these complementary forms of volunteerism to the achievement of MDGs'. Other areas of planned cooperation include information exchange and dissemination, promotion and advocacy and development of additional publications. The MoU also indicates that the organizations will cooperate in 'joint activities leading up to and celebrating IYV + 10 in 2011'.

Mr. Kumi Naidoo, Secretary General, CIVICUS who was unable to attend the Conference, sent the message 'In my many years of activism and service, I have been in the unique position to witness the remarkable work of volunteers and activists of all ages, races and religions, who have reached out with a helping and caring hand to assist their fellow men left helpless and homeless due to no reason of their own making. This natural and human approach to assisting the less fortunate of the world is often taken for granted or more often even unrecognized.

'In this past decade alone, we have witnessed an exponential increase in the number of conflicts around the world, resulting in tens of millions uprooted, displaced and destitute men, women and children. While the international community does what it can to protect, feed, clothe and shelter these people – it is actually the thousands of local community groups, national and international non-governmental groups, who carry out the direct, on the ground, assistance to the people. Whether in refugee camps or internally-displaced centers in Africa, Asia and elsewhere, it is these volunteer groups and individuals who ultimately deliver the humanitarian aid and caring – human touch – to the people in need.

The dichotomy that exists within civil society, more broadly between what can be called the world of volunteering and the world of social activism, remains a huge challenge. The world of volunteering is often seen as a world where citizens get together through various organizations to provide direct services to people and communities in need. The world of social activism is seen as the area of policy activism and governance reform. The dichotomy is unhelpful because every single volunteer and organization that engages volunteers are reservoirs of policy intelligence based on working with communities in need on a daily basis.

'On the other hand, the world of social activists is basically another component of volunteering. Most of the people who are involved in the peace movement, are involved in the global justice movement and so on, do so on a voluntary basis anyway. I would hope that within the next decade we are able to find a way at the local, national and global level to ensure that these two worlds can come together. I believe passionately that the strengths and experiences of both these communities – activists and volunteers – can be harnessed for greater public good.

'The final enduring challenge that these movements face is that of maintaining the dignity of the people we work with. From my experience of volunteerism and activism in South Africa during the apartheid period, I can safely say that I have gained significantly more from the acts of volunteering that I engaged with than I could possibly have done in enhancing the value of the life of those who I have worked with. So, being able to repeatedly re-assess that the people we work with are citizens first and foremost, not simply beneficiaries or charity cases is critically important, because if we operate within that kind of framework, then the dignity of the people that we work with is always maintained, protected and enhanced. This is critically important if the volunteering movement is to be able to get the appropriate recognition and meaning at the local, national and global levels.

'Volunteering is imbued with courage and a deep sense of social justice. The challenges that humanity faces today would look significantly more bleak and dire were it not for the deep sense of humanity and solidarity that is to be found in people who populate volunteer work globally'.

### G-CVC launched

Another significant event of the Conference was the launch of Global Corporate Volunteer Council (G-CVC) on November 11, 2006. The launch was the culmination of almost a year of work by IAVE Board member Ms. Sarah Hayes from the US who had primary responsibility for development of G-CVC. At the launch, Sarah emphasized the growing importance of corporate volunteering to the global effort to achieve MDGs to the hundreds of thousands of communities and organizations helped by corporate volunteers, to the companies who see volunteering as being of strategic benefit to them and to the corporate employees who volunteer. The G-CVC has been created to provide:

- Resources, good practices and opportunities for collaboration for the practitioners of employee volunteer programs in every region of the world,
- Opportunities for worldwide networking and learning,
- · Greater awareness of corporate volunteering,
- Recognition for companies committed to corporate volunteering and
- Support for the people who lead corporate volunteer efforts.

Each of the six founding companies — Citigroup Inc., Levi Strausss & Company, Samsung, UPS, Vale do Rio Doce and Walt Disney Worldwide — was represented at the Conference

and were active participants not only at the launch, but throughout the plenary sessions, workshops and the corporate forum.

### Conclusion

In her closing remarks to the Conference at the final session on Monday evening November 13, 2006 at the Gandhi Smriti, the sacred place where the life of Mahatma Gandhi ended, Dr. Liz Burns said, 'In many ways this has been the most significant Conference to date. This Conference is the test bed for the IAVE of the future, as a network and as a platform for the widest range of volunteer interests. The Conference is the place where the platform becomes real'. Declaring that the 'Conference leads us to the future', she pointed to these highlights:

- The quality of the content of the Conference that drew on the experience, perspective and expertise of people from throughout the world to focus and illuminate the importance of volunteering to the MDGs,
- The Youth Conference with 300 young people from 22 countries,
- The launch of G-CVC,
- The announcement of the new MoU that formalizes the relationship of IAVE, UNV and CIVICUS and
- The first-ever formal research forum integrated into the Conference program.

### On to Panama

Dr. Liz Burns announced the decision of the IAVE Board of Directors to award the 20<sup>th</sup> biennial World Volunteer Conference to Panama. Dorothy de Sing from the YMCA, the host organization in Panama, and Dacil Acevedo, IAVE National Representative from Panama, were on hand to accept the assignment. They announced that the Conference will be held from April 2 to 5, 2008 in Panama City. The theme of the Conference will be 'Volunteering for Human Development: More Solidarity, Less Poverty'.

The Conference will include a youth forum, plenary sessions, specialized forums, workshops, cultural events and field trips to visit successful volunteer projects in Panama. This will be the first IAVE World Conference to be held in Latin America since Buenos Aires in 1992. The only other one ever held in Latin America was in Bogota in 1984.

# **Acharya Ram Murti on Education**

\*A Report by Dr. Ratna Prakash

PIDT Lokshala, Jagdishpur recently organized a two-day workshop on Nai Talim (New Education – a concept propounded by the Father of the Nation, Mahatma Gandhi) in collaboration with Gandhi Peace Foundation, New Delhi. 94-year-old Acharya Rammurti, a pillar of Sarvodaya as well as voluntary movement, and Chairperson/Member of a one-man Commission on Education constituted about 18 years ago by the then Prime Minister, Mr. V.P. Singh, addressed the participants about what he meant by education. Excerpts:

In our country, education is a very big vested interest, it is much bigger than the economic vested interest. There were four pillars of British raj in India — Indian princes, British Indian army, Indian bureaucracy and Indian universities. Well educated Britons did not want to come to India. At the time of establishment of the British rule, Bengal, Bihar and Orissa were the richest parts of the country, now they are the poorest. These were the areas which provided raw materials for industrial revolution in England. The late Pakistani economist, Dr. Mahbub-ul-Haq, once remarked that if the causes of poverty of this region could be removed, it could once again become one of the richest parts of India without any plans for development. The 1943 Bengal famine resulted in 3.5 million deaths. According to Gandhiji, had there been 'Nai Talim' these deaths could be avoided.

Referring to his talks with Dr. Karan Singh, Acharya Rammurti said once the renowned scholar asked him what would have been the rate of literacy at the time of writing of 'Upnishads', he said it might not have been more than five per cent. 'Upnishads' are rich in thought. Once the Education Minister of Bihar said all the schools started by Gandhiji in the State had been reduced to dilapidated condition. Should they be re-started? Acharya Rammurti advised him to think about the path shown by Gandhiji and then think of restarting the schools. Education is not allotment of money alone. Education is in the hands of the Government. Government gives money, opens schools and gets the books written. Every teacher in private schools wants Government job.

### **Basic Education and Nai Talim**

It would be a fallacy to consider Basic Education of Gandhiji as 'Nai Talim'. It was something else. In the first elections

held under the Government of India Act, 1935, Congress formed Governments in eight States. Gandhiji talked about Basic Education as an alternative to the type of education being provided at that time. In 1937, in the Conference attended by Education Ministers of States, Gandhiji said 'Basic Education = Matriculation + Craft + English'. Dr. Zakir Hussain prepared the first curriculum for Basic Education. In this endeavor, he sought the help of many scholars.

Gandhian thinking is not limited to Gandhiji alone. Gandhiji was an idea, an individual. This was stated by Vinobaji. That idea incorporates Gandhiji, Vinobaji and Jai Prakash Narayan. This, the Acharya illustrated by an example. When Hazrat Mohammad died, a large congregation gathered. People could not believe that the Messenger had died, but Allah was living. People thought that if Allah was alive, he would send more messengers. We have to think that Gandhiji has gone. Vonobaji has gone. Jai Prakashji has gone and others will also go. Everybody has to go, but truth remains, it is always victorious. It is the conditions which create truth, it is the mind that catches truth.

For ending British raj, a national platform had to be created. This was created in 1885 with the establishment of Indian National Congress. Only 75 persons attended the first session of the Indian National Congress. All of them knew English. It was with Gandhiji that the English cult changed. If a South Indian Congressman said that he did not know Hindi, Gandhiji asked him he was in the Congress for so long and yet had not learnt Hindi, the contact language of India at that time, even today.

### Take the right step, even if you are alone

In 1912, Gandhiji reached Motihari in Bihar. The English District Magistrate asked him to leave Motihari, otherwise peace and tranquility of the area would be disturbed. Gandhiji replied that 'the country belongs to us, you are outsiders, you leave our country'. A lot of people gathered there. Gandhiji asked the Collector, if he should help the police in controlling the people. The English Collector remarked, 'This is a strange fellow'. During 'Dandi March', there were only 79 persons

with Gandhiji, including him there were 80. All the senior Congress leaders were against Dandi March, yet Gandhiji took it, because he though it to be the right step.

Sarojini Naidu belonged to a rich family of Bengal. Gandhiji entrusted her with the task of leading a campaign during the freedom movement and instructed her to not to allow the flag to fall from her hand until her wrist was broken. Englishmen were clever. They sent Indian policemen to control the campaign. The policemen did not use violence. A spirit of nationalism prevailed during those days. For the sake of our national unity, we have to learn to live together. By 1944, it was clear that the British could no longer hold on to the 'Jewel in the Crown — India' because the cost of the war was proving to be prohibitive for them.

When someone asked Gandhiji how he proposed to take the country forward after independence, he told that he would work for democracy. Only through following the democratic path the country could survive. Democracy is the lifeblood of nationalism. This task would be accomplished through adult education. Patanjali's 'Yoga Sutra' is the first book of education. It is meant for adults. A voter is also an adult. Adult education is more important than child education. We talk about Basic Education of 1937, but we have forgotten what Gandhiji said in 1946, Vinobaji and Jai Prakashji took it forward. Gandhiji felt that the whole village was a school. In 1996, UNESCO constituted a Commission. It incorporated several suggestions of Gandhiji in its recommendations.

### **Education is not literacy**

Once Prof. Yashpal was asked to give suggestions on science education. He said, it was impossible to provide science education. No teacher could provide science education. During the last five years, science has progressed so much that it had not progressed in the last five thousand years. When Veda Vyasa composed Gita, there was no school. Huxley has considered Gita to be an everlasting thought for humanity. In Rigveda, 32 women have contributed. Vinobaji called it an epic of adivasis. When preachers went to China from Nalanda, they preached Buddism in Hindi. Jagadguru Shankaracharya also preached 'Vedanta' in Hindi. Kautilya wrote Arthashastra in a school in Taxila. This is the first manual of politics. Education is a medium, we have converted the degree into an alternative. The objective of education is not literacy, it is relevance.

Acharya Rammurti continued that our ancestors lived in forests. Their discussions led to the rise of their faculties of reasoning, learning. Vinobaji said the villages are our universities. In Rigveda, a hermit prays to God to send learning, science and technology to his village. How do we define progress and development? According to Rigveda, a teacher is one who can understand forebodings of the future, who can forewarn the society about coming disasters. How many teachers of this type we have today? Education is only teaching. What for it is teaching, nobody knows. Even teaching has stopped now. The source of all knowledge is human mind. When one works with his hands, he becomes inquisitive. Let the hands work, mind will work itself. Everybody sees fruit falling from the trees, only Newton converted this incidence into laws of motion.

An illiterate person is not essentially uneducated. We have not been able to understand our country. Lord Krishna studied in his Guru's ashram. When his education was complete, the Guru asked him to ask for a boon. Krishna asked that he should always get food prepared by his mother. He was granted the boon. That type of Gurus and shisyas are no longer there now. Even an illiterate mother shows his child the moon (Chanda Mama). Mother teaches her child the cosmic view of education. Cosmic is much bigger than global. All over the world, the trend is to give mothers the responsibility for their wards' education upto the age of five. Education should be constructive. We want peace and democracy. It does not need a degree. Democracy is born of tribal traditions. The dances of Manipur are the best in the world. No Manipuri dancer is educated in the present sense of the term. We need to understand the source of life.

Quoting Buddha, the Acharya said, according to Buddha Democracy = Meet, Talk and Agree. We have been taught that democracy was born in Athens, but in Athens, slaves had no right to participate in the meetings. One should search for constructive power among human beings, this is the essence of education. Vinobaji said the village should be considered as a school. Our animal wealth, our vegetation, all constitute education. Why people fight? The rate of literacy has gone up, but the country is falling to pieces. Where has been the fault, we should try to understand. Through right and appropriate education we should try to enrich local life.

### Arvind Kejriwal – the brain behind RTI campaign

He quit the Indian Revenue Service (IRS) to champion the cause of transparency. Arvind Kejriwal, the brain behind the Right to Information (RTI) campaign has won the Ramon Magsaysay Award for 2006 for his contribution to the RTI movement. Founder of Delhi-based 'Parivartan', Kejriwal received the award on August 31 in Manila, Philippines.

Kejriwal calls the award a victory for RTI movement in the country. 'It belongs to all those who visited our camps across the nation, filing over 21,000 applications during the RTI campaign undertaken with Hindustan Times of New Delhi. Fellow activist, Manish Sisodia, co-founder, 'Parivartan' says his dedication is tremendous. 'It takes courage to quit the IRS. Arvind always stuck to his guns – even when Delhi Vidyut Board officials accused us of being a security hazard during information camps. He patiently explained the merits of transparency to the people'. Kejriwal's wife, a Joint Director with the IRS, says, 'He quit the IRS to devote his energies to his passion – awakening people about the need or transparency in governance. It is a proud moment for the family'.

He watches Bollywood movies and is a fan of Aamir Khan, but he would have liked a different ending for *Rang de Basanti*. 'Instead of killing the Minister, Aamir and friends should have filed an RTI application to find out why so many fighter planes were going down in flames', he says. If MIGs could fly, the father of two would have continued to lead a cushy life as an Income Tax Officer in the IRS or carved a corporate career with Tata Steel in Jamshedpur, but unlike celluloid protagonists he loves, Kejriwal did more than just look back in anger at the rot in the society.

### **Empowering people**

Kejriwal pioneered a civic movement where ordinary men and women refused to be cowed down by the corrupt. He used the RTI act to equip citizens with the power to question the Government. Through 'Parivartan', he has been promoting participation in governance by showing people how simple information requests can benefit their lives. When Triveni, a slum dweller from Sundarnagari, a trans-Yamuna colony in Delhi, was denied her share of ration from the public distribution system for seven months, she approached 'Parivartan'. 'We helped her draft an RTI application. The shopkeeper from where she had been getting her rations had been forging her thumb impressions, but when she filed an application under the RTI, he fell at her feet and apologized'.

The first activity of 'Parivartan' was providing relief to taxpayers. Taxpayers in Delhi were exhorted not to pay bribes to Income Tax department, but to approach 'Parivartan'. They also began asking consumers in Delhi not to pay bribes to Delhi Vidyut Board (DVB) officials. The NGO helped around 2,200 consumes of DVB. 'Parivartan' workers sat at the entrance of three DVB offices everyday during public dealing hours exhorting consumers going in not to pay bribes inside.

### Threats galore

However, his zeal to empower the poor is not without risk. An East Delhi don's personal assistant threatened him with dire consequences. Doctors at a Government hospital have physically assaulted him. And at least one RTI volunteer had her throat slit (but survived miraculously) allegedly by ration shop mafia. But if Kejriwal is dismayed, it is by growing cynicism of young professionals in the country. 'There is idealism as well as helplessness. RTI provides a vent for youth to do something about the wrongs in the society. 'Parivartan' is attracting a variety of fired-on-idealism youth. Shuchi Pandey, for instance, holds an MBA degree from an Australian university. She has decided to work full time on RTI. Pabitra Roy Chowdhary, a chartered accountant, is contemplating plunging into activism. Even STD booth operator, Rajiv, closed shop to join us and find more meaning in life'.

There was no one moment that made Kejriwal leave IRS. It was a gradual evolution, he says. 'I was never victimized for being an honest officer, but there were a large number of people who visited Government departments, unwilling to pay bribes, but were forced to do so. We set up 'Parivartan' in January 2000 telling people to approach us with their grievances. For over two years, we helped hundreds solve their problems, but over time we got the feeling we were just like touts who did not charge a fee. This was only half the job done. We were struggling with the dilemma when the Delhi RTI Act was passed in October 2000'.

A lot of water has flown down the Yamuna since. Kejriwal has become synonymous with the RTI. In a nationwide campaign across 55 cities, 21,000 RTI applications were filed in just 15 days. Some 42,000 visitors attended camps where 1,500 trained volunteers helped process applications. In choosing Kejriwal for the 2006 Ramon Magsaysay Award for Emergent Leadership, the trustee board recognizes his activating India's RTI movement at the grassroots, empowering New Delhi's poorest citizens to fight corruption by holding Government accountable to the people, says the citation.

### News

### The man who moved a mountain

A frail old man entered his durbar. When Nitish Kumar, Chief Minister of Bihar looked up, he stood up and offered his chair. After all, he was standing face to face with Dasrath Manjhi, the man who had moved a mountain. At 60, Manjhi is a legend – he dug a 3 km-long passage through a mountain with a hammer, a chisel and his bare hands to connect his village, Gahluar, to civilization. It took him 22 years, but he succeeded. If Taj Mahal is Shah Jahan's tribute to his wife, the road that Manjhi built – it cut the time for people to travel to the next village from six hours to one – is his memorial to his wife who died because he could not take her to a nearby hospital in time. Now, the passage has been introduced in the state's road construction program. The Government has fulfilled its promise to grant Manjhi five acres of land.

### Medicines through mail

Hundreds of postmen in Jharkhand's remote villages are delivering anti-malaria medicines along with letters to combat deaths due to malaria. 'The postmen travel everyday to otherwise inaccessible territories. They know almost everybody and seem to be our best bet to beat malaria', says Jharkhand's Health Secretary, Shivendu. 'We have trained them to carry bottles of chloroquine and pills and distribute them to hundreds of villagers', he said. The brief does not end there. The postmen also monitor health by filling questionnaires. Shivendu is also banking on the mailmen to report malarial cases and deaths, which go unnoticed otherwise.

### They don't depend on the Government

A drive into Gurusar Sudhar village in Ludhiana district of Punjab tells its own story – the ride is unexpectedly smooth. There is hardly a pothole on the roads, the drains are unclogged and the garbage does not overflow onto the clean roads. The miracle began two years ago when the villagers decided not to depend upon the Government to clean up their streets. Instead, members of Guru Hargobind Sports Club got together with a few NRIs with blessings of the

### **Excellence in leadership**

Leadership is for everybody. Good leadership is the best means of leaving a lasting legacy. A legacy that does not leave a lasting value is no legacy at all. Excellence in leadership is all about the number of followers the leader is able to influence in achieving the vision that he or she sets before himself/herself. The true measure of leadership is influence and great leaders use their influence to add value. With influence comes responsibility. The qualities of good leadership are as follows:

Leaders understand the needs of their people. Everybody has three fundamental needs – to believe, to belong and to become. All human hearts need to have faith in something or someone. All human hearts need to experience community and family. All human hearts need to grow, stretch and reach their potential.

**Leaders identify and affirm qualities in others.** To encourage those in their care, leaders identify, specify, quantify and magnify the qualities of people in their teams. They live the principle of affirmation.

Leaders honor their teams. One leader expressed that whenever he sees his staff, he puts an imaginary '10' on the forehead of each individual. This helps him treat each person like a high performer who makes a difference to him and the organization. Inevitably, they respond. Treating people according to their potential and not their performance helps both of them to rise. Leaders must develop others to reach their potential.

Leaders practice good people skills. The best leaders feel motivated by love and compassion for their people. They give people hope. When leaders practice transparency, respect for them goes up. Both the leader and the people need each other. Even the toughest of problems can be solved when relationships are managed well.

Leaders do not just set goals, they set standards. Good leaders do not settle for less than excellence. They set standards that raise the bar for everyone. These standards begin with the leaders' personal excellence.

A final word for good leaders. Leaders must be good followers – followers of the standards they set. This leads to **transformational leadership** where people's lives are changed from inside out and are based on character, conviction and integrity.

-Ms. Monica Sudhir

panchayat and decided to stop looking to the Government. The result today is wide roads with streetlights and trees lining them, a sports stadium and a drive against social evils. They have also collected funds and donated about 15,000 sq. feet of land to widen the roads. Work on roads is almost complete. The task was not easy, but Gurusar Sudhar has proved, not impossible either.

### A school that eats together

These days Unni makes it a point to take his lunch – not one, but two boxes – to school. He just does not want to risk his friend's fainting of hunger in the middle of morning assembly. Unni is a student of Government Boys Senior Secondary School, Manja, Nedumangad, Kerala. Since August 2006, students from well-off families have been taking turns to pack a double lunch so that their friends from less privileged homes don't go hungry.

Eighty percent of the students here come from families below poverty line, but now they don't have to drink water to quell their hunger. Fainting incidents have come down and fewer students miss school because of illness. The initiative for the scheme was taken by the teachers. 'We found that for many children, even two meals was a luxury. Initially, all teachers agreed to chip in. Then we thought of this mechanism', school's head teacher, J. Amminikutty said.

There was another delicate problem. A haughty dole would have hurt the poor students' self-respect. So, the teachers hit on a solution: all food packets and lunch boxes were kept in the staff room and everyone ate together. Finally, a mid-day meal scheme that works!

### Healing touch

At every red light, you slam the breaks and grit your teeth for another distasteful encounter. Soon, grimy, mutilated hands paw at your windowpane and a voice begs for money in practiced tones. The light turns green and you race past in relief. So did Dr. Altaf Patel – till something forced him to look back. Today, Patel goes out every Sunday, looking for beggars. When he finds one, he arranges for a bath, fresh, clean clothes and a hearty meal. When he is having his fill, Patel, a 24-year-old homeopathy practitioner, and his friend, Dr. Jitendra Inje, start a conversation to put the beggar at ease.

'We have only five minutes to win his confidence. Since most of us treat beggars very badly, they are suspicious', says Dr. Inje. The mission does not end there. After the makeover the beggars are taken for counseling sessions and treated for any ailments. 'The majority of beggars are depressed due to some tragic incidents in their lives. These small gestures perk them up', said Dr. Patel who spends Rs. 5,000 a month on his project.

What pushed Patel to this mission? While studying at Latur Medical College in 2003, a stinking, shabby beggar came to him for alms. 'I shooed him away, but then I felt miserable and decided to do something', said Dr. Patel. In his native village, he has rehabilitated three beggars, who now work at a local tea shop. May his tribe increase!

### Police station teaches poor pupils

A police station in Rajasthan doubles up as a school for poor children. What is more, the officer incharge is its teacher. Starting a school in the Ramasar Police Station in Barmer district was Station Officer Surendra Singh's idea. The reason: there was hardly any crime in the area covered by the Station that is close to India's border with Pakistan. With no work, Singh hit upon the idea of using his spare time to educate poor children from nearby villages.

Not only was the idea successful, it brought the police closer to the community. People who earlier dreaded even the sight of khaki began to visit the Police Station to talk to Singh. The policeman terms this initiative as 'community policing', but convincing villagers to send their children to study was the toughest part. After scouting for students in the nearby villages, Singh started teaching 12 students for free a year ago. 'We targeted poor children who had either not gone to school or dropped out and, therefore, expecting parents to pay fees was foolhardy', Singh said.

Thanks to him, Ramsar Police Station has now come to be known as 'Thane Wala School'. Now, Singh being no longer around – he has been transferred – the school has 70 students. The students were more than willing to pack their bags for the school. They got free cookies, books and learned a host of extra curricular activities. 'Master saab asked us to sing to the class. That made me feel very happy', says 10-year-old Leela. Singh's successor, Mangi Lal, continues to run the school with equal gusto.

### Babu on wheels of change

Astride his humble cycle, Jaunpur District Magistrate, Anurag

Yadav, is on a mission for change. He has been riding to each block in the district, exhorting people to wake up to the challenge at hand. Yadav's battle is against malnutrition, illiteracy, sex determination test and female foeticide. To begin with, he has asked students to form groups and teach the illiterate. The rich have been told to contribute to a grain bank. Women have been asked to fight for their rights. Almost 6,000 people have signed in for the drive. Already, a few villages have achieved the goal of total literacy. To inspire, he turns to Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru and his famous 'tryst with destiny' speech. Clearly, this is one bureaucrat who does not let initiative get buried in files.

### His own boss

A poor boy helps his mother sell idlis, binds books to buy his uniform, does his B.E. from BITS, Pilani on scholarships, cgets into IIM, Ahmedabad and lands a Rs. 8.5 lakh job offer. Fairytale ending to rags to riches tale? No, that is just where the story begins.

E. Sarathbabu turned down that plum job offer and started his own catering business. Babu says he does not want others to struggle the way he did and wants to provide jobs to as many people as possible. 'Isn't that what entrepreneurs are supposed to do', he asks. Today, his Ahmedabad-based Foodking, which he set up six months back on a loan of Rs. 12.75 lakh, employs 40 people. Babu is confident his restaurant will have a turnover of Rs. 3 to 5 crore and at least three branches at the end of the first year.

'We just managed a contract in Hyderabad and there will be an outlet in Chennai. Ultimately, I want to employ at least 1,000 people', he said. Addressing a seminar, he said, reservations should be restricted to just one generation. 'When as IAS officer has benefited from reservation, how can his children be called socially or economically backward', he asked.

### Life positive

For the many HIV-positive people in Pune who can barely make ends meet, leave alone for medicines, Hamidbhai Hanif Salmani is a ray of hope. There is nothing he would not do: take patients to Sassoon Hospital for anti retroviral therapy, collect money for tests or even cremate corpses nobody wants to touch. Till date, Hamidbhai has performed the last rites of over 100 patients.

Hamid, who runs Life Process Help Foundation from his little *jhopdi*, was diagnosed HIV-positive in 1990, but had no clue

# Iave-India and PIDT celebrate International Volunteer Day

**New Delhi:** 'Volunteers shape the world' was the message of this International Volunteer Day (December 5, 2006) celebrated by the Indian Association for Volunteer Effort (Iave-India) and People's Institute for Development and Training (PIDT). They celebrated the day in commemoration of all the volunteers working in difficult circumstances in disaster or post-war conditions and those working in different ways to achieve a world without poverty and want.

Beautiful posters were made and widely distributed to celebrate the day and spread awareness about the relevance and importance of volunteering. Enthused by their recent involvement in organizing XIX World Volunteer Conference on 'Volunteering for Peace in Multicultural Societies' which saw participation from more than 500 delegates from 65 countries of the world, Iave-India volunteers decided to go local and involve themselves in celebrating the International Volunteer Day in two MCD schools — Neb Sarai and Saidullajab — in Delhi. The program was also held at the Anandalaya Coeducational English Medium Senior Secondary School, Jagdishpur, District Deoghar, Jharkhand, run by PIDT Lokshala in which several hundred students from other private schools also participated.

In Delhi schools, Iave-India volunteers enacted two nukkad nataks (street plays) entitled 'Waiting for a Water Tanker' and 'Catching a Bus', while the students of Neb Sarai MCD school came up with four plays of their own named 'Kele ka Chilka', Polio ki Jankari', 'Per Bachao, Per Lagao' and 'Dengu'. The children from Anandalaya in collaboration with children from other schools in Jharkhand performed dance dramas. The children were encouraged to be harbingers of change through a quote of Gandhiji that said 'be the change you want to see'. The idea was to give the message to the children that little volunteer contributions add up to make a world of difference. At the end of the program, children took the volunteer pledge enthusiastically.

The celebration of International Volunteer day marks the beginning of a year-long program for attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) amongst children, youth, senior citizens and civil society organizations where volunteering to achieve a poverty-free world will be focused. A message from Delhi Chief Minister, Sheila Dikshit, said 'I am sure that the celebrations would help in involving younger generation in positive contribution in the field of social, economic and environmental change'.

-Sabina Sinha

about the implications. He got married in 1994. In 1996, his wife delivered a boy. He was informed that she and the child were HIV-positive and told about the gravity of the situation. After his wife died in 2001, he had to leave his son at 'Manavya', a home for positive kids.

'No one would help me cremate my wife. I finally took her to the ghat and did it myself', Hanif recalls. Life Process was born in his mind that day. Hamid often finds money to be the biggest hurdle in his work. 'My one year Action Aid grant of Rs. 9,000 is coming to an end' he worries.

### An officer and a teacher

In the role of an officer and a teacher, Abhayanand, a 1977 batch IPS officer currently posted as ADG (HQ) has made a difference in Bihar which is notorious for lawlessness. Thanks to his efforts for speedy trials, the state saw 5,000-odd convictions in 2006. Even high and mighty MLAs and MPs have begun to feel the heat as cases against them have been suddenly reopened. 'Previously, nobody gave a thought to prosecuting criminals. When we started to work on the issue, the results came wholesale', Abhayanand says.

That is as an officer. As a teacher too, he has made a huge impact. Along with a young maths wizard, Abhayanand coached 30 aspirants of whom 28 cracked IIT-JEE this time. They have been selecting poor students, including Dalits, for the last five years and their success rate has been increasing. 'I guide poor students who cannot afford tuitions. It is not a commercial venture', he says.

### Lage raho Munnabehn

When Benazeer Baig went to watch *Lage Raho Munnabhai*, she had no idea about the effect the film would have. 'While everyone was laughing, I was in tears because this film was telling me how I could solve my problem', she said.

Baig runs a school for 400 poor children in Bangalore. To expand the school, she had bought land, being used as a godown by a furniture company. 'Though they said they would move out a month after we bought the land in June, they kept dilly-dallying', recalls Baig. The day after she saw the movie, she marched into the company's office with 20 children and presented a card and a bouquet to the manager. Baig started taking classes in the premises.

I remembered about a radio station being involved in the

film. So, I went to a radio station. They were impressed by my story and slowly all newspapers and channels followed it up'. On October 1, an exasperated manager called her in and asked for time. On October 26, she got the keys. One thing is certain: the school has been named Gandhi School.

### Resident welfare

Rao Chelikani, 64, is the mastermind behind Tarnaka, one of Hyderabad's most densely populated localities, becoming an independent and self-governing area. He brought together 200 apartment complexes and 19 colonies, with an 80000-strong population, under the Federation of Tarnaka Resident Welfare Association and organized them into smaller sub-committees to promote cooperation among people. For example, the lawyers' council gives free legal advice, settles property disputes and even fights neighbors' court battles. The doctors' council helps patient-doctor dialogue on the best medical practices.

Chelikani formed a ward council which negates the role of the local corporator and comes up with micro plans based on peoples' needs. A quality control committee has roped in retired engineers, living in the area, to oversee all road laying or other works. Senior citizens, while on their health walks, are delegated to report any suspicious people hanging around the locality or any manhole left open.

### She wants to drive a Shatabdi

Lakshmi Lakra, a young tribal woman from Jharkhand, has become the first woman train driver with Northern Railway. This 27-year-old diploma holder in electronics from Ranchi follows Surekha Yadav from Mumbai, Asia's first woman train driver who joined Central Railway in 1992.

'I am sure many more women will take it up as a career', said Ms. Lakshmi. Seeking to do something challenging, she took the Railway Recruitment Board test last year. She was the only woman in a batch of 372 selected trainees. After nine months of training she got to work. Ms. Lakshmi said she owed her success to her parents. 'I wanted to do something different. My parents encouraged me. The training is not so tough that it can be labeled as only a man's job. Women can learn it easily', she said. She is now driving light engines and good trains in Delhi Circle. Her dream is to drive a Shatabdi Express.

### Want a Better World? Spread the Word About Global Youth Service Day! April 20 - 22, 2007

### Be the change maker

Join in: India Lead Agency, People's Institute for Development and Training, A-12 Paryavaran Complex, Saket-Maidangarhi Road, New Delhi-110030 E-mail: pidt(a/del6.vsnl.net.in; Phone: 011-29532408 / 29531282 / 29531296

### Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) - Youth Changing the World

Global Youth Service Day (GYSD) the largest service event in the world, mobilizes youth to identify and address the needs of their communities through service and learning, supports youth on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement, and educates the public, media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders.

GYSD is an annual global event that engages millions of youth in service projects in over 150 countries. The programme is about youth leading through service, strengthening organisations' ability to engage the younger generations, and promoting young people as assets and resources.

Global Youth Service Day, a programme of Youth Service America with the National Youth Leadership Council (NYCL) and PARADE Magazine, spotlights the amazing energy, commitment, idealism, and creativity of young people, illustrating the incredible contributions they make 365 days of the year mobilizes them to identify and address the needs of their communities through service and recruits the next generation of volunteers.

What Are The Goals Of Global Youth Service Day?

Global Youth Service Day has three primary goals:

MOBILIZE Youth as leaders to identify and address the needs of their communities through service and learning.

Youth on a lifelong path of service and civic engagement; and

The public, the media, and policymakers about the year-round contributions of young people as community leaders.

### **United Nations Days**

### OCTOBER-DECEMBER

### 1 October

International Day of the Older Persons

#### 3 October

World Habitat Day (First Monday of October)

### 4-10 October

World Space Week

### 5 October

World Teachers' Day

### 9 October

World Post Day

#### 10 October

World Mental Health Day

### 12 October

International Day for Natural Disaster Reduction (Second Wednesday of October)

#### 16 October

World Food Day

### 17 October

International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

### 24 October

United Nations Day World Development Information Day

### 24-30 October

Disarmament Week

### 6 November

International Day for Preventing the Exploitation of the Environment in War and Armed Conflicts

### 16 November

International Day for Tolerance

### 20 November

Africa Industrialization Day Universal Children's Day

### 21 November

World Television Day

### 25 November

International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women

# Become a 'Civil Participation' volunteer correspondent

'Civil Participation' invites social workers, volunteers, activists, concerned individuals and collectives, young and the old, men and women from India and abroad to become its correspondents.

We would like to publish short pieces on people's endeavors to make the world a better place to live devoid of misery, wars, poverty and want.

You may find numerous efforts in this direction by individuals and members of the civil society in all parts of the world. If you have done or come across such a recent effort, write and e-mail it to us through at <a href="mailto:pidt@del6.vsnl.net.in">pidt@del6.vsnl.net.in</a> in English.

You may send newspaper clippings, but the source of publication from which the clipping has been taken should be clearly mentioned. All the material for publication should have an inscription on the left hand side 'FOR PUBLICATION IN CIVIL PARTICIPATION'. We also solicit your opinion regarding this publication and your suggestions for improvement of its content. These too can be sent on the above e-mail address.

-Editor

#### 29 November

International Day of Solidarity with the Palestinian People

#### 1 December

World AIDS Day

#### 2 December

International Day for Abolition of Slavery

### 3 December

International Day of Disabled Persons

#### 5 December

International Volunteer Day

#### 7 December

International Civil Aviation Day

### 10 December

**Human Rights Day** 

#### 11 December

International Mountain Day

### 18 December

International Migrants Day

### 19 December

International Day for South-South Cooperation