

## **Background Note on National Youth Parliament Festival and National Youth Festival**

Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has been celebrating National Youth Festival every year from 12th to 16th January. 12th January being the birth anniversary of **Swami Vivekananda**, is observed as National Youth Day. This year, National Youth Parliament Festival is also being organized along with National Youth Festival.

Since 1995, the Department of Youth Affairs has organized 23 National Youth Festivals in partnership with one host State. **Hon'ble Prime Minister** addressed the youth of the Nation at National Youth Festivals held at Greater Noida and Lucknow, through video-conferencing on 12th January, 2018 and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2020, respectively.

The objective is to bring youth of the country together to showcase their talents; provide them an arena, by creating a mini-India, where youth interact in formal and informal settings and exchange their social and cultural uniqueness. It is also to promote National Integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood, courage and adventure. The basic aim is to propagate the spirit, essence and concept of Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat with the partnership of youth and the masses of India.

Due to Pandemic COVID – 19 situation, it was not possible to organize a physical National Youth Festival. In view of this, after several rounds of discussions with different State Governments and Union Territories, it was decided to host the 24<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival 2021 in a virtual mode. Therefore, the 24<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival is being celebrated primarily in a digital mode with a few activities in physical mode viz. Surya Namaska, Climbing, Trekking, Sky Diving from 20<sup>th</sup> December, 2020 to 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. ‘**YUVAAH – Utsah Naye Bharat Ka**’ is the theme of this year’s festival, which suggests, the youth bring alive the celebration of the New India.

The opening ceremony of 24<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival and the closing ceremony of 2<sup>nd</sup> National Youth Parliament Festival will take place on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2021 in the Central Hall of Parliament. Closing ceremony of 24<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival will take place in Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, Janpath Road, New Delhi on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2021.

Generally, in a National Youth Festival maximum 6,000 youth used to participate, whereas this year’s 24<sup>th</sup> National Youth Festival 2021, about 07 lakh youth from more than 20 States and Union Territories got opportunity to participate in 24 different disciplines at District, State and National level. Besides, in order to make National Youth Festival more attractive and youth full, new activities such as Surya Namaskar relay, Winter Alpine Skills Climbing, Cleaning Expeditions, High Altitude Winter Trek, Sport Climbing, Kanchenjunga Skydiving trial from Para Glider, Mission Mountain 2 Ocean, Fit India – Cyclothon and Phrabhat Pheris were introduced and being undertaken to

promote adventure and physical fitness a way of life. In National Youth Parliament being held as a part of National Youth Festival another 2.34 Lac youth participated.

For the first time, the 24<sup>th</sup> edition of National Youth Festival has been organized in a hybrid mode by harnessing the power of technology and social media, thus leading to record participation. To give wider publicity, coverage, outreach and create buzz of National Youth Parliament Festival, 2021 and National Youth Festival, **Hash Tags** namely,

(1) **#YuvaShaktiWithModi**, (2) **#YUVAAH** (3) **#UtsahNayeBharatKa** and (3) **#NYF2021** have been created. They have been promoted through social media platforms. For viewing the proceedings of the functions on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021 a web link, <https://webcast.gov.in/parliament> has been created. Based on past experiences, it is expected that more than One Crore youth and citizens would watch the two functions.

Moreover, for wider outreach among youth and masses, a Micro Site facility has been created on Department of Youth Affairs Website wherein the photographs and videos of National Youth Festival and National Youth Parliament Festival activities are posted. Similarly, dedicated web pages on NYKS and NSS websites have also been created so that youth and citizens of India can have the glimpses of these National Programs. The activities of these programs are regularly posted on Social Media Platforms (Posts – 1235; Images & Videos – 4198 and Impressions – 9.04 Lakh).

**National Youth Parliament Festival (NYPF)** is based on the idea given by Honourable Prime Minister in his **Mann Ki Baat Address** on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2017. Taking inspiration from the idea of **Hon'ble Prime Minister, First NYPF 2019** was organised from 12 January to 27 February 2019 at District, State & National level with the theme “Bethe Voice of New India and Find solutions and Contribute to Policy”. A total of 88,000 youth participated in the program. 56 State Awardees and 728 finalists from 28 States participated in National Youth Parliament on 26<sup>th</sup> Feb. 2019 at New Delhi. **On 27<sup>th</sup> February, 2019, The Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi** inaugurated the National Youth Parliament Festival at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi and awarded the Top 3 winners who also got an opportunity to share their thoughts in presence of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

In order to continue with the same spirit and objective with enhanced enthusiasm, the **2nd National Youth Parliament Festival 2021** at District, State & National level was launched on 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2020 through virtual mode as witnessed by more than **23 Lac youth** and stakeholders across the country. The National Youth Parliament Festival 2021 will conclude on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The objective of National Youth Parliament Festival is to hear the voice of youth between 18 and less than 25 years of age, who are allowed to vote and will join various careers in coming years, including public services.

As a first step, District Youth Parliaments were conducted through Virtual mode from 24-29 December 2020 in which 2.34 Lac youth (18-25 years) from 698 Districts of all States and UTs in India participated through 150 venues. It was followed by State Youth Parliaments through virtual mode from 01 to 05 January 2021 in which 1st and 2nd winners from participating districts numbering 1,345 took part. During District and State Youth Parliaments, the participants deliberated maximum for 4 minutes on the given topics and were adjudged winners by a five Member Jury comprising of Hon'ble MPs, Ministers of State Govt, MLAs, Vice Chancellor, Journalists, Academicians, Renowned Social workers, etc.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha was gracious enough to allow the Finals of National Youth Parliament Festival, 2021 to be held in the Central Hall of the Parliament on 11<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. 84 winners from States/ Union Territories will get opportunity to be present in the Central Hall of Parliament before the Hon'ble Speaker, Hon'ble Deputy Chairman, Rajya Sabha, Hon'ble Minister (IC), Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports and other dignitaries. 29 National winners will get opportunity to speak before the National Jury comprising of Ms. Roopa Ganguly, Hon'ble MP, Rajya Sabha, Shri Parvesh Sahib Singh, Hon'ble MP, Lok Sabha and Shri Prafulla Ketkar, eminent journalist.

The youth of the country will be privileged enough to get the blessings from Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji in form of his inspiring speech through virtual mode on the occasion of Valedictory Function of National Youth Parliament Festival, 2021 on 12<sup>th</sup> January, 2021. The 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> winners will get opportunity to speak before Hon'ble Prime Minister. He will also interact with the youth. The program will conclude with the address of Hon'ble Prime Minister.

Hon'ble Speaker, Lok Sabha will give away awards and certificates to 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> National Winners of National Youth Parliament Festival on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2021.

The ceremony would end with a vote of thanks to the Chair.

\*\*\*\*\*