

## Campaign for Peace-city Chandigarh



A Report 2015-16



## Campaign for Peace-city Chandigarh

Recognizing the role that education has to play in building defenses of peace in the minds of young people and the inter relationship between peace and sustainable development as critical to achieving the objectives of social cohesion and living together and to move away from a culture of war and violence in a world be set with strife to a culture of peace and non violence, YUVSATTA-an NGO with whole hearted support of tricity Schools and Education Department, Chandigarh Administration started building Peace Clubs in Schools to involve all the teachers and students for building a new responsible and healthy generation of young Indian, who're ready to face the 'Challenge of Change'!

Education of the peace volunteers or students on the positive aspect of nonviolence through constructive activities, discussions, interactions and effective dialogue is the main focus of the initiative.

### MAJOR OBJECTIVES

- **Bring** about a thorough social change for the establishment of a nonviolent social order as Mahatma Gandhi dreamt.
- **Encourage** youngsters and members of their families to experience the creative aspects of nonviolence in their daily life.
- **Promote** interpersonal dialogue and human warmth.
- **Orient** students, teachers and members of the family to be tolerant and respectful to each other.
- **Profess** nonviolent dispute settling methods with friends, neighbours and colleagues.
- **Expose** the evil intentions of the antisocial elements that prosper very often on violence, death and destruction.
- **Create** effective propaganda to recognize violence and tension dangerous to progress and well being of the society.
- **Motivate** students, teachers and members of families to explore and study the experiences, experiments and legacy of great souls like Swami Vivekananda, Buddha, Mahatma Gandhi, Martin Luther King, Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan and others.



**According to findings by UNESCO, through applying peace education and creating a peace culture, it has been observed that Schools can have the following benefits;**

- **Develop** a more humanistic management approach.
- **Improve human relations between, teacher- student, teacher-teacher, student-student.**
- **Help** develop good attitudes in students and teachers as well ex. Cooperation, mutual respect, trust etc.
- **Help** healthy emotional development in students.
- **Facilitate** socialization through participation in interactive and Cooperative learning activities.
- **Improve** students' discipline and moral behaviour.
- **Develop** creativity both in students and teachers.
- **Improve** standard of quality of teaching and learning.
- **Better** learning of cognitive material.
- **Heightened** motivation and response to learning situations.
- **Greater** appreciation of self, nature, others, feelings, etc.
- **Greater** pupil's responsibility.

Moreover, globalization in present texture and practice subordinate ethical values, moral considerations and stress only material and consumerist aspect of life. The world of tomorrow and the challenges facing humanity today call for a reappraisal of what Mahatma Gandhi offers. The need of the hour is to train young minds for love, for service to others and for creative development all around them. If the child misses the value-based education in the school and in the home, no government or society can establish a transparent society or a society with integrity.



## Campaign for Peace-city Chandigarh - Major Activities in 2015-16

**GIFT OF NEW WOOLLENS FOR CHILDREN'S OF JAMMU & KASHMIR:** To mark the martyrdom day of Mahatma Gandhi on January 30, 2015, Yuvsatta along with KB DAV Sr. Sec. Public School, HQ Western Command and Independent Schools Association of Chandigarh organized a '1 India-Children's Friendship Campaign'. In which over 5000 new woolen sweaters and jackets were collected. Each gift was neatly packed with a friendship card from students of tricity for their young friends in Jammu & Kashmir. HQ Western Command officials took care of transportation and distribution in border areas of Jammu & Kashmir. **And Hon'ble Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki, Governor, Government of Haryana & Punjab & Administrator, Chandigarh Administration flagged-off an Army Truck containing these goodwill gifts** made possible by generous contributions by students of 23 prominent Schools of tricity Chandigarh, Panchkula and SAS Nagar.



**THANKS GIVING WEEK:** Every year first week of February is observed by Yuvsatta with participation of tricity Schools as a 'Thanks Giving Week', in which School children's go with 'Thank U' cards and flowers to greet people like Postman's, Fire-brigade employees, medical staff at Dispensaries/Hospitals, Sanitary staff, security guards, Police personnel's, officials of Chandigarh Administration and Municipal Corporation etc. The idea is to instill in young children spirit of gratitude towards those who so sincerely serve us. And participation in such initiatives make young ones clearly understands the importance of helping others and imbibes in them respect for people whose contributions make possible for the city to function smoothly.

**1 INDIA TEACHERS TRAINING WORKSHOP:** On the auspicious day of Baisakhi, April 13, 2015, **Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki**, Hon'ble Governor Punjab & Haryana cum Administrator, Chandigarh Administration accompanied by Amb. Ashok Sajjanhar, Secretary, National Foundation for Communal Harmony, Government of India, Prof. Arun Kumar Grover, Vice Chancellor & Arun Sood, Councillor & Leader of BJP in Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh planted a 'Ashoka Tree' at Panjab University, Chandigarh. To inspire young people to do more for their community and country soil brought by Yuvsatta volunteers from Shaheed Bhagat Singh's birthplace in Pakistan was mixed with local soil for this plantation. **Later Governor Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki addressed a Seminar on theme '1 India-promoting communal harmony and national unity' at ICSSR Complex of Panjab University, Chandigarh.** In which teachers-in-charge of Peace Clubs & NSS Units of over 70 prominent tricity Schools of Chandigarh, Panchkula & Mohali participated. This programme was jointly organized by Yuvsatta, National Foundation for Communal Harmony & State Cell of NSS, Education Department, Chandigarh.







**EARTH DAY CELEBRATIONS:** To mark the World Earth Day, on April 22, 2015, **Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge of Punjab & Haryana High Court** led a bicycle rally in which all top bureaucrats of Chandigarh Administration from Advisor **Vijay Kumar Dev**, Finance Secretary **Sarabjeet Singh**, Secretary Tourism **Anurag Aggarwal**, **Santosh Kumar**, Director, Department of Environment, **Birender Choudhary**, Dy. Conservator of Forests and **Gurbax Rawat**, **Dy. Mayor** participated along with over 250 School students of Carmel Convent School, Stephen's School, Stepping Stones Sr. Sec. School, Govt. Model Sr. Sec.

School, Sector 33D, Govt. Model High School, Sector 37D and Govt. High School (Smart School), Sector 53. Giving the message of girl empowerment the rally was flagged by Aaliya-a Class VII student of Carmel Convent School. This rally was jointly organized by Yuvsatta Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration & 94.3 My FM from Open Hand monument to Sukhna Lake.

**GARBAGE RUN:** To mark the Earth Day-2015, a week-long 'Garbage Run' programme was organized by Yuvsatta and Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration. In which students of various prominent Schools of the city in batches of 5 each were taken to meet rag-pickers, scrap dealers and people living in vicinity of dumping ground at Daddumajra. Young children's never imagined in the past that the daily output of 200 gms to 800gms of household garbage can turn daily a monster of 500 tonnes for local Municipal authorities and this big heap of garbage piled-up at dumping ground can pose health hazards for thousand of city residents living nearby. During their interaction they also learned why reducing our consumption and altogether discarding of polythene bags from our lifestyle and purchases is the most important issue of environmental importance.



**1 INDIA-HARMONY WALKS:** 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.



Based on a similar '1 Malaysia' campaign, '1 INDIA Campaign' is to more strongly emphasize religious & ethnic harmony and national unity. And to further promote national integration and unity Yuvsatta organized numerous '1 India-Harmony Walks' taking students of local Peace Clubs in Schools to religious places of all religions starting from Church to Gurdwara to Temple and Mosque.





**CELEBRATIONS OF AKSHAY URJA DIWAS:** To popularize installation of solar power units on residential houses in the city, Chandigarh Renewable Energy Science and Technology Promotion Society (CREST), which aggressively promotes solar power in the city, in collaboration with Yuvsatta organized Akshay Urja Diwas, on

August 20, 2015, at UT Guest House. Member of over 50 Residents Welfare Associations of the city participated in the endeavour and the Adviser to Administration Mr. Vijay Kumar Dev, IAS was the Chief Guest. A 'Solar Power Awareness Rally' by School children to promote the theme of 'Green Chandigarh-Solar Chandigarh' was also organized on the occasion.



**GREEN CHANDIGARH-SOLAR CHANDIGARH:** 50 Eco Clubs students of Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 37D, visited energy efficient green building of Chandigarh Administration, "Paryavaran Bhawan" & also saw an exhibition on Solar energy. Introducing the youngsters with concept of this green building in Chandigarh **Santosh Kumar, Director, Department of Environment & Science and Technology** shared that this state-of-the-art building has many green generate its own power rather its power surplus which it exports to the Electricity Department, building features like an earth air tunnel forced ventilation system for the lower two floors and evaporating cooling for the top three floors and has a natural cooling system for the

entire building. Some of its features include the terrace which has reflective white tiles, to reflect back heat and thus reduce the need for artificial climate control measures and a water harvesting system integrated with the building design. Moreover, the entire parking and paving is of special green blocks which shall ensure green cover all around the building as well as allow rain water to percolate down into the earth, recharging ground water.

**WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY 2015- JUNE 5, 2015:** To highlight the message of 'Seven Billion Dreams. One Planet. Consume with Care'; of World Environment Day-2015, Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration organized a programme in collaboration with Yuvsatta at Elante mall of Chandigarh. In which Adviser to Chandigarh



Administrator Mr. Vijay Kumar Dev released the 'Status of Environment Report of Chandigarh'. Later students of local Schools and Colleges organized a number of activities on the occasion like street plays, skits, music on tunes with environmental themes, Green Art & Crafts, Green Quiz, fun-filled activities for children like puzzles, join the dots, sing a song dances etc. to motivate more and more people focusing on 'Solar Chandigarh- Green Chandigarh'.





**LAUNCH OF 'POWER OF 1 RUPEE CAMPAIGN':** 69th Independence Day-August 15, 2015, was celebrated with full fervor and enthusiasm by Carmel Convent School, Sector 9, Chandigarh. Where Sr. Maria Swati A.C, Principal launched a unique 'Power of 1 Rupee Campaign'. This was started by Peace Clubs of the School in association with NGO-Yuvsatta, in which by voluntary donations of Rs. 1/- each, School girls collected over Rs. 2,00,000 in 2015-16. Out of which they arranged 17 new bicycles, hygiene kits (containing 15 items of daily use), shoes, stationary items & general knowledge books for over 60 meritorious marginalized girls of Bapu Dham Colony, Chandigarh.

A true example of '**Girls Empowering Girls**'. Lauding the efforts of Carmel Convent School girls to support disadvantaged girls Prof. Devi Sirohi, Chairperson, Chandigarh Commissions for the Protection of Child Rights shared that this effort should be replicated in other Schools of the city as well. To realize the goad of a 'Smart city', Chandigarh residents need to make all children smart, irrespective of their economic backgrounds.

**MONTHLY BIRD WALKS:** With an aim to create awareness about birds in the city and also sensitize children on environment issues, Yuvsatta along with Times of India and Department of Environment & Forests, Chandigarh Administration, organized monthly Bird Walks between July to December 2015.

In which local School students were taken to



green grooves in and around the city like Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, Bamboo Garden, Leisure valley etc. to know more about various beautiful and interesting birds of this region, who plays an important role to strengthen and sustain our biodiversity. In addition the resource persons of Chandigarh Bird Club also taught participants about making of bird feeders.





**DONATIONS OF 4 LACS FOR NEPAL EARTHQUAKE VICTIMS:** In the aftermath of devastating earthquake in Nepal, volunteers of Yuvsatta with generous contributions from students and staff members of St. Stephen's School, Sector 45B, New Public School, Sector 18B, Gurukul Global School, Manimjara, members of Punjab & Haryana High Court Bar Association collected 4 lakh rupees. And a cheque of this amount was sent to Prime Ministers Relief Fund for Nepal to extend support to the needy victims.

*(Students of St. Stephen's School, Chandigarh, with their contribution of two lakh rupees.)*

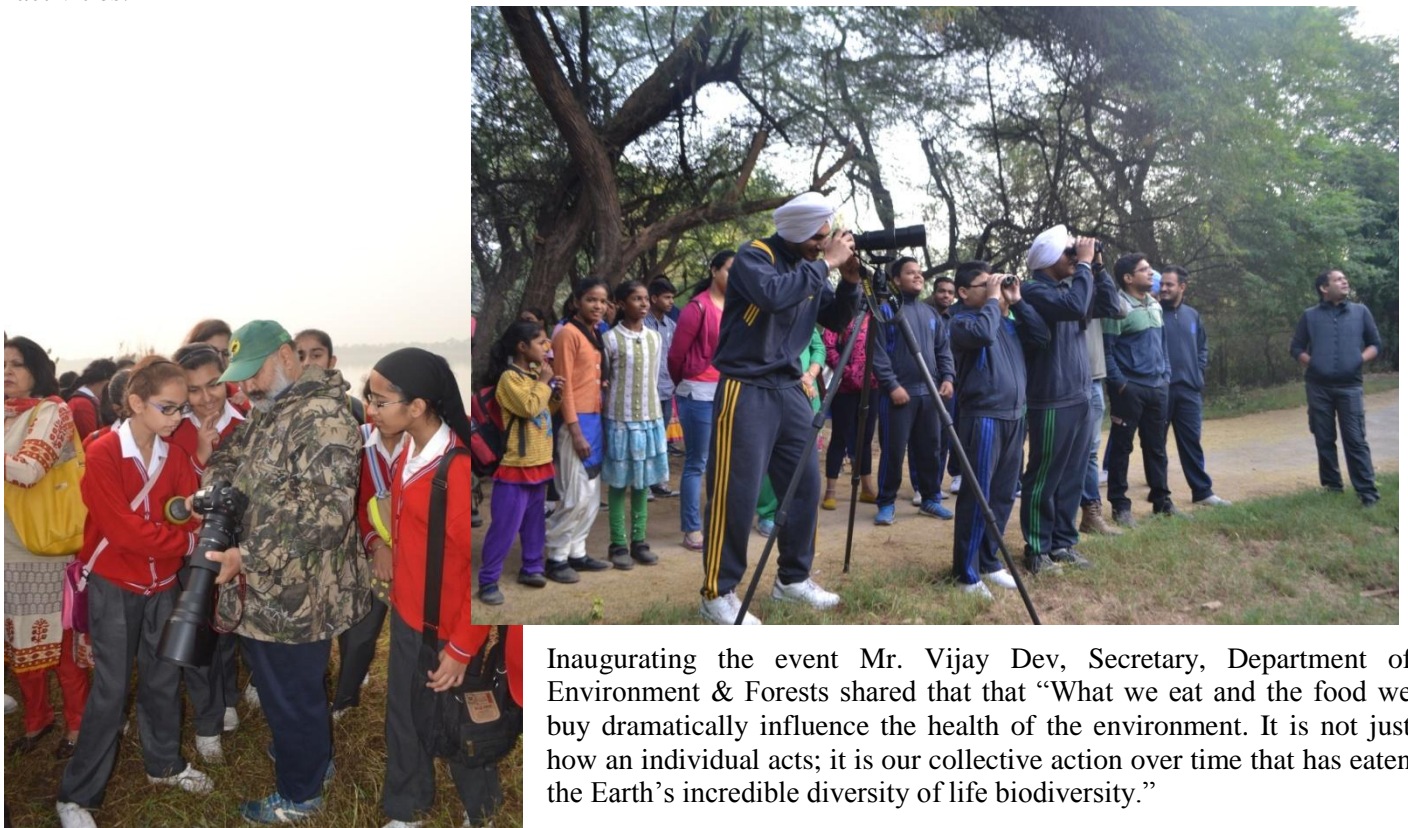
### **WORKSHOP FOR ECO-CLUB TEACHERS ON THEME OF 'CONSERVATION & PLANTATION OF MEDICINAL/ HERBAL PLANTS AND PROMOTION OF HERBAL GARDENS IN SCHOOLS':**

On September 3, 2015, at Botanical Garden, Sarangpur, Chandigarh, a workshop for Eco-club incharge teachers at Schools was organized by Yuvsatta in collaboration with Medicinal Plant Board of Chandigarh, to review the various management practices in place for conservation of the resource, bringing out gaps and research needs and developing a comprehensive strategy and action plan for strengthening and sustainable management of the Herbal Gardens in the city.



### **WILDLIFE WEEK CELEBRATIONS-2015:**

During the Wildlife Week (Oct. 2-9, 2015) Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration & Yuvsatta organized week-long 'Inter-School Biodiversity Hunt', in the Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary behind Sukhna Lake, in which around 500 School students along with their teachers learned about their role in meeting the challenges of the biodiversity crisis & loss of forest reserves in the world, the accelerated loss of plants, animals and habitats caused primarily by human activities.

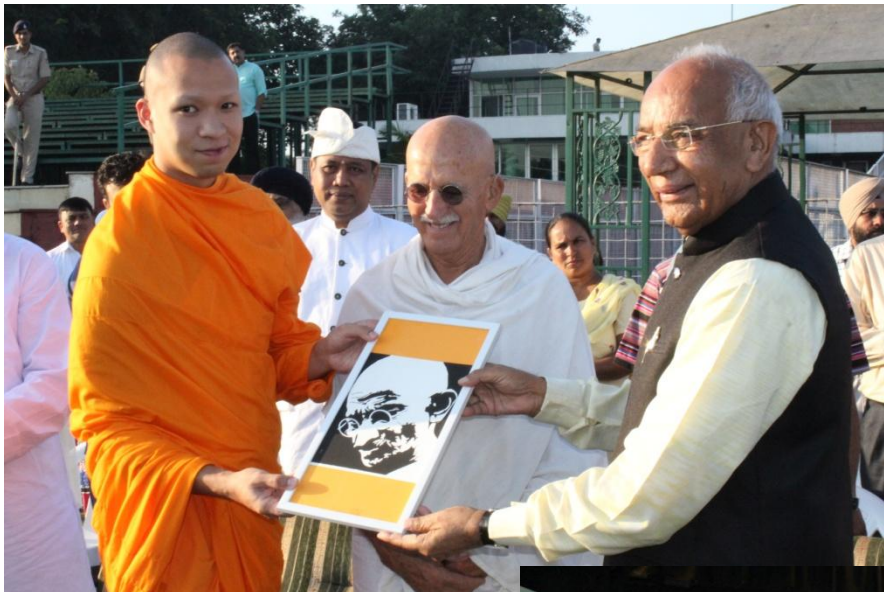


Inaugurating the event Mr. Vijay Dev, Secretary, Department of Environment & Forests shared that that "What we eat and the food we buy dramatically influence the health of the environment. It is not just how an individual acts; it is our collective action over time that has eaten the Earth's incredible diversity of life biodiversity."





**10<sup>th</sup> GLOBAL YOUTH PEACE FEST- GYPF 2015:** Peace can't be measured by defense expenditure, government policy, or by the number of wars waged in the world. Peace is not just meditating monks, or 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. In the 10th Global Youth peace Fest-GYPF 2015, from September 28 to October 2, 2015, over 250 young people from 29 countries of the world & 10,000 locals joined hands on important occasions for a better world. A Global Youth Peace Forum – a unique initiative that aims to connect young people from different countries-- was also launched during GYPF 2015 with young leaders from different faiths exhorting the people to put humanity above all religion and to recognize the statements of aspirations for peace made in all religions as a unifying and not a divisive factor. This unique initiative was inaugurated on

September 28, 2015, by **Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki**, Hon'ble Governor Punjab & Haryana cum Administrator, Chandigarh Administration at Cricket Stadium of Chandigarh, where besides the international delegates, over 5000 local youngsters also joined for a morning of 'All Religions Prayer & Meditation for World Peace'.

This mega-event ended with a 'World Peace March' led by Hon'ble Mr. Justice Shiavax Jal Vazifdar, the Acting Chief Justice of Punjab & Haryana High Court and nine other senior Judges to inspire change and nurture a culture of peace & nonviolence'.







**PINK TURBAN CAMPAIGN:** On International Day of Girl Child i.e. October 11, 2015 and National Day of Girl Child i.e. January 24, 2016, PINK was the colour of day and 'Pink Turbans' graced the attire of girl students and boys wrapped pink scarf's around their neck to show solidarity with girls. Why Pink? **Because 'Turban-Pagri' is a symbol of honour and respect in all the regions** where it is a practice to wear one, especially in north India with worst kind of sex ratio and cases of female foeticide. And PINK colour represents compassion, nurturing and love. So Yuvsatta volunteers thought



of spearheading this campaign with active participation of local Schools to use Turban and Pink Colour to give a clear and strong message of **'RISING GIRLS & EMPOWERED WOMEN'** to the masses at large. Over 5,000 girl students at KB DAV Sr. Sec. Public School, Sector 7B, Carmel Convent School, Sector 9B, DAV Sr. Sec. Model School, Sector 15A, Saupin's School, Sector 32A, St. Stephen's School, Sector 45, AKSIPS, Sector 45, Stepping Stones School, Sector 37D, Gurukul Global School, Manimajra, Govt. High School (Smart School), Sector 53, Chaman Lal DAV Sr. Sec. School, Sector 11, Panchkula etc. participated in the initiative.

**Addressing one such gathering Chief Guest Mr. Arun Sood, Mayor of Chandigarh said that** there is going to be no progress if there is no change in the mindset about how people think about girls in India. Appreciating the concept of 'Pink Turban Campaign', he also shared that such grass-root level campaign are needed at all places, in all cities and villages to change the mindset of people. All parents should aim and think big for their girl and break down the barriers of education. He added that equality for girls and boys means a more prosperous world as improving girls' educational levels has been demonstrated to have clear impacts on the health and economic future of young women, which in turn improves the prospects of their entire community.





## GREEN DIWALI CAMPAIGN-2015:

'Go green this Diwali' was the slogan of the environmentally conscious in Chandigarh. And before the festival of Deepawali-2015, Yuvsatta in association with Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration launched a fortnight long 'Go Green Diwali Campaign' in local Schools. In which around 30,000 School students in their School's morning assemblies were sensitized and motivated to observe a 'Green Diwali & stay away from crackers'. According to **Mr. Santosh Kumar, Director, Department of Environment** added that "Harmful & dangerous metallic salts are used in fireworks to produce

light of different colours in the fire crackers. So they supported this campaign to bring down the pollution level and resultant harmful effects among general public. He also expressed his satisfaction that now more and more people are joining in such campaigns as they see bursting firecrackers as environmentally irresponsible form of entertainment".

**TOILET RUN:** To bring about an awareness on the World Toilet Day-November 19, 2015, as provision of Toilets are an essential component of health, Yuvsatta, Indian Business School, Times of India & State Cell NSS, Chandigarh

Administration & Times of India newspaper jointly organized a 'Toilet Run', in which over 500 NSS Volunteers of New Public School, Sector 18, Government High School, Colony No. 4, Government Model Sr. Sec. School, Sector 20D, Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Timber Market, Sector 26, along with volunteers of Yuvsatta & Indian Business School participated. **Prof. Devi Sirohi, Chairperson, Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights** along with women & girls of Colony No. 4, flagged-off and led the



initiative from Government High School, Colony No. 4 and passing through Industrial Area, Transport area and Grain Market the 'Toilet Run' ended at Govt. Model Sr. Sec. School, Timber Market, Sector 26, Chandigarh.

## MIGRATORY BIRD WATCHING VISITS:

As birds not only play an important role in our lives but also serve a vital ecological role as well. So every year during winter months Yuvsatta in collaboration with **Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration, organizes 'Migratory Bird Watching Visits' for School children's.**

In the first week of December, 2015, over 500 School students of various Schools were taken to regularly end of Sukhna Lake where they learned about important facts and interesting stories of migratory birds from resource persons of Chandigarh's Bird Club and Department of Forests & Wildlife, Chandigarh Administration.





## Padmashree Shri Nek Chand's B' day Celebrations@90



To celebrate 90<sup>th</sup> birthday of Shri Nek Chand, creator of world famous Rock Garden, Yuvsatta and Times of India planned a week-long campaign, in which Times of India daily published stories of hope, faith, unflinching commitment and laurels from the life of Padmashree Shri Nek Chand and Yuvsatta mobilized local School children's who daily in batches of 50 each visited Rock Garden with brooms and trash bags to clean the beautiful

creation and also to seek blessing of its creator Padmashree Shri Nek Chand. During the week long celebrations not only school students presented legendary Shri Nek Chand with hundreds of beautiful B' day greeting cards but also sang special songs in his honour. The celebrations ended with a mega B'day bash organized by Chandigarh Administration. This was the last big tribute which Chandigarhian's can organize for the great soul.







### **‘THANK U’ CARDS FOR BRAVE SOLDIERS:**

On the solemn occasion of X-mas-2015, Yuvsatta, handed over to senior officials of HQ Western Command, 7,000 beautifully made ‘Thank U’ cards prepared by Peace Club students of Schools for the brave Indian Army soldier posted on border areas, so that the initiative of inculcating spirit of patriotism and love for the nation among generation next can be taken ahead. Appreciating the beautiful postcards so painfully prepared by children, HQ Western Command officials shared that the dire need today is to infuse today’s youth with a spirit of adventure and love for the nation. And such simple gestures of goodwill postcards can go a long way to boost the

morale of soldiers and love for Indian Armed forces among young minds.

**ON NEW YEAR - NEW SWEATERS FOR MARGINALIZED:** In an attempt to bring smiles across the faces of children studying in socio-economically challenged areas, Yuvsatta-an NGO, Times of India & Kings XI Punjab, launched a unique initiative, ‘1 India Friendship Campaign’, in which 1500 new sweaters were collected with



continuations from Peace Clubs of various Schools of the city. And on January 6, 2016, Vijay Dev, IAS, Advisor, Chandigarh Administration distributed over 1200 new sweaters to the less privileged children as a ‘gift of warmth’ at Government Senior Secondary School, Timber Market, Sector 26, Chandigarh. Another 300 more new sweaters were presented by Mr. Justice Surya Kant, Judge, Punjab & Haryana High Court and Prof. Devi Sirohi to marginalized children’s at Snehalya in Maloya. The initiative aimed at motivating students of public schools to contribute new sweaters of their own sizes for under privileged kids of similar ages studying in less privileged strata of society. This gesture is aimed to promote active citizenship and create an environment of caring and sharing, something that is necessary for harmonious growth in our society.



**EYE CHECK-UP CAMPS FOR TRUCKERS:** In 2015-16, Yuvsatta in collaboration with Indian Oil Company Limited organized 15 ‘Free Eye-Check Up Camps’ for truckers and transport workers at Transport Union of Chandigarh, Mohali, Derrabassi, Bhatinda, Ludhiana, Taran Taran, Kiratpur, Morinda, Nalagarh, Darlaghat, Poanta Sahib, Burmana, Parwanoo & Baddi. In which over 1000 patients were examined and provided free medicines. These initiatives have been taken up in view the increased number of road accidents due to poor eyesight, importance of road safety and creating awareness among drivers that eyesight has paramount importance.



### INDO-MALINDO FRIENDSHIP YATRA:

International exposure visits is a key tool for building "bridges"--connections between countries and cultures. In addition, when ordinary people of any age travel outside their comfort zones as travelers, their "us vs. them" mentality will likely change into a multicultural respect for others, resulting in a stronger worldwide coalition of friendship, understanding and goodwill. With this in view, volunteers of Yuvsatta organized an 'Indo-Malindo Friendship Yatra (January 7-13, 2016)', taking a group School teachers from Chandigarh to our age-old coastal neighbours of Malaysia and Indonesia. Where this group visited Schools, met representatives of Youth organizations and also paid a visit to 'Ashram Gandhi Puri'-an organization promoting teachings and thoughts of Mahatma Gandhi from Bali in Indonesia.



### SOLAR CHANDIGARH-GREEN

**CHANDIGARH:** On January 31, 2016, to promote the rooftop Solar Power systems on private houses in the city, Chandigarh Renewable Energy Science and Technology Promotion Society (CREST), Science & Technology, Chandigarh Administration and Yuvsatta organized two public awareness meetings at Village Khudda Ali Sher and at Community Centre of Sector 8A, Chandigarh. In which large number of local residents participated and officials of CREST led by CEO of CREST Mr. Santosh Kumar, IFS, not only explained about the best solar systems to install, about JERC tariff guidelines, but also on how to avail the easy subsidy which Government is offering to promote the cause of promotion of 'green'

renewable energy.

**INDO-PAK PEACE CALENDAR RELEASED:** On February 14-Valentine day, at a programme organized by Yuvsatta at Peoples Convention Centre, an Indo-Pak Peace Calendar was released by Mr. Arun Sood, Mayor of Chandigarh. A discussion on 'Sharing of hopes for mutual coexistence' was organized on the occasion by Yuvsatta, Peace Club of Dev Samaj College of Education & Aaghaz-e-Dosti, a joint Indo-Pak initiative of India-based Mission Bhartiya and Pakistan-based The Catalyst – TC. Now, from last three years; this calendar is launched in India and Pakistan, titled as 'Calendar for Peace & Love'. It includes selected paintings of students from India and Pakistan and also messages from renowned personalities working on peace on both sides of border. The importance of the calendar is that it is a collection of shared dreams and hopes for friendship which we will be reminded of everyday.







**‘SAY NO TO POLY-BAGS’ CAMPAIGN AT ROSE FESTIVAL-2016:** The menace of non-biodegradable polythene bags is well known and in various states and cities now there are concerted campaigns to get rid of use of poly bags. Here in Chandigarh Rose Festival (February 19-21)- the biggest annual Rose Show was a perfect occasion and good opportunity to invite city residents to ‘Say NO to Polythene Bags’ campaign. And Yuvsatta supported by Chandigarh’s Pollution Control Committee and Department of Environment organized 13 ‘Street plays’ to spread the message of ‘Green Chandigarh’ among hundreds of peoples who visited Rose Garden.

**GIRL STAR AWARDS:** On International Women’s Day-March 8, in a tribute to the spirit of womanhood, Yuvsatta organized at MCM DAV College, presentation of Girl Star Awards 2016 to 17 meritorious girls from the city

who has achieved remarkable heights in various fields. A seminar on the theme ‘Educate Girls-Empower World’ was also organized on the occasion. The celebrations were jointly organized by Yuvsatta, State Cell-NSS, Chandigarh Education Department, Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society and NSS Unit of MCM DAV College, Chandigarh.

Prominent amongst those who participated included Mr. Vijay Dev, IAS, Adviser to Administrator, Chandigarh Administration, Mr. Ujjal Dev Singh Dosanjh, former Premier of British Colombia & Health Minister of Canada, Dr. Markandey Rai, Adviser, Youth Affairs, UN Habitat, Mrs. Ramneet Dosanjh, Dr. Vanita Gupta, Director, Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society, Mr. Bikram Singh Rana, State Liaison Officer-State Cell NSS & Pramod Sharma, Coordinator, Yuvsatta.



**WATER CONSERVATION FORTNIGHT:** The importance of conservation of water, its judicious management and importance of involvement of young people in water conservation programmes is most important to counter the ongoing water-crisis all over the world.



And with the onset of summers the situation of water scarcity starts in Chandigarh too. So Yuvsatta in collaboration with Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration organized a ‘Water Conservation Fortnight’, from World Earth Day, April 22, 2016 onwards, reaching out to over 20,000 students in 15 prominent Schools of the city and general public in the initiative. This involved daily talks, pledge and green quiz in morning School assemblies on the issue of judicious use of water-the elixir of life. And also street plays on theme of ‘Water Conservation & Role of Active Citizens’.

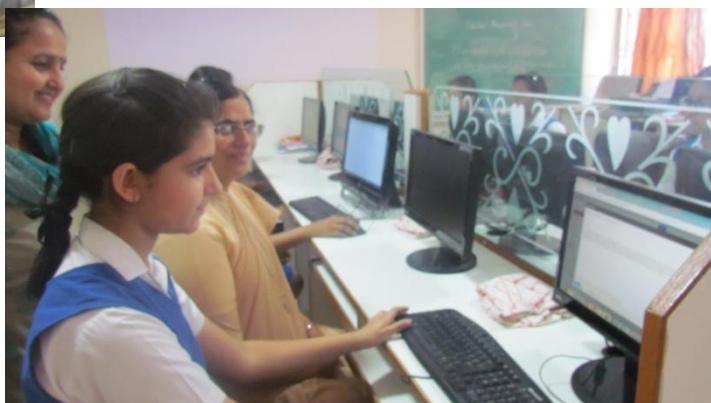




**CONNECTING CHANDIGARH STUDENTS INTERNATIONALLY ON EARTH DAY:** The 'World Earth Day'-April 22, 2016, celebration was different in the city, as using video conferencing Yuvsatta –an NGO promoting spirit of global citizenship, connected students of [Carmel Convent School](#) with School students at '149 Secondary School' at Bucharest, the capital of Romania, students of [St. Stephens School, Sector 45](#) with [Mayo International Public Higher Secondary School at Kasur in Pakistan](#) and a third group of [Gurukul Global School students](#) got connected with students at [Marefat High School, Kabul, Afghanistan](#). And interesting part was that

[before this global connection they planted 'Friendship Trees' at all participating six Schools with the name of their partner Schools.](#)

This unique connection was further strengthen in summer vacations of June, 2016, by launching another unique 'International School Buddies Program', on 21 May-World Day for Cultural Diversity for Dialogue and Development. In which the students of participating Schools at Chandigarh, Pakistan, Afghanistan and Romania were paired up randomly with each other by school teachers. For example ABC girl from Chandigarh school was given email ID of DEF girl from Bucharest and vice versa. Later following a module designed by Yuvsatta, through exchange of emails these students were expected to gain insights into lives, homes, education system, culture, religion and each other's nation.



Seema Gupta the Peace Club in charge of the School.

**Addressing the students Abdul Basit said that** "The youth of both countries is the hope of the region, their courage, curiosity and spontaneity will surely bring a change. Young people on both sides are aware how important peace between India and Pakistan is to realize our potential. I am confident they are ready to work together to achieve the shared objectives of peace and prosperity".

**VISIT OF H.E. HIGH COMMISSIONER OF PAKISTAN:** Yuvsatta with support of Peace Club of St. Stephen's School, Sector 45B, Chandigarh organized a lecture of H.E. Mr. Abdul Basit, High Commissioner for Pakistan at India with School students on May 10, 2016. Arun Sood, Mayor, Municipal Corporation, Chandigarh presided over this event. Avtar Singh Paul, Director, Peoples Convention Centre, Chandigarh was also present on the occasion. **Harold Carver, Director & Principal along with Scouts & Guides students of St. Stephen's and volunteers of Yuvsatta-an NGO, received Abdul Basit who was accompanied by his wife Mrs. Summiya Basit.** Their visit to the School started by planting a 'Amaltas' tree at the School campus. "Amaltas tree is native to India and Pakistan. All parts of the tree are used in traditional medicine and also in Ayurvedic medicine," shared







**CITCO & TOI SPONSORED CITY-TOUR FOR MARGINALIZED GIRLS:** On June 15, 2016, Times of India organized a special outing with 'Hop On Hop Off Ride' for 55 Marginalized Girls associated with Kitabghar-the children's centre cum library run by Yuvsatta-an NGO at Bapudham Colony, Sector 26, Chandigarh. Their sight-seeing tour started on 'Hop on-Hop off' bus with guided tour of Rose Garden, Rock Garden, Sukhna Lake with CITCO sponsored free boat rides and refreshments at Lakeview Cafeteria. The children had a great outing. Ms. Rekha Handa the HR Head of Times of India who was instrumental in planning the initiative shared that 'It's important to expose these marginalized young children's, especially girls to better environments than what exists in slum areas. So that they can expand their vision and begin to aspire more to improve their present surroundings and make their situations better.'

**#PedalforToday&Tomorrow (BICYCLE CUM NATURE TRAILS):** In healthy communities, walking and bicycling are a normal, routine part of daily life. In these 'active community environments' the community leaders and citizens recognize that providing for active living through community design is a health issue as well as a quality of life issue. And it's very difficult to imagine any major city in India being more ideal for cycling than Chandigarh, which is truly a model of outstanding modern urban planning. Chandigarh's beautiful gardens, bicycle paths,



architecture, culture all contribute to a quality of life that is unbeatable anywhere else. And by promoting the 'Culture of Cycling', we can counter the biggest problem of proliferation of vehicles in the city. With this in view, to motivate more and more people to pedal more often in the city Yuvsatta, Times of India and Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration successfully organized monthly 'Greentire Bicycle Tours', between January –June 2016 at Sukhna Wildlife Sanctuary, backside of Sukhna Lake. One such Bicycle promotion programme on World

Environment Day, June 5, 2016, was led by Mr. Justice Hemant Gupta from Patna High Court along with Mr. Santosh Kumar, Director, Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration and Mr. Birendra Choudhary, Dy. Conservator of Forests, Chandigarh Administration.





**REMOVAL OF IRON-CLAMPS AROUND TREES:** While welcoming the new Adviser to Administrator, Chandigarh Administration, **Mr. Parimal Rai, IAS**, on March 22, 2016, a representation was sent by Yuvsatta to his office citing the cruel metal locking at the root levels of trees at Sector 17 plaza. And it's heartening to note that these iron clamps are removed in no time and '**trees became free**' further enhancing the beauty of Sector 17 Plaza in Chandigarh.



**HIV/AIDS TARGETED INTERVENTION PROGRAMME:** Yuvsatta with active collaboration of Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society-CSACS is also running a HIV/AIDS Targeted Intervention Programme for over 600 female sex-workers in marginalized areas of Bapudham Colony, Colony No. 4, Daria village and Manimajra town of Chandigarh. The major objectives of this initiative are greater focus on changing attitudes and behavior of vulnerable sections of general population to prevent transmission, Comprehensive care, support and treatment with adequate follow up measures and providing high quality HIV related services

to those who need at various levels.

#### **KITABGHAR (BOOK HOUSE) OF YUVSATTA:**

Yuvsatta is running a library cum children's centre with name of 'Kitabghar', with over 6000 books, in Bapudham Colony, Sector 26, Chandigarh. Here for over 100 children's of the area (majority 2/3<sup>rd</sup> among them are adolescent girls) of age 10-14 years, are enrolled for after School free tuitions, co-curricular activities, extra coaching classes of English language and computer literacy, so that more opportunities to succeed in life are available to them. A dance team of children's with name of 'Bapudham Butterflies' is also supported by Yuvsatta volunteers. And every last Saturday of the month-monthly B' day parties for children's born in that month, remains the most sought after events at Kitabghar.

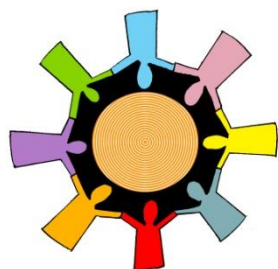


**ANNUAL PEACE AWARDS:** Every year the volunteers of Yuvsatta honour outstanding 'Teachers/Heads of Schools' who had done the most to promote Gandhian virtues of Humanism, Peace and Nonviolence amongst the budding generation of students with Peace Awards. In January,



2007 Smt. Tara Gandhi Bhattacharjee, granddaughter of Mahatma Gandhi herself honoured the winners. Earlier Mr. Arun Gandhi, grandson of Mahatma Gandhi & Director of MK Gandhi Institute of Nonviolence, specially came from US for the award giving function in 2006. On September 27, 2014, Mr. Sarbanada Sonowal, then Union Minister for Youth & Sports, Government of India and Mrs. Kirron Kher, Member Parliament, Chandigarh presented these Peace Awards. And, on July 14, 2016, **Prof. Kaptan Singh Solanki**, Hon'ble Governor Punjab & Haryana cum Administrator, Chandigarh Administration bestowed this year's Peace Awards to seven distinguished teachers.





let's do more...  
GLOBAL YOUTH PEACE FEST-2016

### GYPF 2016- MAJOR THEMES

- Global Citizenship Education
- Youth Meet on 'Educate Girls-Empower World'
- Youth Leadership Summit
- Sustainability Thinking & Action
- Inclusive World Campaigns
- Multicultural evenings
- Mindfulness training, Meditation & Yoga

The organizers hope that the continuity of organizing GYPF will be infectious and it will inevitably

**11<sup>TH</sup> GLOBAL YOUTH PEACE FEST-GYPF 2016:** This year for GYPF 2016, from September 28 to October 2, 2016, 250 delegates had already registered from around 50 prominent countries, from almost all parts of the world, especially from Afghanistan, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Burundi, Dominica, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Fiji, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Malaysia, Maldives, Mauritius, Morocco, Mexico, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, Palestine, Philippine, Peru, Portugal, Moldova, Romania, Russia, Senegal, Sri Lanka, Tunisia, Uganda, Uzbekistan, Vietnam, Venezuela, Zambia & Zimbabwe.



lead to similar initiatives elsewhere to grow into a global youth movement for peace & harmony in the world.

### A BRIEF ABOUT YUVSATTA

Yuvsatta (*Youth for peace*)-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 Peace Club activities in Schools and an annual Global Youth Peace Fest (GYPF) targeting College, University students and working young professional 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.



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





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- Department of Environment, Chandigarh Administration,
- Forests & Wildlife Department, Chandigarh Administration,
- Department of Science & Technology, Chandigarh Administration,
- State Cell NSS, Education Department, Chandigarh Administration,
- Panjab University, Chandigarh,
- Chandigarh Judicial Academy, Chandigarh,
- Regional Centre of Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development, Chandigarh,
- Chandigarh Commission for Protection of Child Rights (CCPCR),
- Department of Tourism, Chandigarh Administration,
- Peoples Convention Centre, Sector 36, Chandigarh,
- Indian Red Cross Society, U.T., Chandigarh,
- Chandigarh State AIDS Control Society, U.T., Chandigarh,
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- National Foundation for Communal Harmony, Government of India,
- Gandhi Smriti & Darshan Samiti, New Delhi,
- Svayam - Global Centre for Inclusive Environments, New Delhi,
- Department of Tourism, Arunachal Pradesh.

*For the nonviolent person, the whole world is one family.  
He will thus fear none, nor will others fear him. - Mahatma Gandhi*





**Let's Do More...**

[www.peacefestindia.in](http://www.peacefestindia.in)