



**Inspire. Lead. CHANGE**

*#Letsdomore*

# 19th Global Youth Peace Fest 2026

September 30 - October 2, 2026 | Chandigarh, India

**UNLEASHING YOUTH LEADERSHIP-UNLOCKING POTENTIAL FOR CHANGE**

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**Celebrating International Day of Non-Violence &  
Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi**

**CONCEPT NOTE & DETAILED PROGRAMME**

## PART I: CONCEPT NOTE

### 01. Introduction and Background

The Global Youth Peace Fest (GYPF) is Yuvsatta's flagship annual gathering that unites young people, educators, activists, artists, health professionals, policymakers, and changemakers from across India and the world. Since its inception, GYPF has served as a dynamic platform for dialogue, creativity, leadership, and collective action aligned with the values of Mahatma Gandhi — non-violence, truth, equality, and service.

The 19th edition of the Global Youth Peace Fest 2026 will be held on September 30 - October 2, 2026 in Chandigarh, India — a date of profound symbolic importance. October 2 marks the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi and is observed internationally as the International Day of Non-Violence, making it the most fitting moment for youth worldwide to reaffirm their commitment to peace, justice, and a sustainable future.

This year's festival theme — "Youth Leading Change: Gender Equality, HIV Awareness, and Living in Harmony with People and Planet" — reflects the urgent, interconnected challenges facing humanity and the transformative power of young people to address them. At its core, GYPF 2026 is a call to action: to build a world free from discrimination, disease, and ecological destruction.

#### 0.2 About Host-city Chandigarh, India

It's very difficult to imagine any major city in India more ideal than the peace-city Chandigarh, a model of outstanding modern urban planning with 51% of its area under green cover.

Chandigarh was designed by the famous Swiss-French architect Le Corbusier, who envisioned it as a symbol of modernity and harmony.

Chandigarh's beautiful gardens, bicycle paths, architecture, vast network of educational institutions and culture all contribute to a quality of life that is unbeatable anywhere else. Come and see Peace-city Chandigarh - a Utopia!

For more details about the city; <http://chandigarh.nic.in/>

### 03. Rationale and Relevance

Three defining challenges shape the contemporary youth landscape and underpin the thematic focus of GYPF 2026:

#### 3.1 Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

Despite decades of progress, gender-based discrimination, violence, and inequality remain pervasive realities for millions of young people across India and the globe. Women and girls continue to face barriers in education, health, economic opportunity, and participation in public life. The Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5) calls for gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls — a goal that requires not only policy change but a transformation in social attitudes and behaviours. GYPF 2026 will create a platform for young women to share their leadership journeys while actively engaging men and boys as allies for equality.

### 3.2 HIV/AIDS Awareness and the #BreakFree Initiative

India is home to approximately 2.4 million people living with HIV, yet stigma, discrimination, and lack of awareness continue to hinder prevention and treatment efforts. Young people between the ages of 15 and 24 account for a significant proportion of new infections globally. NACO's (National AIDS Control Organization) #BreakFree Initiative champions youth-led HIV awareness and prevention, working to end the silence and shame surrounding HIV/AIDS. GYPF 2026 will feature voluntary testing and counselling, testimonies from people living with HIV, and interactive campaigns that empower youth to make informed, responsible choices.

### 3.3 Living in Harmony with People and Nature

The climate crisis is not a distant future threat — it is the lived reality of young people today. From erratic monsoons and heatwaves to biodiversity loss and water scarcity, environmental degradation threatens every aspect of human wellbeing. Drawing inspiration from Mahatma Gandhi's philosophy of simple living and ecological balance, GYPF 2026 will inspire participants to adopt sustainable lifestyles, advocate for climate justice, and take practical actions for environmental restoration.

## 04. Theme and Focus Areas

GYPF 2026 will explore its central theme through three integrated focus areas:

#	Focus Area	Key Issues Addressed
1	Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment	Equal rights and opportunities; leadership by young women; engaging men and boys as allies; preventing gender-based violence and discrimination
2	HIV/AIDS Awareness & #BreakFree Initiative	Ending HIV stigma; youth-led prevention campaigns; HIV testing and counselling; stories of people living with HIV
3	Living in Harmony with People and Nature	Climate action; sustainable lifestyles; biodiversity conservation; Gandhian principles of ecological balance

## 05. Objectives

GYPF 2026 aims to:

- Provide a vibrant, inclusive, and action-oriented platform for youth from diverse backgrounds to learn, connect, and lead.
- Build awareness and deepen understanding of gender equality, HIV/AIDS prevention, and environmental sustainability.
- Inspire and equip young people to design and implement SDG-aligned community action projects.
- Forge lasting partnerships between educational institutions, government agencies, NGOs, UN bodies, and civil society.
- Produce the Chandigarh Youth Peace Declaration 2026 as a collective statement of intent and commitment.
- Recognize and celebrate youth-led innovation and activism through awards and public showcases.
- Promote the Gandhian values of non-violence, truth, equality, and service as guideposts for youth leadership.

## 06. Expected Participation

GYPF 2026 is designed to bring together a rich and diverse gathering of approximately 200–250 participants:

- Students from schools, colleges, and universities across Chandigarh, Punjab, Haryana, and partner states
- International youth delegates (in-person)
- Representatives from international non-profit organizations
- Government Officials
- Leaders from educational and health institutions
- Representatives of State AIDS Control bodies
- Social entrepreneurs, community leaders, environmental activists, and media professionals
- Artists, musicians, street theatre groups, and digital creators

## 07. Expected Outcomes

- 200–250 young people meaningfully engaged on gender equality, HIV prevention, and environmental sustainability
- Adoption and public release of the Chandigarh Youth Peace Declaration 2026
- 50+ youth-led action project concepts developed and committed to implementation
- Strengthened institutional networks connecting NGOs, universities, government, and international organizations
- HIV testing and counselling services accessed by participants; stigma-reduction conversations initiated
- Media coverage across print, broadcast, and digital platforms amplifying GYPF 2026 messages
- Post-event resource materials (proceedings, Declaration, digital stories) disseminated widely

## 08. SDG Alignment

GYPF 2026 directly contributes to the following Sustainable Development Goals:

SDG	Relevance to GYPF 2026
SDG 3 – Good Health & Well-Being	HIV/AIDS awareness, counselling, mental health, and healthy lifestyles
SDG 4 – Quality Education	Experiential learning, civic education, and youth leadership development
SDG 5 – Gender Equality	Mainstreaming gender equity, women's leadership, ending GBV
SDG 13 – Climate Action	Youth climate pledges, eco-friendly practices, sustainability education
SDG 15 – Life on Land	Tree plantation, biodiversity awareness, nature conservation
SDG 16 – Peace, Justice & Strong Institutions	Non-violence, interfaith harmony, civic engagement, youth democracy

SDG 17 – Partnerships for the Goals

Multi-stakeholder collaborations and youth-institution networks

## PART II: THREE-DAY PROGRAMME SCHEDULE

Venue: Chandigarh Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology-CIHM, Sector 42C, Chandigarh

<b>DAY 1 — Wednesday, September 30, 2026</b>			
Time	Session / Activity	Facilitator / Speaker	Venue
17.30– 20:00	Welcome Cultural Evening & dinner	Organizing Committee   Volunteers	CIHM

<b>DAY 2 — Thursday, October 1, 2026</b>			
Time	Session / Activity	Facilitator / Speaker	Venue
10:00 – 11:00	<b>INAUGURAL CEREMONY</b>   Welcome address by Yuvsatta; Lamp lighting; Release of GYPF 2026 brochure; Address by Chief Guest; Inaugural of Peace Exhibition	Chief Guest   Yuvsatta Leadership	Main Auditorium
11:00 – 11:15	<b>KEYNOTE ADDRESS:</b> 'Youth as Architects of a Just and Peaceful World'   Q&A (10 min)	Eminent Youth Leader / Social Reformer	Main Auditorium
11:15 – 11:45	Refreshment Break & Networking	—	Foyer
11:45 – 12:45	<b>PLENARY 1: Gender Equality</b> — Breaking Barriers, Building Bridges   Panel of young women leaders; Discussion on GBV, equal opportunities & men as allies; Audience Q&A	Youth Panellists	Main Auditorium
12:45 – 13:30	Lunch Break   Youth Marketplace Open   Digital Storytelling Booth Active	—	Dining Hall / Lawns
13:30 – 14:45	<b>YOUTH DIALOGUE: HIV Awareness &amp; Ending Stigma</b>   #BreakFree Initiative launch; Testimonies from PLHIV; Youth-led prevention campaign showcase; Voluntary testing info desk	CSACS / Yuvsatta #BreakFree Team	Main Auditorium
14:45 – 16:15	<b>INTERACTIVE WORKSHOPS</b> (Parallel Breakout Sessions): WS-1: She Leads — Women's Leadership Skills WS-2: Know Your Status — HIV Facts & Myths WS-3: Climate Justice — Youth Action Planning WS-4: Digital Activism for Social Change	Workshop Facilitators	Breakout Rooms 1–4
16:15 – 16:30	Tea Break	—	Foyer
16:30 – 17:30	<b>YOUTH INNOVATION SHOWCASE</b>   10 youth projects presented (3 min each); Audience votes for People's Choice Award	Youth Delegates   Jury Panel	Main Auditorium
Addendum	Voluntary HIV Testing & Counselling Camp   Peace Wall & Pledge Corner Active	CSACS Team	Designated Tent
<b>PART B</b> 09:00 – 01:30	<b>INTER-SCHOOL SDGs YOUTH PARLIAMENT</b>   Delegates represent different SDGs; Structured debate: 'What must youth do NOW to achieve the SDGs by 2030?'; Passing of youth resolutions	School Youth Parliamentarians   Moderator	Mini Auditorium

**DAY 3 — Friday, October 2, 2026 | Gandhi Jayanti —  
Birth Anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi & International Day of Nonviolence**

Time	Session / Activity	Facilitator / Speaker	Venue
06:30 – 07:30	<b>NATURE RESTORATION INITIATIVE</b>   Tree plantation at CIHM 42; Clean-up of nearby Mini Lake	Environment Team   Local Authority	CIHM 42 & Mini Lake
08:30 – 09:00	Breakfast & Networking	—	Dining Area
09:30 – 11:00	<b>PRESENTATION OF YOUTH ACTION PLANS</b>   Selected groups present 90-day community action plans; Expert feedback and peer review	Youth Delegates   Expert Panel	Main Auditorium
11:00 – 11:30	<b>CHANDIGARH YOUTH PEACE DECLARATION 2026</b>   Reading of the draft Declaration; Open floor amendments; Collective signing and adoption	All Participants   Declaration Committee	Main Auditorium
11:30 – 12:15	<b>AWARDS &amp; RECOGNITION CEREMONY</b>   Competition winners announced; Outstanding Youth Leader Awards; Partner organization recognition; Media awards	Chief Guest   Jury   Yuvsatta	Main Auditorium
12:15 – 01:30	<b>VALEDICTORY SESSION</b>   Reflections from youth delegates; Message from outgoing GYPF President; Vote of Thanks; GYPF 2027 preview announcement	Yuvsatta Leadership   Youth Representatives	Main Auditorium
01:30 – 02:00	Group Photo   Mementos   Farewell Networking	All Participants	Main Steps / Lawns

## PART III: THE 4th INTER-SCHOOL SDGs YOUTH PARLIAMENT TROPHY

### BACKGROUND

In 2015, all United Nations Member States adopted the **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**, a global blueprint for peace, prosperity, and environmental sustainability. At its core are the **17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**, which call upon governments, institutions, communities, and individuals to work together to end poverty, reduce inequalities, improve health and education, promote gender equality, protect the environment, and build peaceful, inclusive societies.

Achieving these goals requires the active participation of young people, who are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also powerful changemakers today.

### ABOUT THE SDGs YOUTH PARLIAMENT

With over **1.8 billion young people worldwide**, this generation represents the largest youth population in human history. Young people are increasingly leading innovative solutions to social, environmental, and developmental challenges. Their creativity, energy, and commitment are essential to advancing the Sustainable Development Goals and creating a more just, peaceful, and sustainable world.

The **Inter-School SDGs Youth Parliament Trophy** provides a platform for school students to identify challenges within their communities, design practical solutions aligned with the SDGs, and showcase their impact before a national and international audience during the 19th Global Youth Peace Fest (GYPF 2026).

The initiative encourages experiential learning, leadership development, teamwork, civic engagement, and youth-led action for sustainable development.

### WHO CAN PARTICIPATE?

Schools from India and across the world are invited to participate.

### THE 7-STEP PARTICIPATION PROCESS

**Step 1:** Form a team of 4–6 students along with a mentor teacher.

**Step 2:** Select one or more of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that address a challenge relevant to your school or community.

**Step 3:** Design and develop a project, campaign, innovation, awareness drive, research initiative, or community action programme around the chosen SDG(s).

**Step 4:** Submit a 250-word project concept note to the organizers at [info@volunteeratyuvsatta.in](mailto:info@volunteeratyuvsatta.in) by August 31, 2026.

**Step 5:** Implement the project on the ground for a minimum of 20–30 days, documenting activities, outcomes, and lessons learned.

**Step 6:** Prepare a 3-4 minute presentation (PowerPoint, video, or other creative format) highlighting:

- The challenge identified
- SDG(s) addressed
- Actions taken

- Community impact
- Learning outcomes
- Future plans

Selected teams will present their projects during the 19th Global Youth Peace Fest 2026, to be held in Chandigarh, India, on October 1–2, 2026.

**Step 7:** A distinguished jury will evaluate the presentations based on innovation, impact, sustainability, teamwork, and alignment with the SDGs.

## **AWARDS & RECOGNITION**

Winning teams will receive:

- **The 4th Inter-School SDGs Youth Parliament Trophy**
- Certificates of Merit and Participation
- Opportunities for networking with youth leaders, educators, policymakers, and social innovators
- Visibility for outstanding projects through Yuvsatta's national and international platforms
- Opportunities for mentorship and support to scale impactful initiatives

## **IMPORTANT NOTE**

Schools may submit **new or ongoing projects** that demonstrate meaningful action and measurable impact related to one or more Sustainable Development Goals.

**"Think Globally, Act Locally, and Lead Sustainably."**

Join the 19th Global Youth Peace Fest 2026 and become a Young Champion for the Sustainable Development Goals.

## PART IV: REGISTRATION, HISTORY & ORGANIZERS

Participant registration fees have been kept accessible to encourage broad participation:

Category	Cost per Person	Sharing Type
Standard Registration	USD 200	Twin Sharing
Single Occupancy	USD 400	Single Room
REGISTRATION FEE COVERS		
Airport pickup and drop (Chandigarh)	Two nights comfortable accommodation	
All three daily meals	Local travel as per programme	
Participation Certificate	GYPF 2026 Souvenir	

### GYPF SIGNIFICANT MOMENTS

- 2000-2010:** UNESCO declared 1st Decade of 21st Century as Decade for Promotion of Culture of Peace & Nonviolence.
- 2000 :** International Conference on theme of 'Millennium Without Violence'.
- 2001 :** International Conference on theme of 'Need for Afro-Asian Dialogue'.
- 2004 :** 32 Peace Clubs started in Peace-city Chandigarh.
- 2006 :** 1st India-Pakistan Youth Peace Camp. Participation of 14 young students from Pakistan
- 2009 :** 4th International Youth Peace Fest-IYPF 2009. 200 Young delegates from 9 countries participated
- 2012 :** 7th International Youth Peace Fest-IYPF **2012:** 250 Young people from 16 countries participated
- International Youth Exchange Programmes launched
- 2014 :** 9th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF 2014  
300 Young people from 20 countries participated  
Institution of annual Global Youth ICON Awards
- 2015 :** 10th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF 2015  
250 Young people from 24 countries participated.  
Global Youth Peace Forum launched
- 2016 :** 11th Global Youth Peace Fest –GYPF 2016  
250 Young people from 33 countries participated
- 2017 :** 12th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF 2017  
200 young leaders from 25 countries participated
- 2018 :** 13th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF 2018  
200 young leaders & activists from 25 countries participated
- 2019 :** 14th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF 2019  
250 young leaders & change makers from 23 countries participated
- 2022 :** 15th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF 2022, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia  
200 young leaders & change makers from 12 countries participated  
Launch of Global Peace Bridge & Afro-Asian Forum 4 Change
- 2023 :** 16th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF2023, Colombo, Sri Lanka  
200 young leaders & change makers from 15 countries participated
- 2024 :** 17th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF2024, Chandigarh, India.

**2025 :** 200 young leaders & change makers from 12 countries participated  
18th Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF2025, Chandigarh, India.  
200 young leaders & change makers from 06 countries participated

## MAIN ORGANIZER

YUVSATTA (YOUTH FOR PEACE), INDIA: Since 1990, Yuvsatta (youth for peace), an NGO, is working in a variety of areas to steer the young people towards implementing Gandhian ideals of Constructive Programme based on voluntary effort and individual & community action. They envision a world where all people are respected equally, protected fully and realized universally. There are capable young leaders in every community who can become catalysts or 'Agents of Change', bringing them together and inspire transformative change is the mission of the annual Global Youth Peace Fest-GYPF of Yuvsatta (youth for peace).

<https://www.yuvsatta.org/>

## PARTNERSHIPS

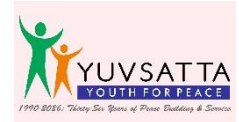
The GYPF 2026 organizers are also interested to work closely with State Institutions, Private Companies, INGOs, Universities and NGOs and will be happy to discuss any further mutual partnership possibilities. Please feel free to send your queries or suggestions in this regard at [info@volunteeratyuvsatta.in](mailto:info@volunteeratyuvsatta.in)

## SUPPORTED BY

- Chandigarh Institute of Hotel Management & Catering Technology-CIHM, Chandigarh, India
- Chitkara University, Punjab-Himachal Pradesh
- Chandigarh State AIDS Control Organization-CSACS
- Dr. Ambedkar Institute of Hotel Management, Catering & Nutrition, Chandigarh, India
- Helen Woodward Animal Center, CA, USA
- International Youth Centre, KL, Malaysia
- International Youth Society-IYS, Nepal
- Jai Jagat International
- Let Her In International, Spain
- National Youth Council-NYC, Mauritius
- SociopreneurID, Indonesia
- World Youth Assembly-WAY, Malaysia
- YUVA, Mauritius

| \* **Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam : वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम्** |

(\*A Sanskrit Phrase which means "the world is one family")



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