



**Head Office**  
**Youth of India Foundation**

Hotel Lemon Tree Building, 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Sevoke Road, Siliguri,  
West Bengal - 734008  
+91 78660 03362  
youthofindia.org.in  
info@youthofindia.org.in

**Registered Office**  
**Youth of India Foundation**

R-35, B/2 1<sup>st</sup> Floor,  
Pul Pehladpur, New Delhi-110044  
+91 78660 03362  
youthofindia.org.in  
info@youthofindia.org.in

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**Sailesh Singhal**  
Founder,  
Youth of India  
Foundation

# Message from the Founder

It is with absolute pleasure that I introduce to you the Youth of India Awards, a Youth of India Foundation initiative, that was born from our own lived experiences and untold stories. The goal is simple - to recognize the Unsung Champions of our society, the individuals who, through their silent yet profound contributions, craft tangible impact in communities to Engage, Empower, and Evolve them.

Bharat nurtures countless young people with dreams in her streets, countless youth-led organizations that work tirelessly round the clock to create lasting change, and it is just the unfortunate truth that more often than not, their efforts remain nameless & unrecognized. Yol Awards is a celebration of our dreamers and do-ers, whether in the fields of Education, Health, Environment, or Social Justice, that embody the true spirit of our nation. It is now our responsibility to acknowledge their contributions while also expanding their horizons through collective effort, for it is through them that Bharat enjoys a grand space on the global podium.

At the heart of the Youth of India Awards lies the Foundational belief that my father taught me - "NO" is not the end, but a New Opportunity. It has inspired me for the last decade, and continues to do so, which is why I would like to take it further, inspiring generations of changemakers and leaders to come, to remind them that failure is never the final word, but an invitation to build something even more impactful. Every "no" they hear opens the door to a "yes" that pushes them further in their pursuit of change, and this then becomes an amalgamation of stories so worth telling.

With the vision that Youth of India Awards serves as not only a fleeting moment of recognition but a solid reminder that the power to change the world lies in each one of us, I call all of you to join us in creating a legacy- a future that celebrates opportunity, hope, and unwavering commitment to the greater good. We, at the Youth of India Foundation, thank you for being an irreplaceable part of our story, and look forward to the change we will inspire, together.

# What are the Youth of India Awards

The Youth of India Awards, a Youth of India Foundation initiative, are designed to recognize and celebrate unsung individuals and organizations that have made significant contributions to Socio-Economic Development and Sustainability across the nation, contributing to the New, Viksit Bharat by 2047. In celebrating our Changemakers, our mission - to inspire the future generations to take power-packed actions to create a society where "One for all, All for One" is the norm - is fulfilled.

The Awards align perfectly with the United Nations' SDGs with a focus on SDG 17 - Partnerships for the Goals- calling for the urgent need for Environmental, Social, and Economic action, to be felt across the nation, while positioning the YOUth as key drivers of these global goals. A celebration of Innovation and Collaboration, we aim to honor projects and actions that lead to measurable impact and a creation of opportunities. Through this, we build a network of like-minded changemakers who can indulge in knowledge-sharing to amplify collective impact while simultaneously emphasizing on



purpose-driven engagement, motivating youth to align their personal and professional goals with the larger objective of lasting societal change. All the way onwards and upwards for the Greater Good!

## At a glance - Purpose and Objectives:

### To Recognize:

Celebrate the achievements of individuals and CSOs who have made substantial contributions to societal improvement and community service.

### To Inspire:

Motivate continued dedication and excellence in community development and social impact initiatives.

### To Connect :

Build stronger networks and partnerships among stakeholders, institutions, and the wider community.

# Why the Youth of India Awards



An initiative that brings together influential leaders, youth advocates, and global dignitaries, the Youth of India Awards highlights the importance of Empowering the next generation to move up with a purpose and create a lasting, positive legacy for the society with their Engagements. In alignment with the Government of India's vision of creating a Self Reliant, and socially-conscious youth population that drives the nation's growth through initiatives like "Atma Nirbhar Bharat" and "Skill India," we directly contribute to this vision by recognizing and encouraging youth leaders who embody these values, thus propelling Bharat towards holistic and inclusive development.

# Expected Outcomes from Yol Awards Initiative



## Who will Select the Yol Awardees?

A Jury will be formed of the experts - the Yol Awards Jury - from the diverse fields of academics, change-makers, United Nations professionals, corporate leaders, journalists and others, who will carefully review all the submissions, after which **14 individuals and 4 organizations** will be selected for the given year for the Yol Awards based on their contributions, impact, commitment, struggles and any other criteria the jury would seem fit.

All the 18 Awardees will be communicated at the contact details provided in the application.



# Benefits of the Youth of India Awards

## Monetary Support

Yol Awards offers monetary support for its awardees to continue solidifying their impact and expand their scale of operations, while at the same time reaching a wider audience.

## Mentorship

Awardees will receive a comprehensive, free one-year mentorship program from the Youth of India Foundation. This mentorship will be tailored to enhance their skills in strategic resource allocation, effective documentation, and robust impact measurement, among other important strategies that lead to optimization of both resources and impact.

## Social Upliftment

The Awards are an esteemed affair with influential social-development sector changemakers coming together to celebrate innovation, recognize excellence, and drive social change by rewarding those who are making a difference.

## Visibility

By recognizing and honoring outstanding social impact initiatives, the visibility of the Awardees is increased, as they come in touch with partners, media outlets, and even potential donors and philanthropists. This increased visibility provides a unique opportunity for them to connect with a wider audience and secure additional support.

## Recognition and Support

The selected 18 Awardees will receive comprehensive support, including food, travel, and accommodation, as a heartfelt gesture of gratitude from the Foundation's esteemed supporters and donors.

# Are you **Eligible** for the **Youth of India Awards?**

If you're anywhere between 18-35 years of age, or your Organization's been creating smiles for at least 3 years during the time of the application/nomination, you're eligible for the Youth of India Awards!

Here's where you can apply or nominate your favorite changemakers for the Yol Awards:

<https://youthofindia.org.in/yoi-awards>

## Recognized to Recognize: The Journey of Giving Back



Recognised by the Prime Minister of Australia



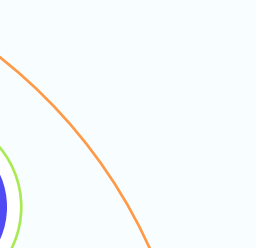
Young Kalam Purashkar in IIT Hyderabad



Recognised by Amma & Sri M



In Chicago with the USA Senators



20 India Summit 2023