

INDIAN JOURNAL OF NATURAL SCIENCES (IJONS)
BIMONTHLY INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL

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Published by
TAMILNADU SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH ORGANISATION

39,MURA BHAVAN,KOODAL NAGAR,RAJAGOPALAPURAM POST,
PUDUKKOTTAI, TAMIL NADU, INDIA.

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Indian Journal of Natural Sciences (IJONS)

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Editor Message



On 17 December 1999, in its resolution 54/120, the United Nations General Assembly endorsed the recommendation made by the

World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth (Lisbon, 8-12 August 1998) that 12 August be declared International Youth Day. The Assembly recommended that public information activities be organized to support the Day as a way to promote better awareness of the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in 1996 (resolution 50/81). Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security represents an unprecedented acknowledgement of the urgent need to engage young peace builders in promoting peace and countering extremism, and clearly positions youth as important partners in the global efforts.

The UNESCO Youth Programme emphasizes in its work that youth are not just beneficiaries, but they are essential leaders and partners in finding solutions to the issues faced by young people in the world today. They must be fully engaged in social development themselves and supported in this work by their societies. In line with its Operational Strategy on Youth 2014-2021, the UNESCO Youth Programme works to create an enabling environment in which this goal can be achieved, by bringing youth voices to the fore and encouraging young people to take action. The theme of International Youth Day 2020, "Youth Engagement for Global Action" seeks to highlight the ways in which the engagement of young people at the local, national and global levels is enriching national and multilateral institutions and processes, as well as draw lessons on how their representation and engagement in formal institutional politics can be significantly enhanced.

In this day occasion the UN secretary general António Guterres has given a message "This year's Youth Day occurs as the lives and aspirations of young people continue to be upended by the COVID-19 pandemic. Some have lost their lives, and many have seen family members and other loved ones perish" Also Mr. Tijjani Muhammad-Bande General Assembly President has been stated his message that "Young people are the trail-blazers of progress. As entrepreneurs, activists and community leaders, you not only inspire change – you create it. In the era of COVID-19 and the long-lasting social and economic negative effects it has on youth - and with only 10 years left to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals - your vision and commitment are paramount to creating a more sustainable and inclusive world".

The 1.2 billion young people living worldwide are both rights bearers and active agents in the realization of our universal human rights. It is your right, and our global responsibility, to ensure that people everywhere have access to just and equitable opportunities to fulfil their rights and aspirations. The potential for humanity to create a peaceful, prosperous future will not be reached as long as inequities and discrimination against youth remain commonplace, and young people lack opportunities to have their voices heard. On behalf of IJONS we wish and congratulate all of the young people who are in development works for the nation and by the nation.

Vijikumar Sahadevan
IJONS

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