



सत्यमेव जयते

युवा कार्यक्रम एवं खेल मंत्रालय

# DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH AFFAIRS

## **National Youth Policy 2025 (DRAFT)**

**Government of India**

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*“The power of youth is the common wealth for the entire world.” - Swami Vivekananda*

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 India's Youth & Civilisational Foundation

India stands at a historic inflection point, and with 346 million young people projected by 2036, the nation holds one of the largest reservoirs of youth potential in the world. For thousands of years, our civilisation has recognised youth not just as a demographic segment, but as the bearers of courage, creativity, and moral strength. The Upanishads portray the young mind as dynamic and evolving, capable of rising to higher ideals through discipline, knowledge, and service. When nurtured with the right opportunities, India's youth become our greatest collective asset in realising the vision of **Viksit Bharat @ 2047**.

Indian philosophical tradition places the young at the heart of nation-building, guided by the Vedic ideal:

*“Sangachhadhwam samvadadhwam sam vo manamsi janatam” — “Let us move together, let us speak in one voice, let our minds be in harmony”*

This spirit of collective purpose continues to strengthen India's social fabric today. The ethos of ‘*seva*’, deeply embedded in our cultural and spiritual heritage, has evolved into one of the world's most vibrant ecosystems of volunteerism. India is home to one of the largest networks of voluntary organisations, strengthened further by the rise of modern volunteerism and youth-led community action.

The Constitution of India, through the Fundamental Duties and Directive Principles, reinforces this ancient commitment to service, civic responsibility, and social harmony. Aligned with these constitutional and civilisational values, the *National Youth Policy, 2025* seeks to empower young citizens as the moral, social, and economic drivers of India's future.

Echoing this vision, the Hon'ble Prime Minister emphasises upon the transformative energy of India's youth. At the National Youth Festival 2024, he proclaimed:

*“युवाओं का सामर्थ्य देश को नई ऊँचाइयों पर ले जाएगा, और उनका परिश्रम, युवा भारत का परचम विश्व में लहराएगा”* (The strength of youth will take India to new heights and hoist the flag of young India across the world.)

The NYP 2025 envisages a roadmap to Viksit Bharat 2047, a national vision that will be realised through two foundational pillars:

- *Jan Bhagidari* (People's Participation) and
- *Atmanirbhar Bharat* (Self-Reliant India).

NYP-2025 places youth aged **15–29 years** at the centre of this national mission. It blends timeless Indian wisdom with modern aspirations, ensuring that every young person is supported by quality education, future ready skills, and a strong sense of cultural rootedness. This will enable the youth to become an active contributor to a competitive, cohesive, and spiritually grounded India.

## **1.2 Present Context and Need for Policy Reform**

The *National Youth Policy, 2025* emerges at a transformative juncture in India's socio-economic trajectory. Earlier policies (1988, 2003, 2014) responded to the needs of their times, focusing on education, employability, national unity, and inclusion. Today's reality demands a more future-ready, technology-enabled, and aspirational framework – one that recognises young people not as recipients but as leaders, innovators, and problem-solvers shaping India's progress.

The Hon'ble Prime Minister has underscored this aspiration, noting ***"The youth of my country do not intend to move slowly now. They do not believe in incremental progress. Instead, they are in the mood to take leaps, to achieve new milestones by making bold strides."*** NYP 2025 reflects this spirit by aligning youth aspirations with India's journey through **Amrit Kaal**, a period shaped by rapid digital expansion, green and knowledge driven growth, and a renewed commitment to innovation, while remaining firmly rooted in India's civilisational ethos.

The current generation of youth is marked by unique exposure, heightened aspirations, and an untapped potential to shape change. They are digitally connected, socially aware, globally exposed, entrepreneurial in mindset, and deeply engaged with issues such as climate change, gender equity, mental health and inclusive growth. Harnessing this potential requires a policy that channels their agency toward national priorities.

Building on the strong foundation of the National Youth Policy, 2014, the NYP-2025 shifts from programme-centric development to creating a youth-driven ecosystem that encourages

leadership, provides access to opportunities, and ensures meaningful participation. The policy thus reinstates youth of India as central to the national development, as they are the rightful co-creators and catalysts of national transformation.

Guided by *Sabka Saath, Sabka Vikas, Sabka Vishwas*, the NYP-2025 deepens youth engagement, fosters social cohesion, and cultivates a sense of *seva bhav* (spirit of service) and *kartavya bodh* (sense of duty) among young citizens.

## 2. Vision, Objectives & Mission

### 2.1 Vision

The *National Youth Policy, 2025* envisions an India where every young person is empowered, healthy, skilled, socially responsible, and actively contributes to the nation's development.

The vision put forth by the National Youth Policy, 2025 is:



***“To synergize the hopes and aspirations of India’s youth with its development imperatives, enabling harmonious societal growth and harnessing youth energy for inclusive development, responsible governance, and the realisation of Viksit Bharat by 2047.”***

This vision positions the youth not as passive participants, but as drivers of a confident, socially-responsible, innovative, and future-ready India.

### 2.2 Core Objectives of NYP-2025

1. Cultivate youth leadership that strengthens social action, community participation and social harmony.
2. Enable access to quality education and future-ready skills, building a productive workforce for Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

3. Foster entrepreneurship and innovation, nurturing creativity, risk-taking, and enterprise development.
4. Promote holistic health and well-being, empowering youth with resilience and a positive outlook.
5. Enhance participation in sports and recreation for physical, mental, and social development.
6. Develop environmentally conscious youth who lead climate action and build sustainable communities.

### 2.3 Mission and Focus Areas

NYP-2025 translates its vision into action through six youth-centric focus areas. Each focus area provides a broad direction which align with the core objectives and facilitates youth engagement:



Figure 2.3 Focus Areas of NYP, 2025

The implementation of these focus areas is grounded in the principles of social justice and inclusion, ensuring that every young person – regardless of gender, ability, geography, or socio-

economic background – can participate fully in India’s development journey towards Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

Anchored in the constitutional mandates of Article 14 and Article 16, the NYP-2025 affirms non-discrimination and equity. It emphasises gender justice, inclusive opportunities for *Divyangjan*, and targeted support for SC, ST, rural youth, economically weaker sections, and those in geographically remote regions.

By bridging rural–urban divides and empowering underserved groups, the policy ensures that India’s progress is collective, equitable, and reflective of our constitutional values.

### 3. Focus Areas of NYP-2025

#### 3.1 Education, Skilling and Employment

Education encompasses a broad spectrum of learning pathways – including formal learning, vocational and technical training, and diverse forms of informal and experiential learning. Together, these equip young people with strong foundational knowledge, workplace competencies, and the practical skills required for a rapidly evolving world of work.

However, technology, automation and globalisation are reshaping the nature of learning and employment. Traditional education alone cannot secure meaningful work. Young people need adaptable skills, the ability to think critically, and regular exposure to industry environments to bridge the gap between learning outcomes and labour market needs. This gap is evident in the youth unemployment rate (10.2%, PLFS 2023–24) and in the fact that many graduates still lack the skills needed for a modern, innovation driven economy (Economic Survey 2023–24). Young job seekers also constitute a significant share of India’s unemployed workforce, reflecting the need for stronger alignment between education, skilling, and labour market demands.

To address these challenges, the Government has initiated major reforms such as **the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020**, the National Skills Qualification Framework (NSQF), the **PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana (PMKVY)** skill development ecosystem, National Credit Framework (NCrF), and the Skill India Mission. In alignment with these efforts, the National Youth Policy 2025 focuses on strengthening foundational learning, promoting value-based education, and cultivating creativity, critical thinking and civic awareness.



The policy seeks to deepen the integration between education and the professional fields through experiential learning and industry aligned training. It also promotes digital literacy initiatives to reduce the digital divide in rural and remote areas ensuring every young person can confidently navigate and participate in an increasingly technology-driven economy. It promotes demand driven skilling and aims to expand access to emerging areas such as artificial intelligence, data science and robotics, ensuring that young people from all backgrounds can participate in these opportunities to develop labour-market relevant skills and improve their employability. Furthermore, to reduce gender disparities in education, young women will be encouraged to pursue STEM fields.

NYP 2025 will support pathways to first time employment by enhancing access to industry relevant skills and prioritising women, *Divyangjan* and youth from socio economically weaker sections. Career guidance, counselling and mentorship will be central to supporting young people as they move from learning environments into the professional world, ensuring a smoother transition toward productive work and improved employability.

Supporting local youth employment is essential for inclusive and balanced economic growth. By enabling access to hyperlocal opportunities through youth-led peer networks, the policy seeks to enhance local talent, ease migration pressures, and strengthen local economies. Experiential learning will further encourage small enterprises, expand livelihood options, and help reimagine agriculture as a modern, technology enabled sector.

To ensure that young workers in the informal sector and the gig economy receive essential social benefits, the policy will align with national efforts to strengthen social protection mechanisms for these groups.

Through these measures, the policy aims to expand youth participation in skill development initiatives and enable access to gainful employment, ensuring that young citizens become confident, skilled, and self-reliant contributors to India's economic transformation.

### **3.2 Entrepreneurship and Innovation**

India's rapidly expanding start-up ecosystem reflects the nation's growing spirit of innovation and enterprise, positioning it among the most dynamic innovation hubs in the world. To sustain this momentum, India must strengthen its Research and Development (R&D) base, as current R&D expenditure remains around 0.7 percent of GDP. Recognizing this need, the government

has announced the *Trillion Rupee Research Development and Innovation fund* to accelerate knowledge creation and deepen the national innovation ecosystem.

NYP 2025 aims to cultivate entrepreneurial thinking among youth by promoting creativity, problem solving skills and early exposure to innovation platforms such as incubation centres and intellectual property systems. The policy will encourage youth-led enterprise in emerging sectors including green industries, digital services, artificial intelligence, robotics, healthcare, tourism, logistics and manufacturing.

To widen participation, the policy promotes expanded mentorship, stronger linkages between academia, industry, and startups, and targeted inclusion of women, Divyangjan and youth from marginalized communities, consistent with national initiatives like Standup India. It places special emphasis on advancing women's entrepreneurship by expanding awareness about financial incentives, enabling women innovators to build and scale sustainable enterprises. It also supports social entrepreneurship as a pathway for youth to address local challenges and drive community development.

Overall, the policy seeks to nurture a generation of resilient job creators who can contribute meaningfully to India's journey towards self-reliance and Viksit Bharat @ 2047.

### 3.3 Health and Wellbeing

A healthy youth population is vital to India's long term productivity, national growth, and social cohesion. Health goes beyond physical fitness; it is holistic wellbeing. It includes mental resilience, emotional balance, and lifelong habits that enable young people to participate fully in society. Today, poor nutrition, sedentary lifestyles, and high stress levels threaten this potential and risk diluting the strength of our demographic dividend.

The Government has initiated major campaigns such as **Eat Right India** and the **Fit India Movement** to build healthier habits through balanced nutrition, physical activity, and preventive care practices. Building on this momentum, NYP 2025 will strengthen awareness on nutrition and fitness, expand preventive health measures, and promote yoga, meditation and mindfulness practices rooted in India's civilisational heritage.

To widen access to mental health support, the policy will encourage awareness on government initiatives such as *Tele-MANAS*, and strengthen community-based systems that make mental

healthcare accessible and stigma free. Addressing substance abuse will remain a priority through early intervention, youth led peer support, community rehabilitation and nationwide campaigns under **Nasha Mukta Yuva Bharat**, in partnership with spiritual and community organisations.

The policy also supports comprehensive sexual and reproductive health education, including awareness on safe practices, menstrual health and gender sensitive counselling through collaborative inter-ministerial efforts.

Structured physical activity initiatives, such as **Sundays on Cycle**, the **Common Yoga Protocol**, and **AYUSH** led fitness programmes, will be scaled through community engagement. By fostering active living, mental wellness, and preventive healthcare, NYP 2025 seeks to build a healthy, resilient and future ready generation that can drive India's development and strengthen national wellbeing.

### **3.4 Sports and Recreation**

Sports and recreation play a central role in holistic youth development by promoting physical fitness, emotional balance, creativity, and social cohesion. They include physical and traditional sports, cultural and artistic expressions like music, performing and visual arts, cinema, and an expanding range of digital activities that shape how young people learn, interact, and build communities.

Recognising the growing influence of digital media and changing youth lifestyles, the policy promotes meaningful avenues for self-expression and community engagement across both physical and digital spaces. Sports will be strengthened in alignment with the National Sports Policy 2025, with a focus on physical education in schools, talent identification, and improved access for young women, rural youth, and Divyangjan through community sports initiatives and youth clubs.

Recreation, both cultural and digital, significantly shapes youth identity and aspirations. The policy will therefore promote media literacy, critical thinking, and safe online behaviour to help youth navigate digital platforms responsibly. To support the rising **Creator Economy**, youth will be encouraged to develop digital and creative skills and explore digital entrepreneurship opportunities.

With the increasing reach of podcasts, online gaming, e-sports and other digital pursuits, the policy encourages cyber hygiene practices, balanced digital engagement and strong norms for cyber safety. Digital well-being must accompany digital participation. To complement the digital ecosystem, the policy stresses the need for inclusive offline spaces such as community playgrounds, youth centres, and accessible sports facilities.

By advancing equitable access to sports, cultural expression and safe digital spaces, NYP-2025 aims to empower young people to pursue their passions, strengthen community bonds, and explore emerging opportunities for personal and professional growth.

### **3.5 Volunteerism and Youth Leadership**

Volunteerism offers young people a pathway for self-development and self-realisation. Through meaningful service, youth discover their abilities, build leadership, and contribute to stronger and more resilient communities. These collective efforts strengthen social cohesion and support India's vision of inclusive and sustainable development.

NYP 2025 seeks to expand structured avenues for youth participation by mainstreaming volunteer engagement through national platforms such as NSS and Mera Yuva Bharat. Exposure to real world challenges will nurture responsible, skilled, and community oriented young citizens. The policy will also institutionalise recognition mechanisms to acknowledge volunteer contributions.

By fostering a culture of service and leadership, NYP 2025 aims to identify and support one lakh young people, especially from marginalised backgrounds, to step into leadership roles. These pathways will empower youth to drive local change and contribute meaningfully to national priorities.

### **3.6 Environment and Climate Action**

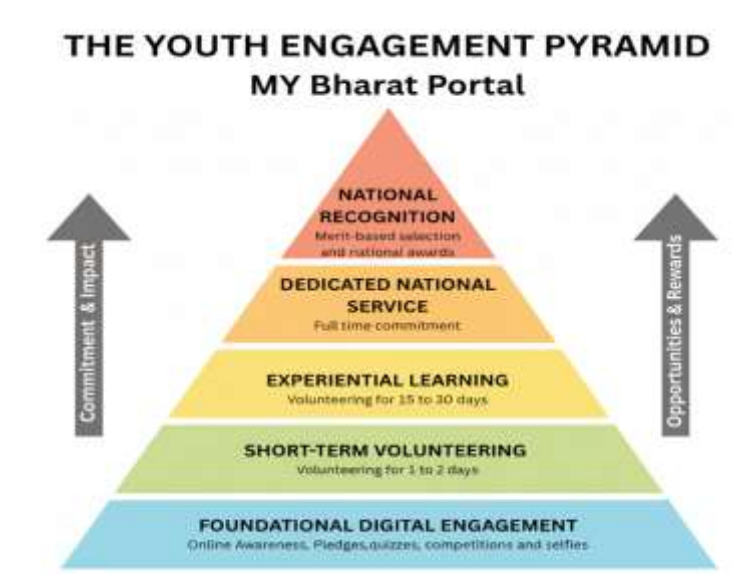
Climate resilience and environmental responsibility are central to India's long-term sustainability and the future of its young population. This focus area spans environmental education, green skilling, community conservation, and the adoption of sustainable lifestyles. As climate challenges intensify, it is vital to cultivate young citizens who are not only climate aware but climate active.

The Government has already laid strong foundations through the National Action Plan on Climate Change (NAPCC) and Mission LiFE, which calls for a global shift from mindless consumption to mindful utilisation. It encourages youth to become *Pro-Planet People* and lead environmentally conscious behaviour.

Building on this vision, **NYP-2025** will integrate climate literacy and environmental education across youth engagement platforms. It will expand structured opportunities in conservation, afforestation, and awareness campaigns, enabling young people to contribute directly to national climate goals. It will also promote the principles of a circular economy by encouraging youth to participate in sustainable consumption practices such as waste reduction, reuse and recycling helping create environmentally responsible communities. By fostering a deep sense of responsibility towards *Prakriti* (Nature), the policy aims to nurture a generation of green leaders committed to building a sustainable and resilient India.

#### 4. The Youth Engagement Pyramid

To bring the vision of the policy to fruition and enable youth development, this policy proposes a **Youth Engagement Pyramid**. The Youth Engagement Pyramid provides a clear pathway for young people to move from broad digital awareness to meaningful community participation and national leadership. By using a structured, progressive model supported by a recognition system, the pyramid transforms the traditional ethos of *seva* into an actionable framework that motivates sustained youth engagement and measurable impact.



**India's Youth Driving Viksit Bharat: Engage, Serve & Lead**

Figure 4. Youth Engagement Pyramid

#### **4.1 Personal Youth Engagement Score (PYES)**

The Personal Youth Engagement Score (PYES) operationalises the pyramid. Each registered youth on the MY Bharat portal receives a dynamic score that reflects their participation, contributions, and growth. PYES motivates continuous engagement, offers recognition, creates merit-based pathways, and enables youth to track their own development.

#### **4.2 National Youth Engagement and Development Index**

To promote cooperative progress in youth development, the policy introduces the **National Youth Engagement and Development Index (YEDI)**. This dynamic index will benchmark the performance of States, Union Territories, Districts, and local bodies while assessing the vibrancy, and social commitment and development of youth nationwide. YEDI will highlight successes, enable cross-learning, and guide targeted support across all levels of governance.

### **5. Implementation Framework**

The Implementation Framework defines the key institutions, systems and programmes that will translate the policy’s vision into action. It outlines the structures that support youth engagement, including outreach, participation and skill development across all levels of the Youth Engagement Pyramid. Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) will serve as the central implementation platform, mobilising its institutional and community networks to deliver, coordinate and scale youth development initiatives nationwide.

#### **5.1 Digital Infrastructure — MY Bharat Portal**

The Hon’ble Prime Minister launched the **Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat)** portal to empower young citizens through meaningful and seamless engagement. MY Bharat functions as a “phygital” platform that integrates digital access with on-ground opportunities in volunteerism, experiential learning, and community development, creating an inclusive ecosystem for youth across India. Through this platform, government ministries, academic institutions, and civil society partners collectively offer opportunities to youth across the country, reinforcing the spirit of *Jan Bhagidari* (people’s participation).

With more than 20 million registered youth, MY Bharat has evolved into a nationwide movement that channels the collective energy of young people toward the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047 in the Amrit Kaal. By leveraging technology, the portal democratizes

access to opportunities, ensuring that youth from all regions and backgrounds can participate and benefit.

As India's Digital Infrastructure for Youth Engagement and Development, the MY Bharat portal provides a unified, secure, and interactive environment that connects young people with mentors, institutions, and community initiatives. It aims to ensure that every youth engagement activity in the country is created or recorded on the platform and carries a corresponding digital signature, establishing a transparent, scalable, and future-ready system for youth development. The upcoming MY Bharat 2.0 will be AI enabled to help youth create their resumes and match them with relevant career opportunities through integration with appropriate portals acting as a holistic Youth Representation and Empowerment Framework.

**a. Experiential Learning (learning by doing)**

Preparing future-ready youth with 21st century skills requires approaches that extend beyond conventional classroom learning. Direct engagement with real world challenges strengthens critical thinking, collaboration and creativity. Experiential learning bridges academic knowledge with practical application, helping young people explore career pathways, build professional competencies and align their interests with purposeful work.

Educational institutions, enterprises and civil society organisations can co-create structured programmes that offer meaningful exposure across sectors, enabling youth to translate theory into action while deepening their understanding of governance, industry and community development. To advance this vision, the MY Bharat platform offers an Experiential Learning Programme (ELP) that provides verified, structured experiences and digital certifications, integrating learning by doing into mainstream education.

**b. Volunteer Based Youth Engagement**

Volunteerism builds civic responsibility, empathy and active community participation. Through diverse forms of service such as environmental action, blood donation, tree plantation, social inclusion initiatives, disaster response and cultural exchange, young people develop leadership, teamwork and a shared sense of purpose grounded in *seva bhav* (spirit of service) and *kartavya bodh* (sense of duty).

To enable this at scale, the MY Bharat platform hosts the **Volunteer for Bharat** module, which connects youth with short term volunteering opportunities and national campaigns across government and civil society, allowing them to contribute meaningfully to prioritize national causes.

**c. Mentorship Support for Youth**

Mentorship is essential for guiding young people through the transition from education to professional work, and for nurturing continuous personal and career development. Expert mentors offer young citizens access to practical knowledge, motivation, experience and guide them to participate in global forums helping them showcase their innovative solutions. A structured mentorship ecosystem helps youth build clarity of goals, strengthen resilience, and internalise professional ethics, leadership, and innovation skills.

To advance this, the Mentorship Module on the MY Bharat platform will connect youth with domain experts, industry professionals, and academicians, enabling them to gain practical insight, make informed choices, and navigate career pathways with clarity and confidence.

**d. Bridging Youth–Employer Linkages**

To strengthen this alignment and to ensure workforce readiness, the MY Bharat platform features an AI enabled, multilingual CV Builder that helps youth create professional and credible digital résumés in 22 Indian languages with voice and translation support. Integrated with the National Career Service and e-Shram, the platform expands access to verified opportunities and strengthens youth employer linkages.

**e. Digital Youth Profiles**

A connected youth ecosystem requires dynamic digital identities that capture a young person’s learning, achievements, and aspirations. Digital Youth Profiles serve as trusted gateways for recognition and engagement, enabling youth to showcase their education, skills, volunteer experience, and verified credentials in one place.

Through MY Bharat Profiles, young people can connect with peers, mentors, institutions and employers, building a collaborative community that strengthens learning, networking and opportunity sharing.



#### **f. Interactive Learning Modules (Quiz and Essay)**

Interactive and gamified learning fosters curiosity, civic awareness, and creative expression among youth. Activities such as online pledges, quizzes, essays, challenges, and thematic contests offer engaging avenues for continuous learning and participation. The MY Bharat platform supports these through dedicated competitive tracks and will expand into more interactive formats that promote innovation, critical thinking, and youth-led knowledge building.

### **5.2 Institutional and Community Infrastructure**

Institutional and community infrastructure includes the people and facilities that enable effective youth outreach and participation. To strengthen and streamline these efforts, Mera Yuva Bharat (MY Bharat) has been established as an autonomous umbrella body that provides a ‘whole-of-government’ framework to design, coordinate, and implement schemes of youth engagement and development initiatives.

MY Bharat aims to empower young people by promoting social mobility, reducing educational gaps, and equipping them with practical skills. Through its institutional and community platforms, the Department of Youth Affairs seeks to ensure that opportunities reach youth across regions and socio-economic backgrounds, fostering an inclusive and equitable ecosystem for their development.

#### **a. MY Bharat**

MY Bharat operates through its national office in New Delhi and a district presence currently covering 623 districts, with expansion planned to achieve full national coverage. It is supported by a vast network of nearly 0.3 million youth clubs and over 8.5 million youth volunteers, making it one of the largest youth engagement systems globally. Under the National Youth Corps scheme, two National Youth Volunteers are deployed in every block to mobilise young people and strengthen last mile outreach.

As the primary institutional channel for youth participation, MY Bharat integrates digital and on-ground engagement, connecting young people with experiential learning, volunteering opportunities, career guidance, and mentorship. Its district-level offices also promote awareness of government schemes, support youth clubs and community

initiatives, and organise arts, sports, and leadership programmes, ensuring equitable access for youth, especially in rural and underserved areas.

A network of 80 MY Bharat youth hostels provides affordable accommodation, hosts youth exchanges, and facilitates development activities. These hostels will be transformed as MY Bharat Resource Centres (MYBRCs) and set up in every district office as one-stop hubs for youth engagement. Professionally managed, MYBRCs will offer integrated services ranging from counselling and training to short duration stays, strengthening the ecosystem that supports youth development across the multiple domains, including:



Figure 5.2. MY Bharat Resource Centre

### i) Career Counselling

MY Bharat Resource Centres (MYBRC) will offer career counselling to help youth make informed academic and employment choices. Mentors will guide interest mapping, portfolio development, and career planning, while the centres also connect youth with local skilling and apprenticeship opportunities to support their professional growth.

## **ii) Mental Wellbeing Corner**

Each centre will include a Mental Wellbeing Corner that offers basic counselling, stress management support, and referral services for youth who need specialised care. Peer support groups and structured wellbeing activities will be organised to strengthen resilience and promote positive mental health.

## **iii) Co-working Spaces and Conference Rooms**

Each centre will offer dedicated co-working spaces to support youth working on entrepreneurial, academic or social impact projects. Fully equipped conference rooms will enable training sessions, workshops, peer learning circles, innovation meets and interactions with industry experts. These facilities will strengthen institutions–community engagement, promote knowledge exchange and empower youth groups to independently design and implement development-oriented initiatives.

## **iv) Short-Stay Facility**

Short-stay facilities will support youth travelling for interviews, training programmes, volunteering activities or district-level events. Priority will be given to young people from rural, aspirational and underserved regions to reduce logistical barriers and enable their participation in wider opportunities.

## **v) Digital Kiosks**

Digital kiosks will offer youth seamless access to online services such as job portals, skilling platforms, government schemes, digital certificates, and e-learning modules. By supporting young people, especially in rural and low-connectivity areas, these kiosks will help bridge the digital divide and ensure inclusive access to information and essential digital services.

## **vi) e-Library**

Efforts will be made for MY Bharat Resource Centres to provide youth with access to digital books, academic content, competitive examination material, and curated learning resources via e-library facilities to enable youth to upskill and remain future-ready. The e-library will also feature content on national icons, freedom fighters, constitutional values, and India's cultural heritage to promote reading habits, and national pride among youth.

### **vii) Recreational facilities**

MY Bharat Resource Centres will include recreational zones equipped with indoor and outdoor sports facilities such as chess, carrom, table tennis, badminton, and pickleball. These spaces will encourage healthy leisure, teamwork, and physical fitness, while providing youth with a safe environment to relax, unwind, and build social connections.

### **b. MY Bharat NSS (National Service Scheme)**

The MY Bharat National Service Scheme (NSS) serves as a nationwide platform for structured volunteer engagement and grassroots community service. Established in 1969 with 40,000 volunteers, it has grown into one of India's largest youth engagement programmes, now operating across 657 universities, 20,669 colleges and technical institutions, and 11,988 senior secondary schools, with over 74 million students having participated since inception.

Every NSS unit under the MY Bharat is guided by a designated Programme Officer, supported by 19 Regional Directorates to ensure effective ground-level implementation.

As a central pillar of youth civic participation, MY Bharat NSS promotes service, discipline and leadership through community development projects, special camps, campus initiatives and adoption of villages or urban settlements. Volunteers contribute to educational outreach, environmental action, disaster preparedness, and awareness campaigns on health, gender and financial literacy.

To expand its impact, NSS units will be extended to all higher education institutions, and junior wings will be introduced in schools to nurture civic responsibility from an early age. Alumni networks will also be strengthened to sustain long-term engagement and foster an intergenerational culture of service.

### **c. Direct Youth Engagement**

A core objective of the youth ecosystem is to ensure that every young person can directly benefit from available programmes and initiatives. Through the MY Bharat portal and allied platforms, all youth aged 15-29 years will access experiential learning

opportunities, participate in volunteering activities, attend skill-building camps, and engage in awareness drives on various social, civic, and livelihood themes.

### **5.3 MY Bharat Programmes**

MY Bharat Programmes form the cornerstone to engage, empower, and enable India's youth. By integrating digital, physical, and experiential platforms, these programmes ensure inclusive participation of youth from diverse backgrounds. Through national, regional and local initiatives, MY Bharat creates an ecosystem that encourages young people to take ownership of their growth, actively contribute to their communities, and shape India's future.

#### **a. Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue (VBYLD)**

The Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue will serve as a flagship national platform to elevate youth voices, foster innovation, and nurture leadership aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047. Through multi-stage initiatives such as the Viksit Bharat Championship, Design for Bharat Innovation Challenge, Hack for a Social Cause, and cultural and creative competitions, young people will ideate, innovate, and propose solutions to national priorities.

Selected winners will present their ideas before the Hon'ble Prime Minister, senior government officials, policy makers and industry leaders, gaining access to mentorship, national networks, and exposure to policy and innovation ecosystems. VBYLD will support talent discovery across diverse fields and create meaningful pathways for youth to shape policy, advance technology, enrich culture, and emerge as committed leaders of India's future.

#### **b. Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament**

The Viksit Bharat Youth Parliament is a flagship platform that strengthens democratic participation by enabling young people to debate public policies, express their views, and contribute to nation-building. Launched in response to the Hon'ble Prime Minister's call in *Mann Ki Baat*, it follows a district–state–national structure, culminating in the National Youth Parliament at Sansad Bhavan. This multi-tiered process ensures that the ideas and aspirations of young citizens are heard at the highest levels of governance, fostering informed, confident and responsible youth leadership.

### **c. Youth Exchange Programmes**

Youth Exchange Programmes at the district, state, national and international levels promote cultural understanding, national integration and a global outlook. Through immersive interactions with diverse communities, traditions and local development models, young participants gain first-hand exposure to different ways of life. These experiences build empathy, broaden perspectives and deepen the sense of unity and shared identity among India's youth.

### **d. International Seminars**

The International Youth Seminars, organised in partnership with leading educational institutions, will bring together young leaders, researchers, and innovators from India and abroad to strengthen global dialogue and build future ready competencies. The seminars will expose youth to international best practices in research, higher education, innovation, and emerging technologies, helping them understand global trends and compare diverse innovation ecosystems. It will also foster collaboration through networking, joint projects, and peer exchanges, nurturing a cohort of globally aware, culturally sensitive young citizens committed to the vision of one world, one family.

### **e. Life Skills Training Camps**

Life Skills Training Camps under the National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development (NPYAD) will equip adolescents and youth with essential cognitive, emotional, social and digital competencies. These camps will strengthen critical thinking, communication, teamwork, self-awareness, responsible behaviour and resilience, enabling young people to navigate a changing world, adapt to technological and socio-economic shifts, and contribute meaningfully to national development.

### **f. Cultural and Heritage Immersion Programmes**

To strengthen cultural awareness, pride, and identity, youth will be encouraged to participate in programmes that promote local arts, crafts, languages, and heritage. These Immersion programs will connect young people with communities, artisans, and cultural institutions, fostering creativity, civic engagement, and a deeper sense of belonging.

### **g. Youth Adventure, Sports and Fitness Camps**

Youth adventure, sports, and fitness camps will promote physical strength, mental well-being, and teamwork through structured outdoor and sports activities. These programmes will integrate lessons on nutrition, mental health, and active living while offering platforms for competitions and talent recognition at regional and national levels.

## **6. Convergence with National Missions and Policies**

### **6.1 National Education Policy, 2020**

The NYP-2025 complements National Education Policy 2020 by supporting youth aged 15–29 years in their transition from formal education to active citizenship and livelihoods. It strengthens continuous learning through community engagement, digital empowerment and real-world exposure, enabling young people to contribute meaningfully to nation-building.

### **6.2 Khelo Bharat Niti, 2025**

Khelo Bharat Niti 2025 outlines a pathway for inclusive and excellence-driven sports development. The NYP supports this by strengthening grassroots sports, promoting indigenous games and enhancing community participation, fitness awareness and talent identification.

### **6.3 National Skill Development Mission**

The Skill India Mission aims to empower youth with industry-relevant skills through large-scale training, certification, and upskilling initiatives across sectors. The National Youth Policy 2025 complements this mission by promoting awareness regarding skill development initiatives of government through youth led-peer networks.

### **6.4 National Health Policy, 2017**

The NYP aligns with National Health Policy 2017 by emphasises preventive and promotive health practices among youth. By complementing the national initiatives such as Fit India, Ayushman Bharat, Poshan Abhiyaan, Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram and the National AYUSH Mission, it encourages a culture of health consciousness, active living, balanced diets, traditional wellness practices and mental well-being.

## **6.5 National Labour and Employment Policy, 2025 (Draft)**

Aligned with the provisions of the Shram Shakti Niti (draft), the NYP enhances workforce readiness by expanding access to mentorship, career guidance and experiential learning. Through MY Bharat's networks (NSS, NYVs, Youth Clubs), it promotes apprenticeships, entrepreneurship and seamless school-to-work transitions by connecting youth to platforms like National Career Service (NCS) and e-Shram.

## **6.6 Startup India**

Startup India promotes early-stage innovation through funding, incubation and regulatory support. The NYP strengthens this ecosystem by connecting youth, especially first-generation and rural innovators, to incubation networks and entrepreneurship modules on MY Bharat, ensuring inclusive access to opportunities.

## **6.7 Make in India Initiative**

Make in India drives domestic manufacturing and promotes local value-addition and builds competitive supply-chain ecosystems across priority sectors. The NYP complements this by promoting youth participation in sustainable, community-focused enterprises and connecting them to sector-specific training, incubation support and innovation challenges through MY Bharat.

## **6.8 Digital India Mission**

Digital India advances digital infrastructure, digital literacy and technology-enabled public services. Through MY Bharat, youth gain access to e-learning, digital entrepreneurship modules, mentorship and government programmes on a unified platform, encouraging technology-driven ideas and participation.

# **7. Monitoring, Accountability and Policy Learning Framework**

## **7.1 Introduction: A New Paradigm for Data Driven Policy**

The NYP 2025 represents a shift from fragmented programme delivery to an integrated, ecosystem-based approach to youth development. Its success depends on a modern monitoring and accountability system that is real time, evidence-based and technology enabled. This



framework moves beyond static reporting to track outcomes, ensure transparency, and generate continuous policy learning. It will support informed decision making at national, state and district levels, enabling timely course correction and effective resource allocation aligned with youth aspirations.

To strengthen coordination across ministries, a High-Level Inter Ministerial Committee on Youth Development is proposed to oversee YEDI, youth budgeting and the performance of States and Union Territories.

## **7.2 Digital Foundation for Monitoring and AI-Powered Evaluation**

The success of NYP-2025 depends on shifting from manual, high-effort reporting to an automated, intelligent, and real-time monitoring system. This policy outlines a strategic, phased approach to build this foundation:

- a. Phase 1: Creating the Universal Digital Footprint** - All youth engagement activities across DoYA networks (MY Bharat, NSS, Youth Clubs) and ecosystem partners will be logged on the unified MY Bharat portal, creating a national “digital signature” of youth participation. To ensure digital inclusion, “Offline-First” applications and “Assisted-Digital models” will support youth in remote or low-connectivity areas through field-level facilitators such as NYVs.
- b. Phase 2: Consolidated Data and Real-Time Dashboards** - The integrated data stream will be transformed into role-specific dashboards for officials at district, state and national levels. These dashboards will shift the system from data collection to data-driven decision-making, enabling timely action and continuous quality improvement.
- c. Phase 3: AI-Enabled Analytics and Evaluation** - Once data systems mature, advanced analytics and AI will be applied to identify patterns, forecast youth trends, assess the impact of interventions, and generate actionable insights. This will establish a future-ready monitoring and evaluation ecosystem that evolves with technological advancements.

## **7.3 Implementation Roadmap for a Data-Powered Ecosystem**

- **Years 1–3: Laying the Foundation**

Universal adoption of the “Portal-First” mandate, development and deployment of the

“inclusive on-ramps” (offline and assisted-digital tools), and rollout of basic performance dashboards for all field and headquarters staff.

- **Years 3–5: Integration and Analytics**

Complete data capture from all partners, refine Key Performance Indicators and launch advanced analytics. First-generation AI models for monitoring and trend analysis will be piloted.

- **Years 5–10: Optimization and System Maturity**

An advanced AI-enabled evaluation system will become fully operational, enabling real-time insights, predictive assessment of youth trends and continuous, data-driven policy improvement.

#### **7.4 Research and Evidence Generation: The Vivekananda Chair**

To strengthen evidence-based youth policy and create a permanent knowledge institution, the policy proposes establishing the **Vivekananda Chair for Youth Development and Empowerment**.

- **Mandate:** The Chair will serve as the central research, evaluation, and policy advisory body for the Department of Youth Affairs.
- **Key Functions:**
  - a. **Strategic Think Tank:** The chair will be the primary intellectual hub for the Ministry and provide high-level policy guidance on youth development.
  - b. **Longitudinal Research:** Conduct long-term, large-scale studies on youth aspirations, social mobility, emerging trends and identify future opportunities.
  - c. **Independent Evaluation:** Lead unbiased assessments of national youth schemes and the overall impact of NYP-2025.
  - d. **Global Benchmarking:** Identify and adapt global best practices relevant to India’s youth ecosystem.
  - e. **Data Analysis Hub:** Analyse MY Bharat’s data streams and generate actionable insights for continuous policy refinement.

## 7.5 Collaboration with States and Local Governments

Acknowledging that youth development is a shared responsibility between the Centre and States, this framework is built on the principle of collaboration.

- **Participation:** States and local governments will be encouraged to register on the MY Bharat portal and create meaningful engagement opportunities for youth.
- **Data Sharing:** Real-time data and dashboards from the MY Bharat platform will be made available to States to strengthen monitoring, planning, and delivery of youth initiatives.
- **Linguistic Inclusion:** All digital tools and reporting systems will be multilingual, using platforms like Bhashini, to ensure accessible participation for youth across languages.
- **Joint Ownership:** YEDI and Youth Budgeting will be implemented in close partnership with State governments, promoting shared learning and coordinated action.
- **Recognition:** A performance ranking and annual award system will be established for high-performing States, districts, ULBs, and Panchayats to encourage excellence and innovation in youth development.

## 7.6 Youth Budgeting: Ensuring Policy and Fiscal Priority

This policy envisages the establishment of a “**Youth Budgeting**” framework as a core governance tool that reflects the priorities of young people aged 15 to 29 years.

- **Purpose:** Youth Budgeting will map and analyse all government expenditure that benefits youth. It does not create a separate budget but ensures that mainstream allocations are responsive to youth needs.
- **Central Mechanism:** The Union Government will publish an annual “Youth Budget Statement”, consolidating youth-centric and youth-relevant allocations across ministries and departments.
- **Collaboration:** States and Union Territories will be encouraged and supported to adopt a common framework and prepare their own annual “State Youth Budget” statements.
- **Outcome:** Youth Budgeting will provide a transparent picture of national and state-level investments in young people, strengthen accountability, and ensure that youth development remains a cross-cutting fiscal priority.

## **8. Conclusion**

The National Youth Policy 2025 marks India's commitment to placing young people at the heart of national development. It integrates education, employment, entrepreneurship, health, sports, culture, climate action, volunteerism, and leadership into a unified pathway that strengthens youth agency and aligns their aspirations with the vision of Viksit Bharat.

By enabling experiential learning, fostering community action, strengthening innovation, and expanding opportunities across digital and physical platforms, the policy empowers youth to contribute meaningfully to economic growth, social cohesion, and democratic vitality. Through strengthened cross-ministerial convergence, the policy makes youth opportunities easier to access and better aligned with individual aspirations. Its success rests on the initiative and imagination of India's young citizens, whose choices will shape the nation's trajectory in the decades ahead.

NYP-2025 embodies the nation's trust in its youth. When young people thrive, India advances. When they lead, India transforms. This policy stands as a commitment to ensure that every young person is equipped, empowered and inspired to build a more inclusive, resilient, and future-ready India.

# LIST OF ACRONYMS

MY Bharat - Mera Yuva Bharat

ELP - Experiential Learning Programme

NCS - National Career Service

NYC - National Youth Corps

NYVs - National Youth Volunteers

MY Bharat Resource Centres (MYBRC)

NSS - National Service Scheme

VBYLD - Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogue

NPYAD - National Programme for Youth and Adolescent Development

AI - Artificial Intelligence

SCs - Scheduled Castes

STs - Scheduled Tribes

NEP - National Education Policy

NSQF - National Skills Qualification Framework

PMKVY - PM Kaushal Vikas Yojana

NCrF - National Credit Framework

R&D - Research and Development

CYP - Common Yoga Protocol

NAPCC - National Action Plan on Climate Change

PYES - Personal Youth Engagement Score

YEDI - National Youth Engagement & Development Index