

INDIA Youth-Jam

8th-15th March, 2015
Tapovan, Udaipur (Rajasthan)



Dear Friend,

The first ever India Youth Jam was held in September 2012. There have been 3 such gatherings so far that brought together young change makers from across the country for a powerful week of deep listening, sharing, self-discovery, systemic inquiry and community building. They have been inspiring and energizing experiences for all involved. We are now glad to share with you the invitation for the '**India Youth Jam 2015**' and hope you will find it meaningful to be a part of the event.

India stands at extraordinary crossroads today. Home to some of the oldest cultures in the world and a long unbroken civilization of enormous depth and breadth, it is also one of the fastest 'developing' and 'modernising' societies. Poverty, mind-boggling levels of corruption, rampant sexual abuse and violence, cities bursting at the seams, farmer suicides in the lakhs, ecological devastation, communal tensions, broken families, alienation and depression are also some of the complex problems we face.

In the midst of these crises, many young people are innovating and creating new ways to transform the systemic realities, and yet are often separated and working in isolation. The India Youth Jam aims to bring together **30 such passionate changemakers** from various parts of the country and diverse backgrounds, for a week of bonding, learning and healing and an opportunity to envision new possibilities and connect the dots for lasting and deep social change. We would jam to get support, share our life stories, be inspired and challenged, make new friends, create new collaborations, and most importantly get a chance to step back and reflect on our lives and work in the presence of friends on a similar journey.

"I felt for the first time in my life that I was not judging the people who have ideologies different/contradictory than mine. I felt their stories and I could just be open to their gifts and open to receiving. I felt empowered that I could feel the power to forgive. I felt empowered to feel the power to connect/re-connect with relations that have been / are difficult in my life. I feel hopeful." - Srishti, 26, Rishikesh (India Youth Jam 2012 Alumni)



Why 'Jam'?

In music, a “jam” is a creative, live gathering of talented musicians who together spontaneously create a new sound whose whole is greater than the sum of its parts. Similarly for us, a Jam is a place where young changemakers make ‘music’ with their passion, vision, openness and courage. They bring what they have to the space and create together with no preconceived script. It requires that all the players are present and ready to deeply listen to each other and co-create with each other, to weave layers of sounds, experience, knowledge and spirit together. In the realness of this connection, magic can be created.

To date, more than 80 Jams have been held on five continents, bringing together young leaders from more than 80+ nations. The India Youth Jam is also being organized by Jam alumni in India, and is being supported by YES!, a nonprofit organization that connects, inspires and collaborates with changemakers towards creating thriving, just and sustainable ways of life for all. To know more about YES! and previous Jams that have been held, please visit <http://www.yesworld.org>.



What to expect at the Jam?

The India Youth Jam is a gathering for three different levels of change: the internal (self), the interpersonal (relationships) and the systemic (the whole). The Jam is not a conference, seminar or a typical meeting.

On the **internal level**, it is a place for participants to share and reflect on our life journeys and what makes us who we are today. It is an opportunity to grow in self-knowledge, to ask meaningful questions, to unlearn our fears and blocks, access our hearts, and open our minds to move more boldly in the world. It is a time to recharge and renew and to experience self-care and personal sustainability.

"I feel I have added a new dimension to my life which is beautiful and is going to stay there for longest of time. I found myself again...and discovered newer interests and passion...." -

*-Rajesh Meher, Delhi.
(India Youth Jam 2014 Alumni)*

On the **interpersonal level**, we come together to share our cultures, our stories and our struggles, to deepen in our understanding of each other and of ourselves. The Jam values diversity and seeks to bring together as diverse a group of people as possible. During the week, we hope to discover our commonalities and celebrate our differences. We take an honest, courageous and loving look at the identities that define and often separate us – class, gender, caste, religion, sexuality, etc., – and seek to have authentic conversations to heal these divides. We know such conversations are rare in our societies, but we believe that the way to move forward with them is to shine a light, slow down, and take time for vulnerability, truth-telling, risk-taking, and deep listening. The Jam provides a unique container, where continuous inquiry and intimacy create the alchemy to have these conversations in a focused, safe and loving way – on levels we don't 'normally' engage in.

"I have found such a loving, listening, caring, non-judging family. The safety and warmth they brought all made me loosen up, empty my cup, and bond so deeply. Being in the present has been an asset/ accomplishment or even a realization for me."

*- Naveen J, Mussoorie
(India Youth jam 2012 Alumni)*

On the **systemic level**, through the Jam, we become clearer about our vision and work in the world. We get a chance to link issues that aren't commonly linked, to notice crucial intersection points, and get a clearer picture of the whole. We come together to learn from each other: about what is working, about what mistakes we have made, about where we need help. We have a chance to share tools and ideas to support one another. In turn, we hope this helps us to generate a body of collective wisdom for activism in the region and a collective vision for the world we want. We also hope it will enable each participant to feel deepened in their capacity to affect meaningful positive change and carry their dreams forward.

"you have created the space for the emergence and practices of the kind of world we seek to live in and made it real. I really appreciate the opportunity to spend time thinking about so many different aspects of life and living from the personal and interpersonal, to the community, to the earth. The wholistic approach is satisfying and encourages well rounded thriving. It is a relief to be in a space that both values tears and action but doesn't judge either one at the same time.

*- Marielle Amrhein, USA
(India Youth Jam 2014 Alumni)*

Who can attend?

We are generally looking for participants between the ages of 18-35, Indian nationals involved in a social change effort of their calling. However we are not too rigid about age and nationality and happy to make exceptions if there are suitable applications. If you are open to learning from each other, excited about making new friends, and willing to push the limits of your comfort zone then probably this event is for you.

*Given the linguistic diversity of India, the Jam will be held mainly in English. However, it is possible for a person who speaks predominantly Hindi, Bengali, Malayalam, Telugu or Punjabi to participate, since **partial** translation services will be available for these languages.*



Dates, Venue and Contribution

The Jam is usually held in a naturally beautiful place, away from the hustle-bustle of modern life, so that it is both inspiring and rejuvenating. The upcoming Jam will be held from 8th-15th March, 2015 at Tapovan, Udaipur.

We ask that participants make and cover their own travel arrangements, and also **contribute Rs 3,200** toward their food and accommodation. We were able to do some fundraising to bring the costs down to this amount (the actual costs are around **Rs 12,250** per person); however we also realize that this is still a significant amount for many people, and we do not want money to be an impediment to your participation. So if you are able to contribute more - wonderful! The extra amount will go towards our scholarship pool. And if you are not able to contribute as much, we would still love to have you too! We can work out scholarships and/or work-trade arrangements as needed.

About the Venue

Tapovan ashram is a beautiful, tranquil, green, 15 acre campus located in an isolated, scenic valley between two mountain ranges, 15 kms from Udaipur city in the western Indian state of Rajasthan. It is a place that rests your soul from the incessant, frenetic thinking and activity that seems to be plaguing mankind today. And in the absence of the numerous attention-demanding diversions, there is a chance of you coming in touch with something that is beyond the reach of normal thought, something that might change your perspective of life.

The ashram has many fields cultivating organic roses, crops, vegetables and fruits. There are numerous trees of all kinds. Built within this greenery are the staying facilities, common kitchen, dining room, library, meditation hall, swimming pools, nature cure facilities, cow shed etc.

It is a place where an attempt is made to give all living beings their share of space to coexist harmoniously with each other. Accordingly you might be lucky enough to see numerous bird variety, frogs, snakes, grasshoppers, lizards, bees, monkeys etc. and if you are really lucky then maybe a leopard or a hyena.
Please visit: www.tapovanashram.com



Application

If you would like to attend the Jam, please send us your basic information along with the responses to the following questions. Please submit your application latest by 25th December 2014.

You can email your application to indiyouthjam@gmail.com, alternatively you can also fill the application online at www.yesworld.org/indiajamapp.

Below, please share as much as you feel comfortable sharing. There is no min/max length for responses and no pressure. We only ask you to share what you feel is 'enough'. Your answers are confidential. Don't worry too much about grammar or eloquent articulation. We will follow up with more questions or a phone call if we need more information.

Name:

Place:

Contact Details (Address, Email, Phone no.):

Age:

Gender:

1. How do you identify? This include many aspects of your identity, such as caste, economic class, sexual orientation, mothertongue, religion or anything else that makes you who you are, by birth or by choice. We ask because we value diversity and are aiming to bring together as diverse a group as possible based on a variety of qualities and characteristics.
2. Tell us about yourself, what work you are currently doing and how you came to be where you are in your personal journey. What are you passionate about? We are looking for a group with a range of backgrounds, experiences, and interests as we believe every participant helps to make the jam an enriching space for everyone.
3. What are your current areas of challenge, growth, and excitement? How may the jam be valuable for you at this point in your life journey? We ask because we would like to include participants who can really benefit from the jam. This would also help us design the process according to participant needs.
4. Any additional thoughts, comments, or questions?

This is not a competition or a race where we select the 'best' applications or judge whose work is 'better' and whose isn't. However, we are limited to a maximum of 30 participants, and we wish to ensure a circle of diversity with a right mix of qualities, so that the potential of the space is enriched and it becomes meaningful for all. The selections would only reflect this attempt.

Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries. We eagerly look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,

Sukhmani Kohli, New Delhi

Naveen Vasudevan, Chennai

Vartika Poddar, Kolkata

Roy Jacob, Wayanad

Shilpa Jain, Berkeley

Yash Maniar, Mumbai

Shruti Tharayil, East godavari / Pune

Ps: If you have any questions please contact indiyouthjam@gmail.com or

Sukhmani - Tel: 9650118376, Shruti- Tel. 09923041281 Yash- Tel. 09920407033