



13th to 20th April, 2017 | At Sambhaavnaa, Himachal Pradesh

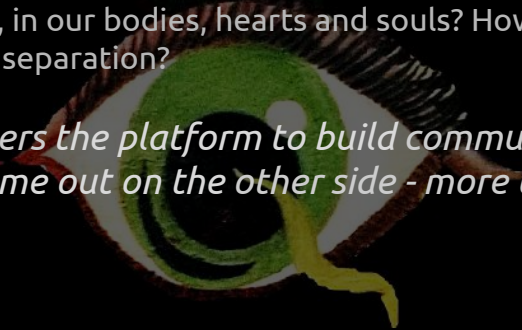
Dear Friend,

India Youth Jam is an annual gathering of 30 diverse young change makers from across the country for a powerful week of deep listening, sharing, self-discovery, systemic inquiry and community building. It is a transformative experience; an opportunity to engage deeply with the world and our place in it, apt for those who are working for a thriving, just and balanced way of life for all. It connects the dots of the youth activist movement. We are glad to invite you for the 'India Youth Jam 2017' and hope you will find it meaningful to be a part of the event.

India has been home to some of the oldest cultures in the world and a long unbroken civilization of enormous depth and breadth, but in recent past, national environment has been traumatizing and challenging for many people, mostly of marginalised identities. Questions about poverty, inequity, corruption, government apathy, lack of planned governance and terrorism constitute media headlines as well as everyday conversations. As India urbanizes rapidly so are its challenges - millions strive in overcrowded areas, infrastructure is inadequate, there is a rise in sexual abuse, violence and intolerance. Simultaneously, million others experience a rural reality afflicted with unemployment, farmer suicides, ecological devastation and corporate bulldozing.

Amidst such an environment, young people defying status quo by innovating new ways to transform systemic realities and by building inclusive movements, hold great promise. But amidst such an environment, how can we young people stay in - in relationships, in conversations that matter, in our bodies, hearts and souls? How can we continue to choose love over fear, hope over despair, and connection over separation?

The India Youth Jam offers change-makers the platform to build community, the practices and the love-force to stay in, to weather the storms and come out on the other side - more united, whole, and equipped to go forward in friendship and solidarity.





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 co-create ‘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 willing to deeply listen to each other and be with each other, to weave layers of sounds, experience, knowledge and spirit together. In the realness of this connection, magic is created.

To date, more than 105 Jams have been held on five continents, bringing together young leaders from more than 85+ 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?

Late in his life, Albert Einstein wrote in a letter to his daughter, *"There is an extremely powerful force that, so far, science has not found a formal explanation to. It is a force that includes and governs all others, and is even behind any phenomenon operating in the universe and has not yet been identified by us. This universal force is love. Each individual carries within them a small but powerful generator of love whose energy is waiting to be released. When we learn to give and receive this universal energy, dear Liesel, we will have affirmed that love conquers all, is able to transcend everything and anything, because love is the quintessence of life."*

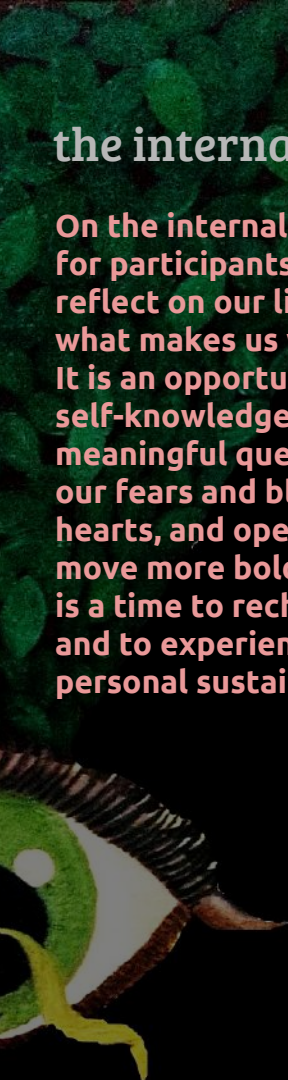




Our Jams are rooted in universal love, compassion and empathy. At the India Youth Jam, each person is invited to take off masks and let shine the fullest version of their self: heart, soul, body, and mind. Every person is encouraged to speak from personal experience and share their stories, hopes, fears, struggles, doubts, questions, challenges, and more. They slow down, listen, (re)learn to appreciate themselves and each other, offer their gifts, transform their approaches to conflict - and choose paths forward that lead to more understanding, healing, higher-order solutions, and more love. The honesty in sharing and the generosity of mutual support has the potential to be empowering and healing.

"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)



**Jam is a gathering for three different levels of change:
the internal (self), the interpersonal (relationships) and the systemic (the whole).**

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.

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. The Jam provides a unique container, where continuous inquiry and intimacy create the alchemy to have these conversations in a focused, safe and compassionate way.

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 connect the dots and to generate a body of collective wisdom for youth activism 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.

Who can attend?

We are generally looking for participants between the ages of 20-35, 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 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, Malyalam, 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 13th-20th April, 2017 at Sambhaavnaa, Himachal Pradesh.

The actual cost of the Jam per participant is Rs 13,500 (including food, accommodation, materials, expenses & modest stipends for organizers and facilitators). The **good news** is that we were able to do some fundraising to offer a sliding-scale contribution of Rs. **4,000 to Rs. 7,000**. This means that you can contribute according to your unique financial situation, anywhere from Rs 4,000 to 7,000. We appreciate your efforts to find the money even when it is a little difficult (we can help you in asking for support from family, friends, your organization, etc).

But we do not want money to be an impediment to your participation and if you are not able to contribute the minimum Rs 4,000, we would still love to have you here ! We have a limited number of scholarships/work trades and to apply for scholarship, please mention it in the application form. Whatever additional anyone is able to contribute will go towards the scholarship pool and help us have an inclusive group of participants and at the same time, be financially sustainable.

Also, we do ask that everyone make and cover their own travel arrangements.

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 27th January 2017.

You can email your application to indiayouthjam@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:

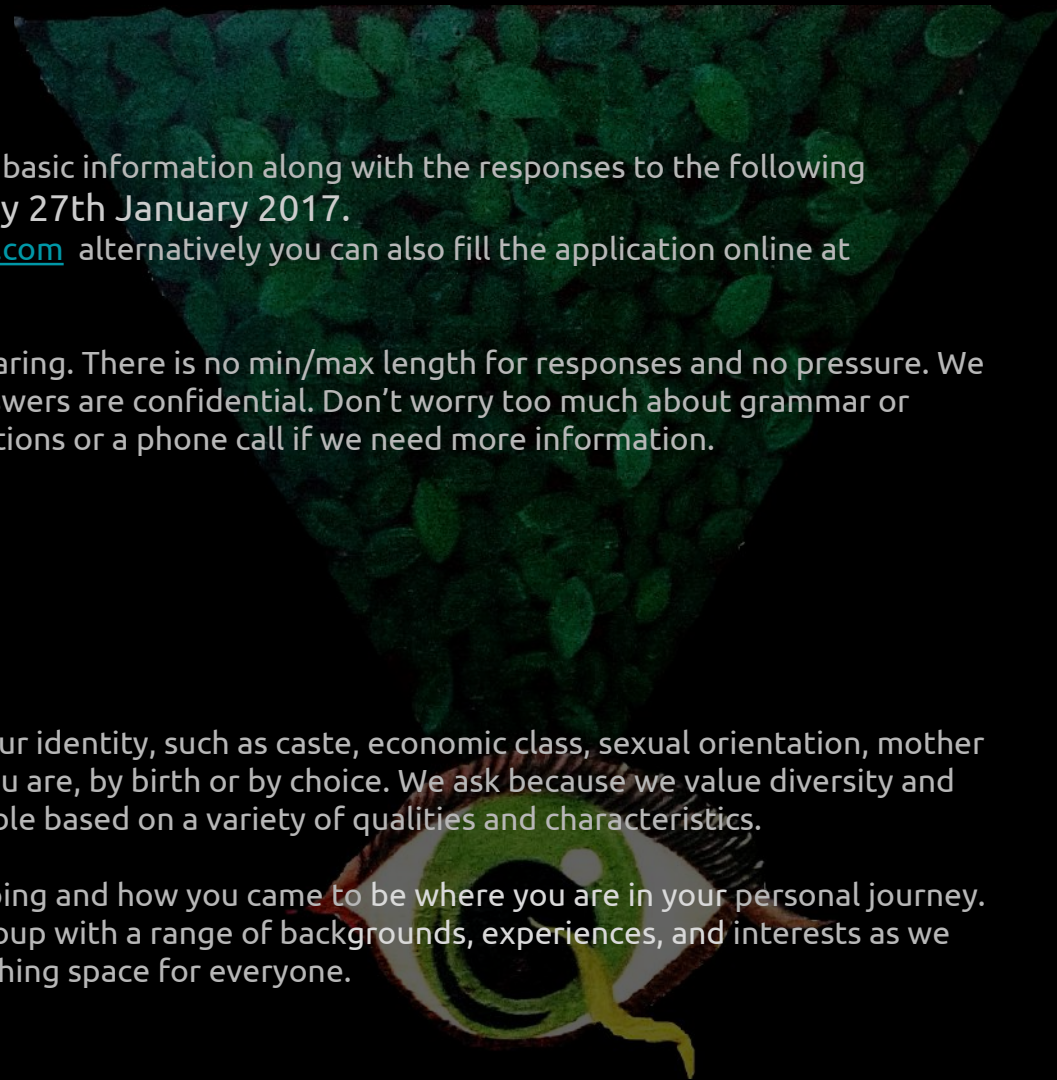
Contact Details (Address, Email, Phone no.):

Age:

Gender:

1. How do you identify? This include many aspects of your identity, such as caste, economic class, sexual orientation, mother tongue, 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 participants' needs.

4. What do you hope to offer the jam? The jam is an opportunity for co-creation, where everyone brings their unique passion, stories, and gifts together, and something beautiful emerges.

5. Any additional thoughts, comments, or questions?

6. Please give us a mini-bio (a paragraph version of your story) written in the third person (for example, using "she" instead of "I"). No need to be humble! Include contributions you've made, any awards or accomplishments, organizations you've been involved with, etc. This is the bio that, if you're accepted, will be shared with other participants of this Jam, and will be used for the YES! Website. (You can always modify it later.)

7. How much are you or your organization in a position to pay (Rs. 4,000 - Rs. 7,000)? Mention here if this amount is too much and if you wish for help with fundraising. In case nothing works out we have available some partial scholarships/work trades. (this question will not affect the selection process)

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, Chandigarh

Arushi Mittal, Delhi

Saud Hakim, Vadodara

Suyash Saboo, Udaipur

Roy Jacob, Wayanad

Shruti Tharayil, Vizianagaram

Contact: indiayouthjam@gmail.com or

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