Partnership with the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports

United Nations Development Programme

UNDP partners with govenrments and people to help build nations and drive and sustain the kind of growth that improves the quality of life for everyone. On the ground in more than 170 countries, UNDP offers global perspective and local insight, providing technical assistance, policy advice and development support services. UNDP is the cornerstone of the UN family through its support to the Resident Coordinator system.

UNDP has worked in India since 1951 in virtually all areas of human development from democractic governance to poverty eradication to sustainable energy and environmental management. UNDP's programmes are aligned directly with national priorities and are reviewed and adjusted annually. UNDP has flexible implementation modalities and provides a full range of development services.

United Nations Volunteers

United Nations Volunteers, a special agency within UNDP, was established in 1970 with the aim of integrating volunteerism into peace and development. Every year, more than 7,500 professionals from 160 countries serve as UN volunteers in 130 countries. UNV has been asked by the UN General Assembly to promote the role of youth in development. UNV deploys professional volunteers, youth volunteers and on-line volunteers at the request of governments and partners throughout the world.

UNV has been in India since 1972. In 1992, India participated in a path-breaking programme that promoted Artisan Development in South Asia. In the mid 1990s, UNV helped to launch the highly successful University Talk AIDS project which helped to overcome stigma on HIV/AIDS on campuses throughout the country. Thousands of UN volunteers helped the survivors of the Orissa super cyclone in 1999 and the 2001 earthquake in Gujarat. UN volunteers in India have helped to strengthen the capacities of district planners, elected representatives and immigration officials. The Ministry of Skill Development, Entrepreneurship, Youth Affairs and Sports is the nodal Ministry for UNV in India.

In 2011, UNV, UNDP and Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports commemorated the tenth anniversary of International Year of Volunteer (IYV+10) holding several promotional activities together with civil society organizations. The Ministry with support from UNV launched a publication on volunteering in India in 2012. This unique publication, one of the only of its kind in the world celebrated the contribution of Indian volunteers to

Indian states through a national consultation on youth volunteerism to discuss a new national youth strategy.

In addition, in 2013 and 2014, together the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, UNV and UNDP celebrated the International Volunteer Day in December of each year. The 2014 celebrations were dedicated to Swachh Bharat Abhiyaan mobilizing more than 3,000 youth including National Service Scheme (NSS) and Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangthan (NYKS) youth volunteers to clean a portion of the bank of river Yamuna and a cyclothon in Delhi.

New Partnerships focused on New Priorities

UNDP and UNV stand ready to help develop and strengthen India's national volunteer schemes. Possibilities include:

- **Deploying** district youth coordinators in all 28 states and a project management team at the national level
- **Introducing** an academic course on youth volunteerism at Rajiv Gandhi National Institute of Youth Development
- **Developing** state-specific skilling and entrepreneurship programmes
- **Strengthening** the capacity of youth volunteers through peer learning and exchanges
- **Convening** thematic debates on youth and volunteering
- **Establishing** a national platform for youth
- **Volunteering** in partnership with youth networks, the private sector and civil society