



**Sports and Youth Services,  
Department Government of Odisha**

**Message from the Hon'ble Minister of Sports and Youth Services, Sri. Tusharkanti Behera**

**In Recognition of International Youth Day  
August 12, 2020**

**Bhubaneswar:** Today, on International Youth Day, Odisha joins the global community in acknowledging the role of Youth in making the nation a better place.

This year's theme, '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.

Odisha supports Youth participation and engagement as a strategy for youth development, social justice and effective citizenry and has taken up initiatives at several levels, over the years, to engage its Youth positively, especially at the Gram Panchayats and Urban Local Bodies. It has implemented various schemes under the State Youth policy of 2012 to closely involve them in different activities in their local communities and other organizations in a meaningful way.

Expedition to the Himalayas, Sporting Activities, Massive Plantation Drive, Volunteering at events like Ratha Jatra, Balijatra, Mini-Marathon, Youth Festival, Blood Donation Camp, are few such programmes. State also acknowledges their contribution through the annual State Social Services, Sports and Bravery Awards.

These social action projects and community engagement activities are aimed at channelising the inner energy of the Youth of Odisha and instilling in them a sense of belonging, responsibility and nation building and we will continue to do so.

The enthusiasm and ability of our Youth is unsurpassed. Their contribution in moulding society is vital. I am confident that with channelised efforts, they are going to lead our nation to new heights. On this day, I urge all our young and spirited minds to harness their talents and potential into meaningful engagement and participation, as their contributions are essential to achieving sustainable human development. I encourage them to leverage their energies and creative ideas into shaping a better future for themselves and their country.

The world, today, has the largest generation of youth. With more than 65% of population below 35 years of age demography has provided an unprecedented opportunity to us to empower the youth. It is therefore important that, on this International Youth Day, we pledge to renew our commitment to support our young people in all aspects of their development.

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