

In order to facilitate engagement, education and empowerment of Indian youth about the challenges of Climate Change, the 2nd edition of 'Youth Climate Conclave' (YCC) is being organized as part of the Strategic Partnership for the Implementation of the Paris Agreement (SPIPA) project with Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India as the nodal ministry. The Kick-off Event of the Photo, Blog and Short Video Competitions under the Youth Climate Conclave 2nd Edition was organized on the eve of the International Youth Day 2020 i.e. 11th August 2020 jointly by the MoEFCC, Delegation of the European Union to India, GIZ, TERI and CEEW.

The 2nd edition of YCC builds upon the success of the first edition of Youth Climate Conclave (YCC) which was held between October, 2019 and January 2020. The 1st edition of the YCC was launched on 4th October 2019 with a photography and blog writing competition. Finalists of these competitions, along with other selected students, participated in capacity building activities and a workshop involving negotiations round modelled on international climate negotiations. The YCC was organized as a special session for youth along the side-lines of the TERI flagship World Sustainable Development Summit (WSDS) 2020 from 29-31 January 2020. As an outcome of the conclave, a 'Youth Declaration on Climate Action' was drafted by the youth and presented at the closing session of the WSDS 2020. A monograph titled 'Young voices for the planet' of selected 12 best blog entries were published and released during the occasion of 'Earth Day' through a webinar on the theme 'Youth Climate Action' on 22nd April 2020.

At the kick-off event it was announced that in addition to the photography and blogging competition organized as part of the 1st YCC, a short video competition is also being organised as part of the 2nd YCC. All the competitions have two age categories, 13-18 years and 19-25 years. For the blogging competition the themes include:

- Sustainable Lifestyles: A Need of the Hour
- Local Actions for Global Impact
- Role of Youth for Climate Action

For the photography competition, the theme is "Climate Action: A World of Possibilities" and for the short video competition, the theme is "Act Now! Solutions for climate change". The youth participants are required to share entries related to climate action in sectors Climate Change and renewable energy, Agriculture, Water, Energy, Waste, resource efficiency and sustainable lifestyles, Indigenous Knowledge, etc... The deadline for submission of the entries for all competitions is 15th October 2020.

At the kick-off event on 11th August, 2020 one of the youth participants from Youth Climate Conclave's 1st Edition Mr Darsh Vatsa, Student, Delhi Public School, Sonapat and Youth delegate, YCC- 1st Edition shared his experiences of participating in the capacity building training and workshop modelled on the international negotiations on climate change.

Dr. Subrata Bose, Director-Climate Change, Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change, Government of India, during his address mentioned that Ministry is actively engaging with youth on issues related to climate change considering the significant potential youth have in implementing climate solutions as well as encouraging others to take action. He further highlighted that according to climate action tracker India is one of the few countries with "2°C compatible" rated Paris Agreement climate action targets that demonstrates the leadership role of India. He encouraged

youth to participate actively in the activities of the Youth Climate Conclave for learning, capacity building and finding solutions to climate change in a collaborative manner. He spoke about the National Green Corps and eco-clubs programme of MoEFCC. The National Green Corps programme has established around 100,000 Eco-clubs with 4 million youth participating in the eco-club activities. He highlighted that all eco-club members can be encouraged to participate in the YCC.

It was followed by an Introduction to the Competitions under YCC by Dr Livleen K Kahlon, Associate Director, Environment Education and Awareness Area, TERI. Like the last conclave along with other students and youth, the winners from photography, blogging and short video competitions will have the chance to attend the Youth Climate Conclave 2021 leading to the preparation of the Youth Declaration on Climate Action 2021. However, due to the uncertainty posed by COVID-19 regarding organisation of face to face events the exact nature of Youth Climate Conclave 2021 will be informed later. In addition, as part of the 2nd YCC the youth participants will also get a chance to attend online capacity building sessions on climate change related issues through a webinar. These youth participants will be encouraged to create further awareness within their schools/colleges/networks.

The SPIPA project is being implemented by GIZ India along with the support of Delegation of the European Union to India and the German Federal Ministry for Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU). The YCC activity is being implemented by TERI in partnership with GIZ India and CEEW. This conclave is envisaged as a competitive and an educative mode of action, wherein youth from across the country will come together to join hands and address the issues of climate change.