

OPERATIONAL GUIDELINES FOR PROMOTION OF NATIONAL INTEGRATION AMONG YOUTH

1.



INTRODUCTION

National Integration remains a crucial issue in India, notwithstanding the fact that we boast of a civilization, which is nearly 5000 years old. True, some of the divisive factors may be inherent in the history, geography and culture of our country, but there are also forces, which accentuate these factors. Religious fundamentalism is one such force while linguistic diversities constitute another. There are people in this country who hold an exclusive view of religion, which drives them into a sectarian frenzy that does not admit of tolerance of other faiths. Despite a shared culture of so many years, linguistic diversities have often generated tensions and conflicts amongst different communities threatening the fabric of national unity. The same holds good for regionalism exacerbated no doubt by inequitable development amongst different regions of the country. The age – old caste system has also contributed in no small measure to weaken the bond of unity

among different sections of the society. All the above forces and factors do pose a serious challenge to India's unity and integrity and, therefore, conscious efforts will have to be made by all concerned to preserve the same. The youth of the country in particular will have to be put in the vanguard of such efforts. The programme component for Promotion of National Integration of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is one such small but significant step in this direction.

2. PROGRAMME COMPONENTS AND ACTIVITIES

The Scheme intends to provide central assistance in the form of grants- in-aid for conducting the following programmes and activities:

- i) National Integration Camp (NIC);
- ii) Inter - State Youth Exchange Programme (ISYEP);
- iii) Organisation of multi - cultural activities on the theme of national integration;
- iv) National Youth Festival and State Youth Festivals;
- v) National Youth Awards;

3. NATIONAL INTEGRATION CAMP (NIC):

3.1 Objective: Organisation of short-term residential camps of the adolescents and youth with a view to instill the spirit of national integration, through various camp activities.

3.2 Activities: Cultural Programmes, group discussions, debates, lectures, essay and elocution competitions on the theme of national integration and communal harmony.

- a) Community work, like mass literacy, anti-drug, anti- AIDS, pulse-polio, health awareness and environmental campaigns and such other activities as do not require any expenditure other than allowed within the programme;
- b) Reading and learning from scriptures of various religions and books which inspire the promotion of national integration;
- c) Spiritual discourses;
- d) Yoga and meditation;
- e) Work – camps in which the youth donate manual labour to create durable community assets.
- f) Cultural programmes, which promotes national integration

3.3 Other Stipulations: The holding of National Integration Camp (NIC) would be subject to the following stipulations:

- a) The duration of the camp should not normally be less than 7 days and more than 14 days.
- b) Number of participants should not be less than 150; however, it may vary at the discretion of the sanctioning authority.
- c) National Service Volunteers should be associated with the conduct of every camp.
- d) In each camp, at least 25% of the participants would have to be drawn from a

minimum number of five states representing some linguistic and cultural diversity. Preference is to be given to the participants from North-Eastern Region and Jammu & Kashmir.

- e) For each camp, there should be a theme identified – which shall be specially stressed upon along with promotion of national integration. These themes may cover topics like "Education", "Health", "Environment" etc. The selection of Resource Persons should be related to the theme.
- f) The resource persons in NICs should be from among eminent scientists, sports persons, spiritual leaders, school/college teachers or retired teachers or any other persons of eminence of the locality.

3.4 Cost Norm: The financial assistance from the government of India will be catalytic funding in nature and the grantee is free to seek additional resource from other collaborating agencies/ organization for conduct of the programme. The item-wise financial assistance will be provided as under. However the savings from one head can be utilized under another head to meet the local need subject to the conditions that the no of participants and other terms of sanction remain unchanged.

- a) Board & Lodging: Rs. 200/- per head per day for Metrocities and State Capitals and Rs. 150/- per head per day for other places, for the participants only.
- b) Travel Expenditure: From the place of residence of participants only to the place of camp and back by sleeper class of train fare or ordinary bus fare. Subsistence allowance at the rate of Rs.100/- per head for 24 hours or part thereof for a minimum journey period of 8 hours will also be admissible.
- c) Cultural Programme Expenditure: Rs. 50,000/- per camp for one-week for 150 persons towards stage, light, sound and other related expenses for capital cities and Rs. 40,000/- for non-capital cities.
- d) Documentation and Report Printing: Ordinarily not exceeding Rs. 5000/- per NIC of one-week duration for 150 participants. However in case of national level NIC, higher amount can be sanctioned as per recommendation of the grants-in-aid committee.
- e) Other Contingencies: Up to 25% of the total approved expenditure at (a) above.

4. INTER-STATE YOUTH EXCHANGE PROGRAMME (ISYEP)

4.1 Objective:

The objective of this programme, which can also be termed as national Integration Tour is to facilitate the visit of youth living and working in one State to other State(s) with marked cultural differences and an exchange visit by the youth of the visited States. More specifically, such inter-State youth exchanges would aim at:

- a) Familiarization with the environment, family life, social customs, etc. of the people living in different parts of the country.
- b) Understanding of the common historical and cultural heritage of the country as symbolised in historical monuments, cultural forms and the way of life of the

- people.
- c) Understanding of the problems being faced by the people of different regions.
 - d) Appreciation of the vastness of the country, its varied customs and traditions and yet a basic oneness which should engender among the participants a pride in being an Indian and
 - e) To inculcate amongst the youth a feeling of communal harmony.

4.2 Formation of groups and activities: In regard to formation of groups, their itinerary and activities would be planned keeping in view the following:

- a) The groups should be reasonably representative i.e. they should comprise young men and young women, students and non-students; should preferably include persons of different communities, particularly minorities and those belonging to the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes.
- b) These groups while travelling to the place of visit could stop, en-route, where conveniently possible, to visit places of interest relating to development and those of historical and cultural heritage.
- c) The groups on reaching the places of visit should undertake a variety of programmes which may include:
 - Cultural programmes
 - Seminars, discussions and informal meetings.
 - Joint participation of visitors and hosts in social developmental projects.
 - Taking up community work
 - Participation in regional festivals.
 - Visit to places of historical importance and scenic beauty as well as to the sites of important developmental projects.
 - Participate in relief and rehabilitation activities
 - Attachment with host families

4.4 Other Stipulations:

- a) The duration of inter state youth exchange programme for any group would ordinarily not exceed six weeks including the time taken on travel. However, this may vary subject to the approval of the sanctioning authority on merit.
- b) Number of participants should not normally be less than 20 and should not normally exceed 50. However, on the merit of the proposal, sanctioning authority may allow variation.
- c) The groups of visitors on return to their own States would disseminate the benefits of their experience through such methods, as may be the most suitable in the local context. This could include discussions, seminars, slide shows, exhibitions, reports, etc. In cases where dissemination takes the form of reports, a copy should be sent to the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- d) Preference will be given to proposals involving Border States of the country.

4.4 Cost Norm: Same as that of National Integration Camps. In place of cultural

programme component an amount of Rs. 50,000/- is allowed for local transport.

5. MULTI-CULTURAL ACTIVITIES:



5.1 Objective: To promote the spirit of national integration and communal harmony among the youth in particular and among the masses in general through different creative and innovative cultural activities.

5.2 Activities: Staging of plays (drama) and dance-dramas, organising musical sessions, cultural programmes, film shows, story and / or poetry recital sessions, exhibitions, and similar other sessions or workshops as may enshrine the rich cultural heritage of India on the one hand and do away with the regional, linguistic and religious barriers on the other.

5.3 Other Stipulations:

- a) Normally, the duration of such activity should not exceed 3 days. However, the sanctioning authority may allow relaxation in certain cases, purely on merit.
- b) Inter-State or inter-regional cultural activities would be given preference over local cultural festivals.

5.4 Cost Norm: It is difficult to freeze any cost norm for multi-cultural activities as the budget estimate would depend on its scale and no of participants, resource persons etc. The items of expenditure may vary from case to case; however, the financial

assistance from the government of India will be limited to 75% of the total approved cost / actual expenditure, whichever is less. In case of NSS, NYKS and State/UT government's, financial assistance up to 100% will be provided. The sanctioning

authority may delete/reduce one or more of the items of the proposed/projected cost for the purpose of calculation of total admissibility of the approved cost. The maximum ceiling for first time grantee under multi-cultural activities shall be Rs. 3.00 lakh.

6. NATIONAL YOUTH FESTIVAL



6.1 Objective: Every year, the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports has been celebrating 12 th January the birthday of Swami Vivekananda, the great philosopher, thinker and the greatest patron of the youth in India as National Youth Day and the week, commencing from that day, as the National Youth Week. As part of the celebration, holding of National Youth Festival began in 1995 as a major activity under the programme of National Integration Camp (NIC). The Government of India in collaboration with one of the States and institutions like the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan (NYKS) and the National Service Scheme (NSS) from 12th January to 16th January every year conduct this programme. The idea behind a Youth Festival is to organize a gathering of the youth and to take up one or all the programmes mentioned above so that the concept of National Integration, spirit of communal harmony, brotherhood, courage and adventure may be propagated. Like the National Youth Festival, States are also encouraged to hold State level, district level and block level youth festivals in the same line as that of the National Youth Festival and the State governments are assisted for holding State Youth Festivals.

6.2 Activities & Guidelines:

- i. The National Youth Festival will be organised by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports every year, in a State willing to host, in collaboration with the Nehru Yuva Kendra Sangathan and National Service Scheme.
- ii. A National Steering Committee for the National Youth Festival shall be constituted every year with the Union Minister of Youth Affairs and Sports as the Chairperson and the Chief Minister of the host state as Co-Chairperson. The National Steering Committee will provide broad direction and guidance for the Festival and it will be at the sole discretion of the committee to decide the theme, logo, mascot and programme activities of the festival on a year-to-year basis.
- iii. ~~Logo, mascot and programme activities of the festival on a year-to-year basis.~~ The Government of India, NYKS, NSS and other Invitees connected with the festival the State will provide appropriate accommodation, boarding and local transport during the festival. It will also make arrangements for hosting Opening and Closing Ceremony, security, protocol and provide infrastructure for organizing various events and functions by NYKS and NSS.
- iv. The State /UT Governments shall also organize their respective State / District / Block level festivals as run up to the National Youth Festival.
- v. Each State/UT shall send its youth contingents comprising not more than 100 participants to the National Youth Festival.

6.3 Financial assistance: The concerned State Government, hosting the National Youth Festival shall be assisted. The Central Government and the Host State Government would share expenditure in the ratio 50:50 subject to a ceiling of Rs.2.00 crore so far as Central Government Grant is concerned. This ratio (50:50) shall not be applicable in case of North Eastern States and Special Category States. Involvement of Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will be through its field offices like the NYKS and the NSS and release of grants to these organisations may also be made separately. In addition each States/UT may also seek central assistance for conducting their respective State Youth Festivals as run up to the National Youth Festival. The assistance for State Youth Festival will be limited to Rs. 10.0 lakh per State/UT for this purpose.

7. NATIONAL YOUTH AWARD:



7.1 Objectives of the award:

- a. To motivate young persons (aged between 13 – 35 years) a challenge to achieve excellence in the field of national or social service.
- b. To encourage young people to develop a sense of responsibility to their community and thus to improve their own personal potential as good citizens.
- c. To give recognition to the outstanding work done by young persons for national development and / or social service.
- d. To give recognition to the outstanding work done by voluntary organisations working with the youth for national development and / or social service.

7.2 Description of the award:

- a. The award shall be given for demonstrably excellent youth work in different fields of development activities and social service.
- b. The number of awards given each year would ordinarily not exceed 25. It may, however vary at the discretion of the sanctioning authority in deserving case.
- c. One youth award would be given to a voluntary organisation engaged in involvement of youth in various programmes of national development.
- d. Award to individuals will comprise a medal, a scroll, and Rs.20,000/-. A Ceremonial dresses will also be given to awardees.
- e. Award to voluntary youth organisation will comprise a medal, a trophy, a scroll and Rs. 1,00,000/- cash. A Ceremonial dresses will also be given to two awardees from the organisation.

7.3 Conditions of Eligibility:

7.3.1 For individuals:

- a. He / she should be between the ages of 13 – 35 years, i.e. He / she should have completed 13 years of age on the 1st of April of the financial year for which award is to be conferred and should be less than 35 years of age on the 31st of March of that financial year.
- b. He / she should have rendered service in the relevant field during the financial year for which award is to be given and should also be the one who is likely to continue to involve himself / herself in such activities for at least another two years after conferment of the award.
- c. The service rendered should be on a voluntary basis.
- d. The impact of the service rendered by him / her in person should be clearly identifiable, preferably quantitatively.
- e. He / she should not have been conferred such an award earlier. Such of the persons who are recommended for the award once and are not finally selected can, however, be recommended again.
- f. Persons employed with the Central / State Governments, PSUs/ Universities and colleges are not eligible for the award.
- g. Other consideration for guiding the selection of youth for the national award would include his / her reputation among the local community, his / her desire for improvement and genuine interest in the relevant field.

7.3.2 For Voluntary Organizations:

- a. Be registered under the Registration of Societies Act, 1860 (Act XXII of 1860) for the last three years or an corresponding State Act and have proper constitution or Articles of Association;
- b. Have a properly constituted managing body with its powers and duties clearly defined in its constitution;
- c. Be in a position to secure involvement on a voluntary basis, of knowledgeable persons for furtherance of its programmes,
- d. Not be run for the profit of any individual or a body of individuals,
- e. Not discriminate against any person or group of persons on the ground of sex, religion, caste or creed
- f. Have rendered service involving the Youth in a relevant field for at least three years and should also be one, which is likely to remain engaged in the relevant field for at least another two years after conferment of the award. Preference shall be given to those voluntary organisations, which are run by the youth and for the youth.
- g. Not have been conferred such an award earlier (such of the agencies as are recommended for the award once and are not finally selected, can, however, be recommended again)
- h. Have a good reputation among the local community, and i. The impact of the service rendered by it should be clearly identifiable, preferably quantitatively.

7.4 Submission of Proposals:

- a. The formats of application for National Youth Awards are given at Appendix-1

- and Appendix-2 to these guidelines.
- b. Universities / Colleges, local developmental departments, voluntary agencies, private bodies, public sector undertakings, Nehru Yuva Kendra, National Service Scheme, etc. will submit their recommendation to the respective District Magistrate / Collector by the 30th June every year
 - c. In addition to the recommendations received from the above organisations, the selection committee at different levels may, at their discretion, consider, on merits, individuals or youth organisations not recommended by anybody but considered suitable by the selection committee.
 - d. Proposals to be considered should be accompanied by 3 passport size photographs of the candidates and also by adequate evidence in support of them.

7.5 Evaluation of Proposals: The fields of activities to be taken into consideration for the purpose of the National Youth Award would include social work in the rural areas and urban slums, promotion of national integration, adventure, cultural and recreational activities, non formal and adult education programmes, work for improvement of the conditions of persons belonging to the weaker sections of the society, SC / ST and tribal areas, work connected with popularization of nationally accepted values, scouting and guiding and any other work considered important keeping in view the local needs and priorities. The State Governments would identify priority areas and call upon their youth to concentrate their efforts in these fields.

7.6 Selection of Awardees:

7.6.1 District Level: The name recommended by the bodies as mentioned in paragraph 7.4 above will be considered by a District level committee headed by the District Collector. The other members of the committee would be representatives of an University, Nehru Yuva Kendra and a prominent voluntary agency working in the field of youth. No voluntary agencies would, however, be associated at the time of making recommendations of voluntary youth organisations to the State Government/Union Territory administration by the 31st July every year.

7.6.2 State Level: The recommendations made by the district level committees would be considered by a State level committee under the chairmanship of the Secretary of the Department dealing with youth affairs in the State. In case recommendations are not received by the State Government / Union Territory administration by the 31st July, from all the districts, the State level Selection Committee would proceed to make its recommendations taking into account only such of the recommendations as might have been received up-to the 31st July, or if none are received, to make recommendations suo – moto. The composition of the State level committee will be decided by the State Government. The State/UT level Selection Committee shall scrutinize the recommendations of the district committee and recommend to the Central Government a panel of not more than 5 (five) names of young persons selected by State / UT level Committee. Similarly, each State Government / UT administration will recommend not more than two voluntary agencies engaged in youth work. The recommendation of the State / UT selection committee shall normally be accepted by the State / UT Government. In case any variation is made, full justification for the same will have to be given. The

State Government / Union Territory Administration will forward its recommendations to the Central Government by the 31st of August every year.

7.6.3 National Level: At the National Level, a Central Selection Committee will scrutinize recommendations of the State Governments / UT administrations and make the final selection of youth awards. The Central Selection Committee may, at its discretion, consider on merits, individuals or youth organisations not recommended by a State Government / UT, for the award.

7.7 Presentation of the Award:



- a) Presentation of the award shall be made at a special ceremony during the National Youth Festival (12-16 January) on a convenient date and time to be announced every year.
- b) The awardees shall be invited to receive the award in persons.
- c) The awardees would be given TA / DA by the First Class / AC 2-tier return rail fare and arrangements for their stay would be made by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports. Lady and handicapped awardees are entitled to bring one escort. They will also be given TA/DA at par with the awardees.
- d) Awardees and escorts from North-Eastern Region including Sikkim and Jammu & Kashmir may be allowed airfare up to Guwahati/Kolkotta or Jammu/Delhi respectively on both-ways. Awardees and escorts from Andaman & Nicobar Islands and Lakshdweep are entitled for airfare both ways to the venue of the award.

7.8 General:

- a) The Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports is competent to amend this code at its discretion without any prior notice whatsoever.
- b) Necessary funds for the awards and for all expenses incidental thereto as approved by the Government shall be provided by Government of India, Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.
- c) In case of any dispute, the decision of the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports will be final and binding on all concerned.
- d) The secretariat for the award shall be provided by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports.

8. Budget Estimates for Typical Programme Components

8.1 It is acknowledged that it is extremely to standardize any programme component for national integration or inter state youth exchange. However for benefit of field organisations the budget for the following typical programme components have been worked out. In the case of national integration camps Rs. 750/- has been calculated for traveling allowance under the presumption that at least 25% of the participants will be from other than the host state. In case of inter state youth exchange programme the entire batch of 50 persons will be visiting the places of destination. The Project Appraisal Committee may in deserving cases to be recorded in writing, enhance the limit of traveling allowance.

(a) National Integration Camp for 150 persons for 7 days duration at State Capitals

Boarding and Lodging @ Rs. 200/- for 150 youth for 7 days	=Rs. 2,10,000/-
Travelling Allowance @ Rs. 750/- for 150 youth	=Rs. 1,12,500/-
Cultural Programme Expenses on lump sum basis	=Rs. 50,000/-
Documentation including photography on lump sum basis	=Rs. 5,000/-
Contingencies @ 25% of B&L above	=Rs. 52,500/-
Total	=Rs. 4,30,000/-

(b) National Integration Camp for 150 persons for 7 days duration at Non-Capital Cities

Boarding and Lodging @ Rs. 150/- for 150 youth for 7 days	=Rs. 1,57,000/-
Travelling Allowance @ Rs. 750/- for 150 youth	=Rs. 1,12,500/-
Cultural Programme Expenses on lump sum basis	=Rs. 40,000/-
Documentation including photography on lump sum basis	=Rs. 5,000/-
Contingencies @ 25% of B&L above	=Rs. 39,250/-
Total	=Rs. 3,53,750/-

(c) Inter State Youth Exchange Programme for 50 persons for 15 days duration

Boarding and Lodging @ Rs. 200/- for 50 youth for 15 days	=Rs. 1,50,000/-
Travelling Allowance @ Rs. 1000/- for 50 youth	=Rs. 50,000/-
Local Transport Expenses on lump sum basis	=Rs. 50,000/-
Documentation including photography on lump sum basis	=Rs. 5,000/-
Contingencies @ 25% of B&L above	=Rs. 37,500/-
Total	=Rs. 2,92,500/-