

YUVA 2017

To commemorate the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology once again witnessed the National Youth Awakening Festival, 'YUVA'17' with flying colors. The chilled morning of 12th January 2017 was welcomed with the youth rally at 6 am that began from the Stevenson Stadium. Renowned dignitaries and youth from all over the country enthusiastically participated in it. The ambience reverberated with the influential slogans related to youth empowerment, and nation development. The youth rally culminated at Gandhi Bhawan with the thought provoking ideas and words of students and dignitaries. It kindled vigor in the young budding talents. This time the National Conference was graced by the renowned dignitaries like Swami Narsimha Maharaj, Swami Mitrananda, Sushri Rekha Davey, Dr. Suchismita Sengupta, Dr. Rajendra Dobhal, Dr. B.K. Kuthiala, Dr. RL Raina, Sri Atul Jain, Sri Prem Badakoti, Sushri Divya Rawat, & Shri MS Arora. All the participants gathered at Ratan Singh Auditorium at 9 am, which was then followed by the inaugural session in which Sushri Rekha Dhavay, Swami Mitrananda, Swami Narsimha Maharaj and our Vice Chancellor Dr. J.Kumar lightened the lamp as a symbol of the victory of light over darkness. All the dignitaries were welcomed and felicitated. The welcome address was followed by the influential speech of the dignitaries which was a conglomeration of words of motivation for youth and their several fascinating life experiences. They elaborated on the topic of the National Conference "Skilling India for Youth Empowerment: Opportunities, Challenges and Futuristic Strategies", emphasizing on the need to care about the youth who are the future of tomorrow. They expounded about the importance of skilling, the ways in which it can be done and what tremendous impact it can create among the youth if done with a spirit of volunteerism. Few of them discussed about the ideologies of Swami Vivekananda and motivated everyone to apply it in the everyday life. Dr. Rajendra Dobhal highlighted on the 'Skill India' mission. He discussed the fact that how the corrupt bureaucratic system affects the youth of today. He told that the country with the largest population of youth if directed along with the inclination to moral values of life could contribute with more zeal and vigor. Swami Mitrananda quoted the words of Swami Vivekananda "Strength is life, Weakness is death". He also urged the youth to build nerves of steel and muscles of iron. He also emphasized on the importance of values and ethics that makes an individual strong. Clearly demarcating between 'living' and 'existence' he urged the youth to understand the essence of life. Sushri Rekha Davey emphasized the fact that this country is in dire need of true education not religion because our country is one of the spiritual leaders of the world. She appealed the mass to be efficient and proficient to contribute to the nation. Sushri Divya Rawat, known as the 'Mushroom Lady of Uttarakhand' encouraged the youth to take the initiative and dedicate themselves for the benefit of all those who are being deprived of the basic necessities of life. She encouraged the young masses to assimilate their strengths and power in right direction to transcend the growth of self and nation. Our Vice Chancellor, Dr. J.Kumar emphasized the fact how agriculture could contribute in the development of nation and told about the laurel and fame that the university had gained. He recalled the glorious past of Pantnagar University and owed regards to Dr. Norman Borlaug for his contributions to Green revolution. Dr. RL Raina expressed his views how a strange idea when implemented in the right direction can contribute to a positive change in the society. Sri Atul Jain gave an insight about the philosophies of Shri Deen Dayal Upadhyay and Nanaji. He said that only churning ideas and never ending thoughts could lead to measurable changes. Sri Prem Badakoti discussed about

the problem of migration of youth from the hilly areas and how we can provide skill to the youth of the hilly areas. Shri M.S. Arora gave the basic idea how we can find the solution of any problem through minor investment and innovative ideas. Challenges and opportunities for youth were the topics that were elaborately discussed. All the participants were enjoying and relishing the speech of the great people who are working for a cause.

The conference commenced on an auspicious note with the interactive session between the students and the dignitaries, after the lunch break. The moment witnessed the active participation of students from all over the country. The students asked myriad questions to the dignitaries regarding skilling, career, job- oriented issues and entrepreneurship. The youth enquired the dignitaries about their source of motivation to dedicate their life for the well being of others. The dignitaries too showed their enthusiastic participation in clearing their doubts and dilemmas. The dignitaries discussed about their experiences and encouraged the young minds to explore their hidden potential. The 3 hour long interactive sessions ended with an exuberant spirit.

As twilight bathed the University of Pantnagar, vibrant students came up with their beautiful posters to participate in the poster making competition from 5pm to 5:45pm. The poster was the reflection of the ideas of their paper in a concise manner. It witnessed the participation of about 50 students. Students presented their posters on the four different sub themes and were asked many questions regarding the topic. The innovative ideas of the students really touched the heart of the dignitaries. The poster competition ended with the tea break and all the participants were informed to gather at the Gandhi Auditorium to relish the mesmerizing performance of a Bombay based band "Filter Coffee" in Anand Lehar, 'The Cultural Night'. It was an ethnotronic collaborative, brain child of Flautist Shriram and Percussionist Swarupa, who organically combined virtuosic improvisation with electronic soundscapes and hypnotic grooves. Having spent the most part of the last 2 years, touring in playing music festivals around the world Shriram and Swarupa have successfully released their debut album 'Raagatronic' ranking No.1 on the iTunes India Music charts. The band gave a thrilling performance with all the spectators slowly drooling in emotions. In this way the wonderful day of 12th January 2017 ended with great fervor and invigorated spirit.

On the 2nd day of the National Youth Conference organized in G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology on the topic '**Skilling India for Youth Empowerment: Opportunities, Challenges and Futuristic Strategies**' deliberations and discussions came up from the young budding minds covering topics from almost all the fields. The day began with a melodious song '*Matra mandir ka samarpit geet main*' followed by the encouraging and inspiring speeches and life instances of renowned dignitaries. Key points of the addressing of Dignitaries:

1. Dr. Suchismita SenGupta:- She motivated youth with the encouraging and inspiring life instances of Nobel Laureate Dr. CV Raman, great engineer Mokshgundam Vishwesharya, Life scientist Jagdish Chandra Bose, dedicated doctor Bidhan Chandra Roy to name a few. She urged the youths to struggle hard for perfection and excellence in every field.

2. Shri Rajendra Chaddha:- He gave an example of Arun Shaurya whose wife is suffering Parkinson's disease and son is handicapped, but still he lives with the philosophies of Swami Vivekananda. He impelled youth to be satisfied in life with whatever they have.

These addressing of esteemed dignitaries was followed by the Paper Presentation contest on 4 sub themes of the conference.

1. Youth Empowerment: A call for Developing India: India is expected to become world's youngest nation by 2020 making it an urgent need to harness the demographic dividend of the nation and skill its workforce to be an asset for the nation.

2. Boosting Youth Potential through Skilling: Opportunities and Challenges: Various bottlenecks for skill development along with solutions and ideas were discussed.

3. Volunteerism in Skilling: Cases of Success and Failure: Analysis of various initiatives of government and other organizations were reviewed and discussed. The key factors responsible for success and failure of those praiseworthy initiatives were touted to inspire young minds.

4. Government Strategies for Skilling India: Futuristic Propositions: The innovative ideas for transforming existing governmental strategies came through the young budding minds. Issues like corruption, old education system, insufficient job and lack of skills along with ways to curb it were contemplated.

In the last session of the Conference, the ideas, suggestions and learnings of the 2 day conference were assimilated. Delegates were asked to identify the best skill they possess and they can polish in their life so that they can earn their livelihood. The session ended with the commitments of students to work for the nation in whatever field they want.

In the valedictory session of the event all the key points of the conference were once again summarized very nicely. The 2 day mega event ended with our National Anthem 'Jana Gana Mana' and lots of learnings and carry back messages.