

**YES!**



# India Youth Jam 2023



## Overview

Our experiences of ourselves, people close to us, the country in the pandemic and issues outside of the pandemic have affected our emotions, mind, body, our connections with each other, and the world.

With India as a country experiencing a lot of upheavals recently, and many young people taking a stand in a variety of ways, the Jam is a place to pause, find solidarity, sit with conflict, and practice listening to ourselves and each other.

Come join us for a powerful week of deep listening, self-discovery, community building, and systemic inquiry.

Jam is a place for Change-makers to

- experience unconditional love in a community and uncompromising truth,
- Sit with the conflicts that arise, and making an effort to see the other side of it
- learn tools that can enrich our personal and work lives, and
- engage deeply with the world and our place in it.

**Dates: 6 October-13 October 2023**

**Venue: Hidden Oasis, Pune, Maharashtra**



Dear Friends,

We are delighted to invite you to **India Youth Jam 2023**. The Jam is an annual gathering of diverse change-makers from across the country for a powerful week of deep listening, self-discovery, community building, and systemic inquiry.

We welcome entrepreneurs, activists, healers, educators, artists, environmentalists - anyone passionate about creating a thriving and inclusive world. We aim to have a diverse group of change-makers from a variety of backgrounds and experience levels.

To date, more than 200 Jams have been held across six continents, over the past 30 years, bringing together young leaders from more than 85 nations. The India Youth Jam is also being organized by Jam alumni in India, and is being supported by YES!, a nonprofit organization that connects changemakers towards creating thriving, just and sustainable ways of life for all. Learn more about Yes and Jams: [www.yesworld.org](http://www.yesworld.org)

## What is a 'Jam'?

In music, a “Jam” is a live gathering of talented musicians who come together spontaneously to create a new sound. Similarly for us, a Jam is a place where changemakers co-create ‘music’ with their passion, vision, openness and courage. They bring what they have and create a deep and vibrant experience together with no preconceived script. It requires that all the players are present, willing to deeply listen to each other and be with each other, to weave layers of sounds, experience, knowledge and spirit together. In the realness of this connection, magic happens.



## Why Jam?

In a country that is moving towards disconnection and polarisation, the Jam is an opportunity to pause, find solidarity, and to practice really listening to ourselves and each other. It's also a space to trust and connect across differences, learn from each other and discover new things about ourselves, our relationships, and the systems we're part of.

The honesty in sharing and the generosity of solidarity reflects in the work we do in the world, collectively creating a possibility for deeper transformations amongst the larger systems.





## What to Expect At Jam

The India Youth Jam is an attempt to practically embody the world we want to see. The Jam is NOT a conference, seminar or a typical meeting. Our Jams are rooted in universal love, compassion, and empathy. Activities at the Jam will include facilitated processes, sharing circles, dance, music, artistic expression, organized networking, games, participant-led workshops, outdoor connection, and lots of free time for spontaneous interactions amongst the participants.

Jam is a gathering of three different levels of change: the internal (self/personal), the interpersonal (relationships), and the systemic (the whole).

On the **internal level**, it is a place for participants to reflect on our life journeys and what makes us who we are today. It is an opportunity to deepen our purpose, ask meaningful questions, unlearn our fears and blocks, access our hearts, and open our minds to move ahead more boldly in the world. It is a time to recharge and renew while growing in self-knowledge and to experience self-care and personal sustainability.



On the **interpersonal level**, we come together to share our cultures, our stories and our struggles so we can deepen in our understanding of, each other. We take an honest, courageous and loving look at the identities that define and often separate us – class, gender, caste, religion, sexuality, etc. We approach conflict as an opportunity for greater clarity, authenticity and transformation, and provide transformative tools and practices to shift interpersonal dynamics in meaningful ways.



On the **systemic level**, we become clearer about the importance of our work, our vision for the world and their potential for even deeper, more meaningful impact. We get a chance to link issues that aren't commonly linked, to notice crucial intersection points, and get a clearer picture of the whole. We learn to connect the dots between our actions, work and lives, deepen our capacity to affect meaningful positive change in the world as well as collaborate together in new ways.

"I came to this space with a lot of apprehension, fears, shame and pain that I didn't necessarily acknowledge but I am leaving with so much lightness, acceptance, love and so much hope."

- **Anukriti Garg, Delhi**  
(India Youth Jam 2019 Alumni)

"Love – I've experienced it in so many forms this week. It came from different regions, different kinds of people, their communities alive and speaking to me through them. In many ways, a lot of India spoke to me and beckoned me to take action."

- **Varun Venugopal Gupta, Bangalore**  
(India Youth Jam 2019)

"I feel the experience at the JAM has brought back my confidence in myself, confidence in other people, in the work I do, in my creative expression and my belief in myself as a person who wishes to create experiences for a better world."

- **Shipra Agarwal, Bangalore**  
(India Youth Jam 2018 Alumni)



## Who is Invited

We are generally looking for participants between the ages of 20-40, Indian nationals involved in a social change effort of their calling. However we are not too rigid about age and nationality and happy to make exceptions. If you are open to learning from each other, excited about making new friends, and willing to push the limits of your comfort zone then probably this event is for you. **Given the linguistic diversity of India, the Jam will be held mainly in English.** However, partial translation services will be available.



## Dates and Venue

India Youth Jam will begin at **11 am on October 6** and finish at **9 a.m. on October 13, 2023**. Participants will be required to attend all days.



The Jam is usually held in a naturally beautiful place, away from the hustle-bustle of cities, so that it is immersive and rejuvenating.

This year it will be held at Hidden Oasis, Maharashtra. The venue is an hour drive from Pune. Read more about the venue here : <https://www.thehiddenoasis.com>

## Contribution

We offer a sliding-scale contribution of **Rs. 9000-Rs.25,000**

The actual cost of the Jam per participant is Rs 25,000. We recognise the different potentials people have to support the economy of Jam, and we have done some fundraising to make the Jam more affordable. And so we offer a sliding-scale - means that you can pay according to your unique financial situation, anywhere in the range of Rs. 9000-Rs. 25,000. This will include your stay, food and tuition. You will have to arrange your own travel.

We request you to take a stretch i.e. paying a little more than what you comfortably can. This will help us have an inclusive group of participants and at the same time, be financially sustainable. We appreciate your efforts to find the money even if it is a little difficult (we can help you in asking for support from family, friends, your organization, etc).

**Importantly, know that anything below Rs. 25000 is a scholarship. However, if you can't contribute the minimum of Rs. 9000, please mention that in the application form. (Money shouldn't be an impediment to your participation and we encourage you to talk to us so that we can find a solution together.)**

If you would like to attend the Jam, please fill in the **application** form. You can also email your applications or send a video recording answering all the questions at [indiayouthjam@gmail.com](mailto:indiayouthjam@gmail.com) if that seems more comfortable or something you would prefer.

Please submit your application latest by **August 8th, 2023**

This is not a competition or a race where we select the 'best' applications or judge whose work is 'better' and whose isn't. However, we are limited to a maximum of 28 participants, and we wish to ensure a circle of diversity with a right mix of qualities, so that the potential of the space is enriched and it becomes meaningful for all. The selections would only reflect this attempt. Please feel free to contact us if you have any queries. We eagerly look forward to hearing from you.

Warmly,

Sukhmani, Mazhar, Vibhuti, Saagar, Suyash, and Jasmine  
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