

2014-15 Story of Yuva Brigade's inception:

In 2014, the commencement of Yuva Brigade happened with the motto 'Billion minds, one ambition' and with the oath of making India Vishwaguru, they took the first step across the state by celebrating "Rock Day" on December 25<sup>th</sup>, the same day when Swami Vivekananda's goal got decided on the rock of Kanyakumari.

On January 12, 2015, on behalf of Swami Vivekananda's 152<sup>nd</sup> birth anniversary, with the motive #Savirada Vivekananda, the activists of Yuva Brigade visited more than 2000 various schools and colleges across the state, interacted with the children and made an attempt to create awareness among the children by sharing Swamiji's views, thoughts and utterances on many facets of life. Most of the people who spoke that day were holding the mic for the first time! By doing this, they not only ensured that the young generation was educated about Swami Vivekananda, but also that the thoughts and preachings of Swami Vivekananda reached every house and registered on their minds. Later on January 23<sup>rd</sup> on Subhash Chandra Bose's birthday, under the caption #four steps with soldiers, special celebrations were carried out throughout the state by organizing an exhibition of rare artifacts about Netaji from 23<sup>rd</sup> to 31<sup>st</sup> January.

In the history of our state, the Yuva Brigade is the first organization that embarked the task of revival of the ponds that are water sources, also known as Kalyanis. They have taken up the challenging task of rejuvenating these ponds and due to the hard work of these activists, hundreds of kalyanis of our state that were on the verge of destruction are revived, fully functional and brimming with water now. In the Koneri pond of Gadag, the activists worked relentlessly for hundred days at a stretch, cleaned up the garbage dumped in the lake and brought back life into this water source which was a swamp earlier. In Sandur taluk of Bellary, the Swamiji of Dharma Parishat got inspired by the works of Yuva Brigade and himself came forward to clean up the Kalyani in the temple premises. This initiative was not only applauded by the people of the entire state, but also the governments recognized and appreciated the work of Yuva Brigade's astounding work.

In order to celebrate the victory of the Kargil war fought in 1999 on July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Yuva Brigade successfully brought back the celebration of the Vijaya Diwas to the forefront which had been neglected by governments. In every district of the state, they carried out activities like raising awareness among the public by narrating the adventurous stories on the soldiers, torch procession, candle marches, compassionate speeches, etc. In these programs, they identified the families of ex-soldiers and heroes of the war and honoured them by recognizing their contributions. In the similar manner, many celebrations were organized and number of events were carried out under the name #War of Tanks to commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the victory Indo-Pak War in the year 1965.

On the occasion of Ganesh Chaturthi, in order to create awareness regarding usage of eco-friendly Ganesha statues instead of the ones made out of POP, awareness campaigns were carried out in the name of #Mannina Ganapa, Manne Ganapa. In these campaigns people were told to use clay-made Ganesha statues at home instead of chemical dyeing and coloured idols. In places where these eco-friendly idols were not available, Yuva Brigade activists took special interest and specifically got from the distributors and ensured the availability of the Ganesha idols for this occasion.

In order to give the real pictures of heroic warriors and the war scenarios to the current young generation, Yuva brigade team embarked on the #LOC expedition. This way, the youngsters

are able to witness the heroic life of the soldiers, hear the exciting stories of the soldiers from them and get the first-hand experience which brings a warm experience even in the extreme cold weather conditions of the places. This journey has further inspired the youth to be of service to the nation.