

# WORLD INFORMO

A USO MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SINCE 1958



## 61st GENERAL CONFERENCE & ALL-INDIA SCHOOLS FESTIVAL

The 61st General Conference & All-India Schools Festival took place at USTM, Meghalaya from Monday, October 16, 2023, to Thursday, October 19, 2023. USO's four-day flagship event was attended by students and teachers from schools all-over India and consisted of two main components: the Conference and the Festival.

The Conference encompassed various activities, including group discussions, sight-seeing trip, a peace march, career counseling sessions, and campfire gatherings. These engaging sessions provided participants with opportunities to learn, connect, and explore their interests.

Simultaneously, the festival brought together a myriad of competitions, such as On-the-spot painting, speech, solo dance, solo singing, group dance, and one-act plays. These competitions added a vibrant and competitive element to the event, allowing participants to showcase their talents and creativity.

This year, competition topics were based on USO's chosen theme for the year which is SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being. This event for USO Member Schools undoubtedly left a lasting impression on all the students and teachers who had the privilege of attending, offering a rich blend of education, cultural exchange, and talent exhibition. This event was covered in the several newspapers and television outlets.

Scan QR code to watch the highlights video of the 61st General Conference & All-India Schools Festival held from October 16-19, 2023 at USTM, Meghalaya



## Highlights

Our Flagship Event:  
61st General Conference &  
All India Schools Festival

USO Guwahati Inter Schools  
Fest (conducted under the  
aegis of the 61st General  
Conference & All-India  
Schools Festival

USO House Diwali Mela

Young Scientist Challenge 2023

Know More About:

- World Vegan Day
- National Cancer Awareness Day
- World Science Day for Peace and Development

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## GUWAHATI INTER SCHOOLS FEST



United Schools Organisation of India (USO) successfully organized the USO Guwahati Inter Schools Fest at the iconic Don Bosco School, Pan Bazaar, Guwahati, Assam on Friday, October 13, 2023. The fest was conducted under the aegis of the 61st General Conference & All-India Schools Festival which was held at USTM, Meghalaya from October 16-19, 2023. The event saw active participation from schools in and around Guwahati and aimed to promote extracurricular activities among school students.

The 1-day Fest took place from 8 am to 2 pm, providing a platform for students to showcase their talents. Participation: Schools from in and around Guwahati actively participated in the event. Students appeared in various group and individual competitions.

### Competition Categories:

Students from the schools could participate in both individual and group competitions. The theme of all competitions was based on USO's chosen theme of the year: SDG 3: Good Health & Well-Being.

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The USO Guwahati Inter Schools Fest stands as a testament to the commitment of promoting holistic development and extracurricular excellence among the youth. We extend our gratitude to all the participating schools, students, and esteemed guests for making this event a grand success.

The Closing and Prize Distribution Ceremony was graced by the presence of the esteemed Chief Guest, Dr. Nitul Gogoi, IPS, Assam Police, who delivered an inspiring message to the students, encouraging them to actively engage in extracurricular activities.



Scan QR code to watch the highlights video of the Guwahati Inter Schools Fest held at Don Bosco School, Pan Bazaar, Guwahati, Assam

## UPCOMING ACTIVITY: USO HOUSE DIWALI MELA



We are excited to announce that we will be organizing our annual USO House Diwali Mela on November 2 and 3, 2023.

USO House will welcome special schools to the Diwali Mela as exhibitors, which will help empower specially-abled students by providing them with a platform to showcase their talents, skills, and creativity. The Mela shall provide these schools a platform to highlight their school.

### Our Purpose:

Diwali Mela for special schools and their handmade products is not just a festive event; it is an opportunity for these students to showcase their abilities, gain confidence, and actively participate in their school and the community. It promotes inclusivity, empowerment, and cultural enrichment while also encouraging acceptance and understanding among all participants. Inclusivity is our commitment to ensuring that everyone, regardless of abilities, can partake in the beauty of this cultural tradition.

### Opening Ceremony:

The Mela is scheduled to open from 11 am on Thursday, November 2, 2023. Mr. C. B. Singh, Director, CSIR-NIScPR - Jigyasa Division has been invited as the Chief Guest and will inaugurate the Mela by cutting the customary ribbon.

Several offices in/around Institutional Area have been invited to attend the Mela. The office staff purchase their Diwali-related articles from the Mela. The awareness of the special schools also increases while providing the students with the exposure.

### Closing Ceremony:

The closing ceremony is equally important. Mr. Santosh Pal, Director (Admin), Rehabilitation Council of India, has consented to be the Chief Guest for the closing ceremony on Friday, November 3, 2023.

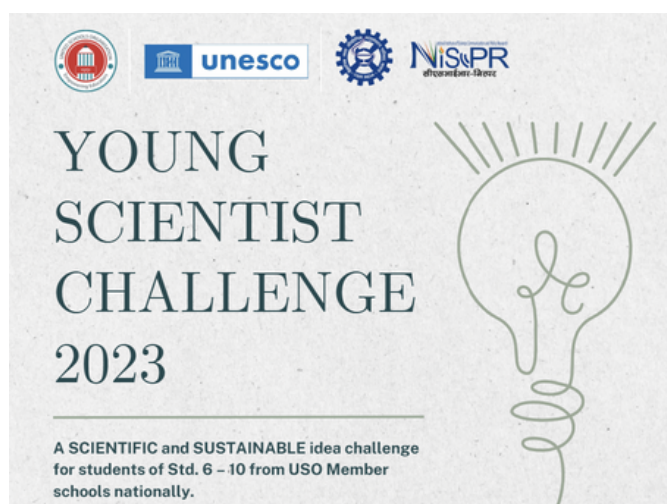
Invitations have also been extended to schools in/around Delhi - NCR and their students to attend the Mela.

### More About the Mela:

We have been conducting the USO Diwali Mela since 2021. This is the 3rd year that the Mela is being conducted and we are truly looking forward.



## ONGOING ACTIVITY: YSC2023



### Overview:

The Young Scientist Challenge 2023 is a science competition for students in India, organized by USO in partnership with UNESCO and CSIR-NIScPR. It is conducted under the aegis of G20 (comprising 19 countries and the European Union, G20 is the premier forum for international economic cooperation) and S20 (an Engagement Group vertical of G20, comprising the scientific academies of all G20 countries).



YSC 2023 is designed to encourage and inspire middle school students of Std. 6-10 to explore scientific concepts and develop a passion for science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM). Through this competition, we aim to encourage students to identify real-world concerns and design solutions, thereby nurturing critical thinking, problem-solving, and creativity – skills that are essential for our future citizens and leaders.

It is our joint endeavour to foster a love for STEM subjects, encourage critical thinking, and provide young students with the opportunity to interact with real scientists.

YSC 2023 is divided into 3 phases:

- **Phase I:** The Idea Generation and Selection Phase
- **Phase II:** The Video Submission Phase
- **Phase III:** The Result Declaration Phase

### The Challenge So Far...

Schools enrolled for YSC2023, and subsequently, an orientation session was organized to familiarize teachers and students with the program details.

#### Phase I:

Schools conducted an 'Idea Camp' in which students were informed about the challenge. The resources shared with the schools were used by the teachers as a starting point. Subsequently, teachers selected invited ideas from the students.

#### Phase II:

Teachers selected top 3 ideas from their school and submitted them to USO in a prepared template. The idea had to be aligned with the SDG that was given for the challenge. USO, UNESCO and CSIR-NIScPR then carefully selected the top ideas and moved these students to Phase II. An interaction session with a prominent scientist was also organised to help students with scientific thinking process.

#### Phase III: Ongoing

We have received 30 videos from YSC 2023 registered schools, which are in the process of being evaluated. An online orientation shall be held on Friday, November 17, 2023 in which the names of the winners shall be announced.

To get the most accurate and up-to-date information on Phase 3 of the Young Scientist Challenge for 2023 students are requested to get in touch with the teachers of their respective school.

Wishing the students all the very best!



**NOVEMBER 1**  
**World Vegan Day**

World Vegan Day is a global event celebrated annually on 1st November. The term 'vegan' was invented by Donald Watson, an animal rights activist when he called for a meeting with five of his non-dairy vegetarian acquaintances on November 1, 1944. The aim was to discuss non-dairy-based vegetarian diets. In the early '40s, vegans were considered to be vegetarians who did not consume any dairy products. This later extended to exclusion of different foods and by-products derived from animals.

**Significance**

A vegan diet involves a lot of innovation but embraces the goodness of the Earth and nature thereby aiming towards cruelty-free lifestyle. It is a diet that anyone can enjoy and is willing to try.

**Benefits:**

There are several benefits to embracing a vegan diet:

- A vegan diet is a positive link to lower the risk of heart disease.
- A vegan diet can reduce pain from arthritis.
- A vegan diet lowers blood sugar levels, reduces the risk of type two diabetes, cancer, arthritis and lung diseases, and keeps kidney disorders at bay.
- A vegan diet is high in fibre and low in cholesterol since it is mainly plant-based.
- A vegan diet can also help to lose excess weight.

- Vegan diet can reduce carbon emissions by 73%.
- Vegan diets are high in protein.
- A vegan diet has the potential to solve world hunger.
- Each vegan spares 30 animal lives a year.
- A plant-based diet increases metabolism.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

- There are more than 200 types and subtypes of cancer.
- The left side of the body is also 10% more prone to melanoma.
- 10 million people die from cancer every year.



**NOVEMBER 7**  
**National Cancer Awareness Day**

National Cancer Awareness Day is observed on November 7 in India. The day highlights the significance of increased awareness about cancer prevention and early detection for the general public. The National Cancer Control Programme was initiated in 1975 to provide cancer treatment facilities in the country. In India, nearly 1.1 million new cases are being reported annually.

National Cancer Awareness Day was first announced by the Indian Union Minister for Health and Family Welfare Dr. Harsh Vardhan in September 2014, and that 7th November will be observed as National Cancer Awareness Day every year to generate awareness about early detection and avoid leading cancer-causing lifestyles.

Cancer is a large group of diseases that can start in almost any organ or tissue of the body when abnormal cells grow uncontrollably, go beyond their usual boundaries to invade adjoining parts of the body and/or spread to other organs. The latter process is called metastasizing and is a major cause of death from cancer. Neoplasm and malignant tumor are other common names for cancer. Lung, prostate, colorectal, stomach and liver cancer are the most common types of cancer in men, while breast, colorectal, lung, cervical and thyroid cancer are the most common among women.



**NOVEMBER 10**  
**World Science Day for**  
**Peace and Development**

Celebrated every 10 November, World Science Day for Peace and Development highlights the important role of science in society and the need to engage the wider public in debates on emerging scientific issues. It also underlines the importance and relevance of science in our daily lives.

By linking science more closely with society, this day aims to ensure that citizens are kept informed of developments in science. It also underscores the role scientists play in broadening our understanding of the remarkable, fragile planet we call home and in making our societies more sustainable.

Each year, UNESCO chooses a theme for World Science Day for Peace and Development to focus on specific issues and challenges related to science and its role in society. The themes often revolve around areas such as climate change, water resources, health, education, and technology.

**Theme for 2023:**

The theme of World Science Day on 10 November 2023 is 'Building Trust in Science'. The role of science in shaping our collective future can only be fulfilled when there is trust in science. It is trust in science that fuels the development and application of evidence-based solutions to our world's multifaceted challenges.

Trust in science is a complex issue. It affects the way in which scientists operate and the way science is perceived by society. Also, enhancing trust in science strengthens science-based policy decisions and society's support for their application.

The day provides an opportunity for scientists, researchers, policymakers, and the public to engage in discussions and activities that promote the use of science for the benefit of humanity. It emphasizes the need for international cooperation and collaboration in addressing global issues through scientific research and innovation.

Overall, World Science Day for Peace and Development serves as a platform to highlight the transformative power of science in advancing humanity's well-being and fostering a culture of peace and development.

**Background:**

The commitment to science and society was one of the positive outcomes of the 1999 World Conference on Science in Budapest. It was considered an opportunity to reaffirm each year the commitment to attaining the goals proclaimed in the Declaration on Science and the Use of Scientific Knowledge and to follow up the recommendations of the Science Agenda: Framework for Action.





# Happy Diwali

WISHING ALL OUR READERS A  
VERY HAPPY DIWALI



-From all of us at USO-



## USO ACTIVITIES CALENDAR

OCTOBER 1, 2023 – MARCH 31, 2024

OCTOBER	NOVEMBER	DECEMBER
<p>USO ANNUAL CONFERENCE &amp; INTER SCHOOLS FEST MONTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Fri, Oct 13:</b> Guwahati Inter Schools Fest</li><li>• <b>Mon, Oct 16 to Thurs, Oct 19:</b> USO 61st General Conference &amp; All-India Schools Festival</li><li>• <b>'Young Scientist 2023'</b> - Phase II starts</li></ul>	<p>USO CELEBRATIONS MONTH</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Thurs, Nov 2 to Fri, Nov 3:</b> USO House Diwali Mela (an annual event inviting special schools to showcase products made by their students.</li><li>• <b>Fri, Nov 17:</b> 'Young Scientist' Phase III</li></ul>	<p>USO FOCUS: SPECIAL SCHOOLS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National activity for Special Schools. To be launched on World Disabilities Day - Dec 3</li></ul>
JANUARY	FEBRUARY	MARCH
<p>USO FOUNDER'S DAY CELEBRATIONS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Sat, Jan 27: Founder's Day Celebrations with USO Co-Action Learning Centre staff and students</li></ul>	<p>USO ACTIVITIES REVIEW &amp; WIND-UP</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• USO Activities to be reviewed, and concluded</li></ul>	<p>USO CLUB AWARDS</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• USO Club in Schools to be awarded prizes based on success of activities undertaken</li></ul>