



Learning Continues. Excellence Grows.

August brings with it a renewed sense of purpose as the academic year gathers pace. Classrooms are now vibrant spaces where curiosity turns into exploration, ideas transform into action, and every day offers new opportunities for learning and growth.

This is a time to strengthen knowledge, build confidence, and encourage students to think critically, collaborate meaningfully, and embrace challenges with determination. Guided by dedicated educators, young learners continue to develop the skills, values, and resilience needed to thrive in an ever-evolving world.

As we move forward together, let us celebrate every milestone, inspire continuous learning, and remain committed to nurturing future-ready individuals who will make a positive difference in society.

USO Team
75 Years of Supporting Holistic Education

USO@75: Seventy-Five Sparks

Our Goal

**75
Sparks**

Achieved

**48
Sparks**

To Go

**27
Sparks**

Sparks are 75 meaningful initiatives engaging students, teachers, and schools - promoting inclusivity, innovation, and social awareness.

Scan to explore USO's
Seventy-Five Sparks



In this edition

Ongoing Activities

- USO Club
- Smart Schools Series: AI for Everyday Learning
- USO National Tests
- Biosphere Reserve Champions 2026

Sparks Concluded Activities

National Observances:

- Independence Day
- Raksha Bandhan
- National Sports Day

UN Key Observances:

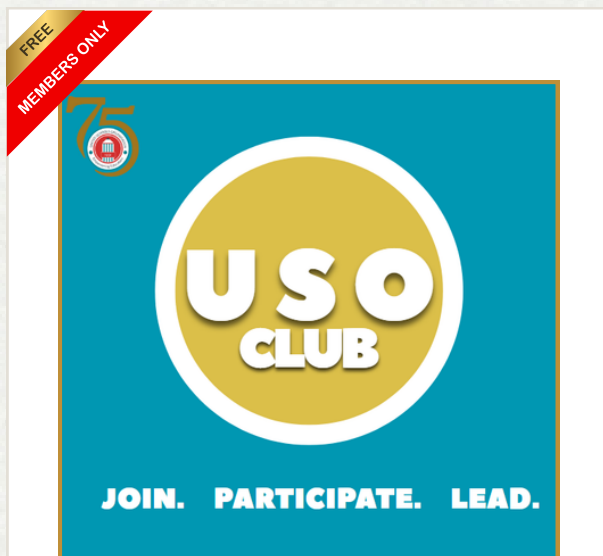
- International Youth Day
- World Humanitarian Day

Guidelines to Submit Articles

USO Activities Calendar for Schools

Our Theme for 2026 - 2027

Ongoing Activities



USO Club Join. Participate. Lead.

The USO Club, a flagship initiative of USO, continues its second cycle, offering USO Member Schools a platform for students and educators to connect, participate, build skills, and showcase talents.

USO Club Kits, including brochures, badges, T-shirts, and caps, have been delivered to registered schools across India. Schools have shared their enthusiasm through photographs, marking the beginning of their USO Club journey.

The registration process has been successfully completed, and schools are now actively participating in year-round Club activities. Students are engaging in challenges and experiences that promote creativity, leadership, teamwork, and skill development while earning points and working towards recognition.

Discover the Impact of the USO Club 2025–2026 in schools across India.



Scan the QR Code to
Watch the Video



Webinar #5 Deep Dive With Claude

USO will continue its Smart Schools Series with Webinar #5: Deep Dive with Claude. The session is designed to help educators and school leaders explore Claude's capabilities and its practical applications in teaching, learning, research, and school administration.

The webinar will demonstrate how Claude can support lesson planning, classroom activities, assessments, research, and everyday professional tasks. Participants will gain practical insights into writing effective prompts, organising information, generating creative ideas, and using AI to improve productivity and learning experiences.

Through practical demonstrations and examples, participants will explore how Claude can simplify tasks, support personalised learning, and encourage innovation. The session will highlight responsible AI use, helping educators integrate Claude into their practices and create engaging, future-ready learning environments.



Scan the QR Code to
Know More

Ongoing Activities



USO Club Member Schools will earn 15
USO Club Points for participation.

USO National Tests 2026 Learn. Compete. Excel.

The USO National Tests 2026 provide students from Std. 1-12 with a national platform to learn, compete, and excel. We offer a wide range of subjects, as below:

Category	Subjects	Std.
Curricular Tests	Mental Maths	Std. 1-5
	English Skills	
Extra-Curricular Tests	Mini GK	Std. 1-3
	Mini IT & AI	
	UN Information	Std. 4-12
	General Knowledge	
	IT & AI	

Study materials have been provided in the format selected by each school, whether printed books or e-books, ensuring students are well prepared for the examinations. In line with the scheduled examination dates, USO has also dispatched the required question papers and OMR sheets to all participating schools, facilitating the smooth and timely conduct of the tests. With all essential resources in place, schools are now ready to conduct the examinations, giving students an opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge and skills at the national level.



USO Club Member Schools will earn 10
USO Club Points for participation.

Biosphere Reserve Champions 2026

This is the third edition of USO's national student engagement initiative under the flagship Students 360° programme, inviting students from Std. 6-12 to explore India's UNESCO-designated Biosphere Reserves and World Heritage Sites through innovation and Artificial Intelligence (AI).

USO will organise an online orientation session for Teacher Coordinators on Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 4:00 PM. The session will introduce the programme, explain the activities and guidelines, and familiarise teachers with the implementation of each phase.

The orientation will equip teachers with the information and resources needed to guide students effectively throughout the challenge. It will also provide an opportunity to address programme-related queries and ensure a smooth and coordinated rollout across participating schools.

Post the orientation session, schools will begin their journey with Phase I: Discover, where they will explore India's rich biodiversity and natural heritage through engaging learning activities. The phase builds environmental awareness and appreciation for biodiversity.

July Sparks: Concluded Activities

SPARK #46

USOIC Partnership Circle



- Launched USOIC's Institutional Partnership Circle.
- Strengthened collaborations with NGOs, institutions, and organisations.
- Introduced structured partnership opportunities.
- Offered exclusive benefits to partners.
- Enhanced stakeholder engagement.
- Supported long-term organisational growth.

SPARK #47

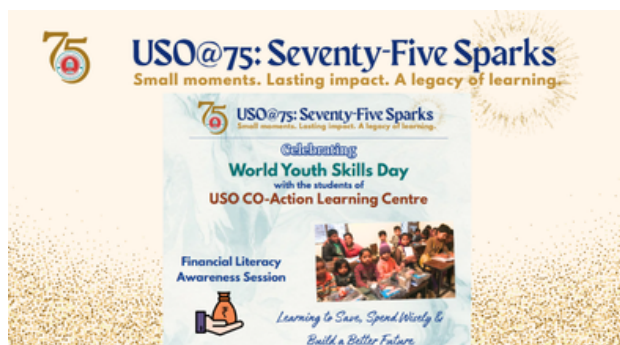
What's in My Bag? – International Plastic Bag Free Day



- Promoted environmental awareness among students and schools.
- Encouraged the use of reusable bags.
- Raised awareness about reducing plastic pollution.
- Promoted sustainable and eco-friendly practices.
- Encouraged responsible lifestyle choices.

SPARK #48

World Youth Skills Day – Financial Literacy Awareness Session



- Organised a financial literacy session at the USO Co-Action Learning Centre.
- Empowered students with essential money management skills.
- Promoted smart saving and spending habits.
- Helped students understand informed financial decision-making.
- Built awareness of basic financial concepts.



National Observances



Independence Day 15 August

15 August is celebrated as Independence Day in India and is one of our most significant national festivals. It marks the day India gained independence from British rule on 15 August 1947 after years of determined struggle and countless sacrifices. Great freedom fighters played a vital role in securing our freedom through their courage, dedication, and unwavering patriotism. This day honours their remarkable contributions and inspires every citizen to uphold the values of liberty, unity, and national pride. The Prime Minister hoists the national flag at the Red Fort in New Delhi, while people across the country celebrate the occasion with great enthusiasm and respect.

Independence Day is observed with flag-hoisting ceremonies, cultural performances, and patriotic songs. It reminds us to value our hard-earned freedom, strengthen national unity, and contribute responsibly toward the progress and prosperity of our country.



Raksha Bandhan 28 August

Raksha Bandhan is a festival that celebrates the loving bond between brothers and sisters. Sisters tie rakhi on their brothers' wrists and pray for their happiness, while brothers promise to care for and protect them. It is a day of love, joy, and family togetherness. People celebrate this festival by sharing sweets and spending time with their loved ones. It teaches us the values of love, respect, and responsibility. Raksha Bandhan makes the relationship between siblings even more special.



National Sports Day 28 August

National Sports Day is celebrated every year to honour the birth anniversary of the legendary Indian hockey player Major Dhyan Chand. This day emphasizes the importance of sports, fitness, and a healthy lifestyle. People participate in various sports activities and celebrate the achievements of Indian athletes across the country. It promotes the values of teamwork, discipline, and perseverance while inspiring everyone to stay active and develop the true spirit of sportsmanship.

UN Key Observances



International Youth Day 12 August

International Youth Day highlights the importance of empowering young people to participate actively in society and contribute to sustainable development. It emphasises youth engagement, equal opportunities, quality education, and leadership to help young people address global challenges and build a better future. It also focuses on encouraging innovation, inclusion, and active citizenship among youth.

Theme: 'Different Contexts, Common Aspirations' celebrates the diversity of young people while recognizing their shared hopes for equality, opportunity, and a sustainable future. It encourages youth to embrace inclusion, collaborate across communities, and lead positive change for a more connected and equitable world.

Purpose: This day encourages governments, organisations, and communities to invest in youth development through education, employment, and leadership opportunities. It aims to promote meaningful youth participation in decision-making and prepare young people to contribute effectively to society.

Importance: International Youth Day plays a crucial role in recognising the potential of young people as drivers of social and economic progress. It promotes inclusion, leadership, and equal opportunities while strengthening youth participation in shaping a better future. By encouraging active engagement and sustainable development, it helps build a more inclusive, resilient, and prosperous world.



World Humanitarian Day 19 August

World Humanitarian Day highlights the importance of recognising humanitarian workers who risk their lives to help people affected by conflicts, disasters, and emergencies. It emphasises compassion, solidarity, and humanitarian assistance to support vulnerable communities and protect human dignity. It also focuses on raising awareness about global humanitarian needs and encouraging collective action to help those in crisis.

Theme: The 2026 theme 'Strengthening Global Solidarity and Empowering Local Communities' focuses on fostering unity and supporting local communities in responding to humanitarian challenges. It highlights collaboration, resilience, inclusion, and shared responsibility to build stronger, safer, and more compassionate communities worldwide.

Purpose: This day encourages governments, organisations, and individuals to support humanitarian work through relief efforts, donations, and community action. It aims to raise awareness about humanitarian challenges and promote collective efforts to protect and assist people in need.

Importance: World Humanitarian Day recognises the dedication, courage, and sacrifice of humanitarian workers who support communities during times of crisis. It promotes global solidarity, compassion, and collective responsibility while inspiring action to protect vulnerable people and build a more inclusive, resilient, and peaceful world for future generations.

CALL FOR FEATURE



Since 1953, World Informo, USO's monthly newsletter, has provided a platform for students and teachers to share ideas, exchange perspectives, and contribute to meaningful discussions on issues that shape education and society.

AUGUST 2026 THEME

Examination Integrity: Building Trust, Fairness and Excellence in Education



We invite students and teachers to submit original feature articles on the above theme. Articles should present a balanced perspective, supported by facts, examples, research, or personal experiences, while encouraging critical thinking and offering constructive insights or solutions.

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES



Articles should be **500–750** words.



The submission must be the author's original work and should not have been published elsewhere.



Please include the following details with your submission:

- Full Name
- Recent Photograph
- School Name
- Class/Standard (for students)
- State



Email your article to **info@usoindia.org** with the subject line:
Article for World Informo.



Please note: A new theme will be announced every month, providing contributors with opportunities to write on a wide range of contemporary educational and societal issues.

SELECTED FEATURE ARTICLES WILL:



Be published in
World Informo.



Be featured on
the USO Blog.



Receive a USO
e-Certificate
of Publication.



We look forward to receiving your thoughtful and inspiring contributions and sharing **your voice** with readers across India.



USO Activities Calendar For Schools August, September, October 2026

August 2026

- **Aug 1-10:** USO National Tests: Curricular Tests
- **Aug 5:** BRC Teacher's Orientation
- **Aug 6-13:** BRC Phase I
- **Aug 8:** Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #5
- **Aug 11-31:** USO National Tests: Extra Curricular Tests
- **Aug 11:** BRC - Webinar #1
- **Aug 12:** BRC - Webinar #2
- **Aug 13:** BRC - Webinar #3
- **Aug 14:** BRC - Phase II Starts

September 2026

- **Sept 1-10:** BRC - Phase II
- **Sept 1-10:** BRC Future Solutions Camp
- **Sept 12:** Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #6
- **Sept 15:** USO Club Mid-Year Report Submission
- **Sept 20:** Evaluation of USO National Tests Begins
- **Sept 30:** BRC School Activity Report Submission
- **Sept 30:** Registration Deadline for GENS

October 2026

- **Oct 1:** BRC Finalists Selection
- **Oct 10:** Smart Schools Series: AI Webinar #7
- **Oct 24:** USO National Tests Results Declaration
- **Oct 27 & Oct 28:** USO House Diwali Mela
- **Oct 30:** USO Inter Schools Fest at Birla Balika Vidyapeeth, Pilani, Rajasthan

USO's Theme for 2026 – 2027

Our 75-yr theme is linked to SDG 4: Quality Education



Rooted in our theme **Empower, Educate & Evolve** USO's journey aligns with **SDG 4: Quality Education** ensuring inclusive, equitable, and lifelong learning for all. As we celebrate 75 years, this shared vision continues to shape every initiative, bringing meaningful change to classrooms and communities. Designated as our two-year theme (for 2025-26 & 2026-27), Empower, Educate & Evolve serves as a guiding force to reimagine learning, strengthen educational ecosystems, and spark lasting transformation.

Thanks for **READING**

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