

UPSC Preparation

World Youth Skills Day

The World Youth Skills Day (WYSD) is celebrated on July 15 every year by the global community. To enable youths to make a smooth transition to work, skill development and enhancement is considered as the most important means.

Background/ History

- The United Nations General Assembly adopted a resolution in December 2014 and declared 15th July to be celebrated as World Youth Skills Day.
- It is celebrated every year with an objective to achieve better socio-economic status for present day youths by addressing the challenges of unemployment and under employment.
- Also, this day marks the strategic importance of equipping young people with skills for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

Significance of the day

- World Youth Skills Day events provide a unique opportunity for dialogue between various stakeholders such as young people, technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions, firms, employers' and workers' organizations, policymakers and development partners.
- The participants in the yearly event have also highlighted the ever-increasing importance of skills as the world is thriving on a transition towards a sustainable model of development.
- The main focus to celebrate this day is to highlight the importance of technical and vocational education and training (TVET) as a way to achieve UN Sustainable Development Goal 4.

Sustainable Development Goals - 2030 Agenda

Goal 4 - "Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all".

Theme

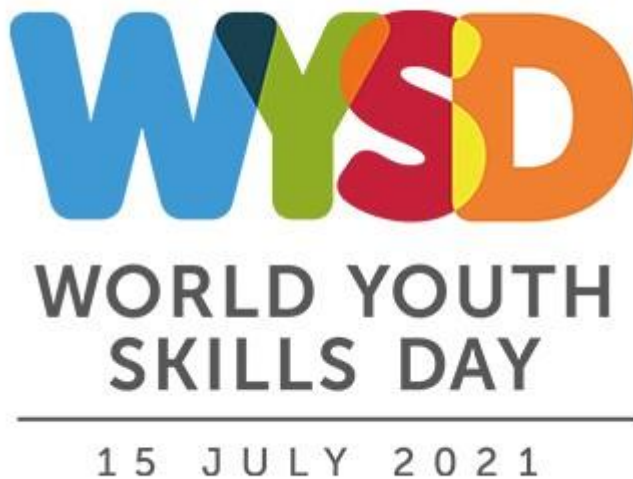
The theme of recent two years of World Youth Skills Day are given below:

World Youth Skills Day Theme 2020	Skills for a Resilient Youth
World Youth Skills Day Theme 2021	Reimagining Youth Skills Post-Pandemic

Significance of TVET

- Due to the advent of Industrial revolution 4.0, the needs of the jobs are transformed by the technologies and there is a need to reskill more than 1 billion people by 2030.
- By 2022, approximately 42% of core skills required to perform existing jobs are anticipated to change.
- In a situation where the world is facing a reskilling emergency, TVET is expected to address the multiple demands by assisting youth and adults to develop the skills they need for employment, decent work and entrepreneurship.

World Youth Skills Day (WYSD), 2021



Source - United Nations

Organisers

The World Youth Skills Days is organised by:

- The Permanent Missions of Portugal and Sri Lanka to the United Nations,
- United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO),
- International Labour Organisation (ILO) and
- Office of the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth.

Objectives

The objectives of the World Youth Skills Day 2021 are:

- To assess the situation of young people regarding skills and work during and after the COVID-19 pandemic; learn how they have been living through the crisis; highlight success stories of youth innovation and resilience;
- To debate on prospects for skills development and the world of work as economies recover, and on the effectiveness of national recovery plans and support from development partners.
- To reflect on how TVET stakeholders can collaborate to scale up skills development and help reconcile the short-term need for economic recovery with the urgent need for accelerating the transition to sustainable development.

Highlights

- A virtual event was organised by the organisers mentioned above, which offered an opportunity to reflect on skills that are needed today and for the future.
- The participants took stock of how the technical and vocational education and training (TVET) sector has adapted to the pandemic and recession, how TVET institutions can participate in the recovery, and discussed priorities they should adopt for the post-COVID-19 world.
- UNESCO estimates that schools were either fully or partially closed for more than 30 weeks between March 2020 and May 2021 in half the countries of the world. 157 million learners were affected due to full school closures in 19 countries, and about 768 million learners were affected by partial school closures.
- According to a survey conducted by technical and vocational education and training (TVET) institutions in association with UNESCO, the International Labour Organization (ILO) and the World Bank, it is outlined that distance training had become the most common way of imparting skills.
- It has been estimated that youths are more affected than adults in the pandemic period, and ILO estimates indicate that adult employment fell only by 3.7 per cent in 2020 when compared to the fall of 8.7 per cent for youths globally. The most prominent fall is witnessed in middle-income countries.

Also know:

- Young women have been particularly hard hit by the COVID-19 pandemic as compared to young men.
- Young people aged 15-24 have been even more severely affected by the COVID-19 crisis than adults.

FAQ about World Youth Skills Day

What is the significance of celebrating International days?

International days and weeks are instances which can be used to educate the public on issues of concern, to mobilize political will and resources to address global problems, and to celebrate and reinforce achievements of humanity.

What is YEM project?

The Youth Employment in the Mediterranean (YEM) project is funded by the European Union and implemented by UNESCO from 2018-2021, supporting youth employment and entrepreneurship in the Mediterranean region by improving skills anticipation and TVET systems. UNESCO held the second and final YEM Regional Forum on 15 July 2021.