

**CONCEPT NOTE:**  
**Making Mumbai 2023**  
**Youth Convention**

More than 50% of India's population is below 25 years old, often referred to by the State and media as a 'dividend' to drive economic progress and growth. Amidst this positive positioning, in reality young people face a range of daunting circumstances and constraints, even as they strive to develop their identities and meet their aspirations. Rapid economic, social, environmental and political changes at the global and domestic levels have a deep impact on all young people.

They are impacted by decisions in education, economy, health, infrastructure, natural environment and legal systems. The effects of all these changes on the educational and employment potential of youth, and on their mental and physical health is significant. We have several instances of Constitutional rights being undermined and resistance being suppressed. Youth marginalised by gender, caste, class and identity are even more constrained.

In this changing context, youth rights and freedoms constantly need to be negotiated. Young people constantly seek new avenues to assert themselves. They are resourceful, innovative and their energy and will to surpass odds is inspiring. Today's youth are also eager learners, evolving strategies and use of technology and approaches in line with the changing times.

*Making Mumbai 2023: Youth Convention* offers young people across the Mumbai Metropolitan Region (MMR) a safe platform to constructively and critically engage with one another. Specifically, this year, the discussions will focus on sharpening youth identities, strategies for participation in governance, and addressing environmental justice issues. The *2023 Youth Convention* themes and aims are detailed below:

1. **Strengthening Youth Identities** – Young people in cities face intersecting impacts of issues of caste, religion, language, gender, among others. By focusing on diversity and expression, this track aims to help youth sharpen their understanding of self and one another, so that they may together participate for a better future.
2. **Youth Participation in Local Governance** – Urban centres evidence undermining of Constitutional values and fundamental rights, amidst growing inequalities. This track aims to strategise on youth participation in local governance to pursue equitable development and to co-create just and inclusive cities.
3. **Environmental Justice** – Coastal cities face unprecedented environmental pressures alongside infrastructure induced risks. By understanding the causes and effects of the changing environment and infrastructure development through a lens of equity and justice, this track aims to unpack measures that can be taken by young people at the individual and collective level.



At *Making Mumbai*, young people from across the MMR will engage on these three themes through a focused plenary followed by participatory breakout and experiential sessions. The overall aim is to arrive at a jointly crafted and collectively owned action plan for the upcoming year. Anubhav Shiksha Kendra (a Maharashtra-wide network of young people striving for change) and YUVA will support this action plan.

### **Agenda**

10 am - 10.15 am	Opening and welcome address
10.15 am - 11 am	Plenary session: Youth Convention 2023
11 am - 1 pm	Breakout sessions on youth identities, participation in local governance, environmental justice (3 rooms)
1 pm to 3.30 pm	Lunch and interactive stalls
3.30 pm to 4.30 pm	Sharing from breakout sessions
4.30 pm to 4.45 pm	Youth Action Plan 2023
4.45 pm - 5pm	Closing and vote of thanks