



# **RYS-India**

## **A Service Learning Project**



Sponsored and Organized by

**Universal Peace Federation**

*in collaboration with*

**Local Municipal Body, Nagar Nigam, Lucknow & the  
Department of Basic Education of Uttar Pradesh**

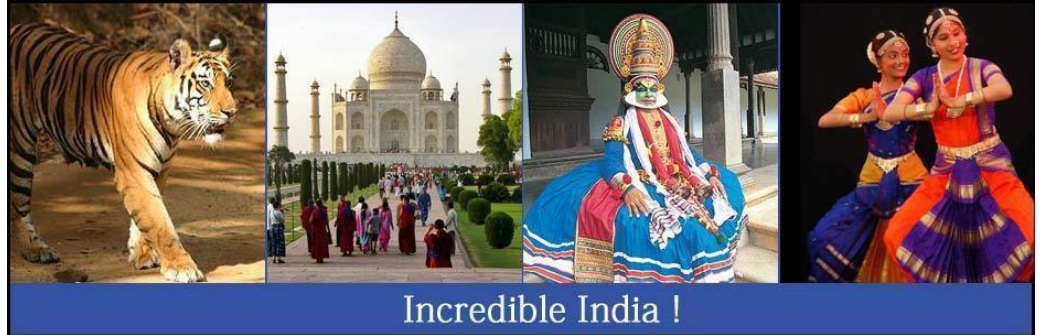
# RYS Service Project

## Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India

November 25-29, 2016

### Introduction to India:

India is the second largest and most populous democratic country in the world with a rich diversity in unity. It is easy to marvel at the incredibly harmonious co-existence of the varied religions and culture; its many landscapes from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Gujarat to Arunachal Pradesh, the different cuisines, and more! Every single home is like a school of cooking!



India is also a place for Ayurveda holistic medicine, yoga, learning, amazing arts and crafts, mountains, backwaters, nature, rivers, deserts, and wildlife. India is a jigsaw of people of every faith and religion living together to create a unique and colorful mosaic. There is a festival for every reason and every season.

The Indian subcontinent lies to the north of the equator and is bordered by the Arabian Sea on the west, Indian Ocean to the South, Bay of Bengal to the East, the Himalayas to the North and Northeast and Pakistan to the Northwest. India shares its political borders with Pakistan and Afghanistan on the west and Bangladesh and Burma on the east. The northern boundary is adjacent to China, Tibet, Nepal and Bhutan. India is separated from Sri Lanka by a narrow channel of sea.

### Introduction to Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh




Lucknow is the capital city of Uttar Pradesh, which is the largest and most populous state in India. It has always been a multicultural city. Lucknow is popularly known as the *City of Nawabs* (honorific titles of nobility). It is also known as the *Golden City of the East*, *Shiraz-i-Hind* and the *Constantinople of India*.



According to popular legend, Ramchandra of Ayodhya, the hero of the Ramayana, gifted the territory of Lucknow to his devoted brother Lakshman after he had conquered Sri Lanka and completed his term of exile in the jungle. Therefore, people say that the original name of Lucknow was Lakshmanpur.

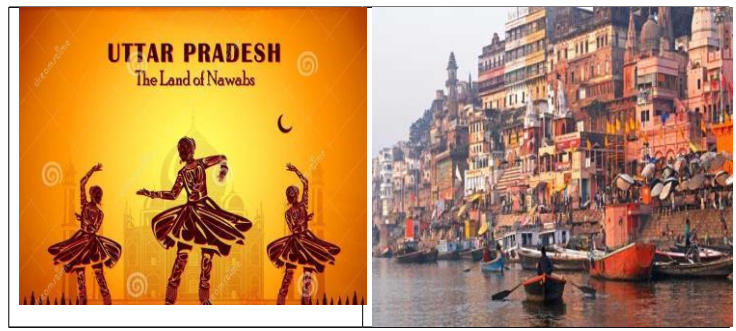
### Crafts, Culture & Cuisine of Lucknow

Lucknow, the Golden City of the East, retains an old world charm that fascinates one and all. Regarded as one of the finest cities in India, Lucknow emanates a culture that combines emotional warmth, a high degree of sophistication, courtesy and a love for gracious living. This sublime cultural richness, famous as *“Lucknowi Tehzeeb,”* blends the

Crafts	Culture	Cuisine
		

cultures of the two communities living side by side for centuries, sharing similar interests, and speaking a common language, namely, Urdu.

Many of the cultural traits and customs unique to Lucknow have become living legends today. The credit for this goes to the Nawabs of Awadh, who took keen interest in every walk of life and encouraged them to attain a rare degree of perfection. Uttar Pradesh is a microcosm of the entire Indian nation in its diversity.



Multi-ethnic, multi-religious and multi-cultural, Uttar Pradesh has absorbed many immigrant cultures and races within its borders and created a unique cultural heritage found nowhere else in the country. Though with some highly industrialized pockets, Uttar Pradesh is one of the least developed states in the country. While the people are secular, liberal and progressive, at the same time they are also deeply rooted in social and religious traditions and taboos. While its diversity is its strength, it is often equally divisive although rarely parochial. The urban centers have grown into modern, chaotic sprawling cities and towns but the rural areas of the state are seemingly trapped in a time warp. Old rituals, traditional practices and archaic agricultural methods are still followed and little by way of progress and development has trickled down to the hinterland. That, in a nutshell, is Uttar Pradesh, a state that defies definition.

### **Why We Organized the RYS Learning Project:**

The RYS has been active in India for several decades and has made significant contributions by bringing youth from around the world, especially youth from the South Asian nations and India, together and imparting the importance of the harmony of different religions for peace through the common ground of service learning, by helping the poor and needy through its community service projects.

### **Details of the Project:**

Project Dates: **25-29 November 2016**

Location : **Institute of Co-Operative & Corporate Management Research & Training 467, Sector-21, Ring Road, Indria Nagar, Lucknow-228 016**

Project Work: **Build a partition wall to separate the garbage area at a primary school in Khurram Nagar run by Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, Government of Uttar Pradesh.**

Theme: **“Creating Peace and Harmony through Service and Universal Love”**

### **Introduction to Project Work**

To build a partition wall to separate the garbage area at a primary school in Khurram Nagar run by Sarv Shiksha Abhiyan, government of Uttar Pradesh.

RYS supports the Clean India campaign to clean up and protect the nation’s natural, cultural, and historic resources and build safer, stronger neighborhoods.



## 1. **YOUTH-लिक: RURAL EXPOSURE PROGRAMME**

The program connects the urban youth to rural lives. The youth are exposed to sustainable livelihood solutions implemented by development alternatives in TARAGram Orchha, a not-for-profit organization based in New Delhi. Delegates from around the world embark on a life-changing journey to the Bundelkhand region of India for exploring village life, rural livelihoods, rainwater harvesting, etc. [Read More...](#)



## 2. **GREEN INTERNSHIPS**

Our Green Internship program aims to harness the potential and creativity of the youth to generate effective responses to ecological challenges. The participants in this program are college students who are passionate about the environment, and who want to step up and be part of the solution.

## 3. **GREEN ENTREPRENEURSHIP FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**

GEEP is a program for conserving the environment through social entrepreneurship. It aims to transform urban areas by addressing challenges like natural resource management, pollution, water and sanitation. It generates community level activities that can be replicated, yet be flexible enough to be tailored and expanded.

### **RYS – Education Program:**

Imparting knowledge, providing education and giving training to the RYS participants is the most important segment of the RYS project. During the project, we will invite different religious leaders, scholars, teachers and NGOs for interaction and devotional programs so that young people will have ample opportunity to learn and understand each tradition, culture, and faith.

RYS serves as catalyst by creating a common platform for all participants despite their diverse backgrounds. The uniqueness of the RYS project are the visits to the different religious sacred sites. The participants gain insight into the different faiths thereby breaking down religious barriers due to misunderstanding, stereotypes and superficial inaccuracies.

At the same time, international participants will have a chance to learn about India, which is considered the mother of human civilization and, as well, they will be able to learn about the Indian culture and tradition by visiting local families and communities.

### **Religious Youth for Peace:**

The Religious Youth Service has been active since 1986. It aims to create a Culture of Peace by bringing together spiritual-minded, dynamic, and socially-conscious young people to lay the foundation for sustainable peace and development. RYS-India, in solidarity with this tradition, endeavors to educate and train young minds to live for the sake of others, transcending the barriers of race, culture, ethnicity and religion, and creating one family of humankind.

### **Inter-religious Visits**

In common with other metropolitan cities across India, Lucknow is multicultural and home to people who use different dialects and languages. Each day RYS participants will visit different worship sites to meet and dialogue with members from a variety of faith & belief communities.

## Visiting Historically Important Religious & Sacred Sites in Lucknow:

**Bara Imambara:** Bara Imambara is an imambara (shrine) complex in Lucknow, India, built by Asaf-ud-Daula, Nawab of Awadh in 1784. It is also called the Asafi Imambara. Bara means big, and an imambara is a shrine built by Shia Muslims for the purpose of Azadari (mourning). The Bara Imambara is among the grandest buildings of Lucknow.



**Chota Imambara:** Chota Imambara, also known as Imambara Hussainabad Mubarak is an imposing monument located in the city built as an imambara or congregation hall for Shia Muslims by Muhammad Ali Shah, the third Nawab of Awadh in 1838. It was to serve as his own mausoleum and his mother, who is buried beside him.



In fact, it was for this profuse decoration that the Imambara was referred by European visitors and writers as “The Palace of Lights.” The exterior is very beautifully decorated with Quranic verses in Islamic calligraphy.

**Rumi Darwaza:** The Rumi Darwaza in Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh, India, is an imposing gateway built under the patronage of Nawab Asaf-Ud-dowlah in 1784. It is an example of Awadhi architecture. Being an entrance to the city of Lucknow, the reporter of *The New York Times* who accompanied the victorious British army that entered Lucknow in 1858 after India's First War of Independence, called the stretch of road from Rumi Darwaza to Chattar Manzil the most beautiful and spectacular cityscape that he had ever seen, better than Rome, Paris, London and Constantinople. The Rumi Darwaza, which stands sixty feet tall, was modeled (1784) after the Sublime Porte (Bab-iHümayun) in Istanbul.



**Lucknow Charbagh Railway Station:** It is situated at Charbagh in the south of the city. The words “Char Bagh” refer to the four gardens, which existed here earlier. This station connects Lucknow with the cities of Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, New Delhi, Mumbai, Jammu Tawi, Guwahati, Chandigarh, Pune, Jaipur and Bhopal. More than 85 passenger trains originate from here and more than 300 trains pass through the station.



**Ambedkar Park:** Ambedkar Memorial Park is a public park and memorial in Lucknow. It is known as **Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar Samajik Parivartan Prateek Sthal** but is referred to simply as “Ambedkar Park.” The park honors the lives and memories of Jyotirao Phule, Narayana Guru, Birsa Munda, Shahuji Maharaj, Bhimrao Ambedkar, Kanshi Ram and those who devoted their lives to humanity, equality and social justice.



**The Residency:** The Residency, also called the British Residency and Residency Complex, is a group of several buildings in a common precinct in the city of Lucknow. The Residency, now in ruins, is in the heart of the city in vicinity of other monuments including Shaheed Smarak, Tehri Kothi and the High Court Building.



**Janeshwar Mishra Park:** Janeshwar Mishra Park is an urban park operating in Gomti Nagar in Lucknow, India. It was created in honor of the late politician Janeshwar Mishra. The park opened to the general public on 5 August 2014. It is claimed to be Asia’s largest garden but cost USD\$ 276 million. The park was modeled after Hyde Park in London as its inspiration.



### **Impact of the Service Project:**

The Clean India campaign, a nation-wide movement initiated by India’s Prime Minister, has provided an opportunity for RYS to make an important and significant contribution to and impact on society.

### **Participation Information:**

**Registration Fee: INR 1000.00 OR USD\$ 20.00**

We cordially invite youth volunteers from throughout the country and abroad to participate in this service project. Participants should be between 16-40 years old.

Total number of participants will be maximum 35. Number of youth: international participants (15), regional participants (10), local participants (10).

**For more information, contact:**

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*(Please note that your registration fees will go towards the project as your personal contribution.)*