YUVA
BREAKING THE CYCLE OF POVERTY AND ENSURING A BRIGHT FUTURE

YUVA INDIA INTERNSHIP (MUMBAI)

Founding Team Interns (1-2 positions) | 3 months | Start-from-scratch build

20 February 2026

ABOUT YUVA

YUVA is a youth-development and social-impact organisation born in Mauritius, with a strong track record of programmes and partnerships across Africa, particularly in Mauritius.

We work at the intersection of youth leadership, education, employability, well-being, and community development.

Now, YUVA is expanding into India. YUVA has recently obtained registration as a charitable institution in Mumbai, and we are beginning the India chapter from zero.

No office yet. No staff yet. No fixed base yet. That is precisely the point. This internship is for people who feel alive when they build from the ground up.

ABOUT THE INTERNSHIP

YUVA India is inviting applications for 1-2 founding interns to work directly with the Executive Director, Dr Krishna Athal, in Mumbai for the next 3 months.

This is not a "sit and observe" internship. This is an immersive field-and-build experience where you will help create YUVA India's early strategy, map needs and opportunities, build relationships, design initial project pipelines, and set up the administrative foundations required for a credible charity operation in India.

Expect ambiguity, movement, learning, and responsibility.

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LOCATION AND WORKING STYLE

- **Base:** Mumbai, India
- **Work setting:** Since YUVA India does not yet have an office, the team will work from **coffee shops and public work-friendly spaces**, as well as in the field (meetings, site visits, travel).
- **Travel:** This internship may include **travel to different cities, states, and villages** depending on project discovery and partnership conversations.

DURATION

- **3 months** (full-time, immersive)
- There may be potential to extend or continue in a longer-term role depending on outcomes, funding, and mutual fit.

REPORTING AND MENTORSHIP

- You will work **directly under Dr Krishna Athal**, Executive Director, YUVA India.
- You will receive high-exposure mentorship in leadership, stakeholder management, project design, and real-world social-sector strategy.

WHO THIS IS FOR

This role is ideal for someone who resonates with at least 6-8 of these traits:

- You want to **understand India** from a different perspective.
- You are **self-driven**, proactive, and do not need constant supervision.
- You can handle **uncertainty** without becoming passive or anxious.
- You enjoy people, communities, and conversations, and you can also sit quietly doing **research** when needed.

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- You are comfortable with **fieldwork**, travel, and meeting stakeholders across social and institutional contexts.
- You are **organised** enough to manage details, follow-ups, and documentation.
- You can write clearly, think sharply, and communicate respectfully.
- You are **motivated** by meaning, not just a certificate.
- You want a lived understanding of how a **charity** is built from scratch in India.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES

This internship spans fieldwork, research, planning, operations, and relationship-building. Your responsibilities may include:

1) Building YUVA India from Ground Zero

- Co-create the early blueprint for YUVA India's presence in Mumbai and beyond.
- Help define YUVA India's initial focus areas, target groups, and programmatic direction.
- Develop an early roadmap for 3 months, 6 months, and 12 months.

2) Research, Mapping, and Intelligence Gathering

- Conduct structured research on youth-development needs across India, including underserved groups and geographies.
- Map what already exists in the ecosystem (NGOs, CSR initiatives, foundations, university cells, government schemes, incubators).
- Identify gaps where YUVA India can add unique value.
- Create summary briefs, landscape maps, and opportunity memos.

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3) Stakeholder Outreach and Partnership Development

- Assist with outreach to potential partners and collaborators: NGOs, schools, colleges, CSR heads, community leaders, philanthropists, and social entrepreneurs.
- Support scheduling and attending meetings with stakeholders, taking notes, capturing action items, and coordinating follow-ups.
- Help create early partnership pitch materials and one-pagers.

4) Field Visits and Community Engagement

- Participate in field visits to understand community realities and needs.
- Support listening sessions, interviews, and observational learning in villages, schools, and local communities.
- Help document insights from the field and translate them into potential projects.

5) Project Ideation and Design Support

- Contribute to ideating potential projects aligned with YUVA's mission.
- Help outline possible pilot programmes and initiatives.
- Assist in building project concept notes, budgets (basic), and implementation plans (early-stage).

6) Administrative and Operational Setup

- Support basic admin needs required at the start of an organisation: documentation, folders, systems, trackers, contact lists, databases, meeting logs.
- Help create simple but robust operating systems for a small team:
    - outreach tracker
    - stakeholder database

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  - project pipeline tracker
  - weekly planning and review rhythm
- Assist in compiling documents as required for credibility and compliance where relevant (without requiring legal specialisation).

7) Communication and Documentation

- Write clear notes, summaries, drafts, and updates.
- Support preparation of emails, meeting decks, short reports, and proposals when required.
- Assist with capturing the story of YUVA India's early journey through structured documentation.

WORK RHYTHM AND EXPECTATIONS

This role is full-time and will require maturity in managing your time.

You should expect:

- A weekly planning rhythm and review cadence with Dr Krishna Athal.
- A mix of deep work (research, writing, planning) and high-contact work (meetings, visits, calls).
- Some days that run long if meetings or travel require it.
- High standards for reliability, discretion, and follow-through.

This is a role for someone who can say: "I don't need a perfect plan. I can build one."

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REQUIREMENTS

Essential

- Based in India for the duration of the internship (Mumbai base).
- Ability to commit for the full 3 months.
- Strong written and spoken English (Hindi and other regional languages are an advantage).
- Strong organisational skills and comfort with spreadsheets, documents, and basic digital tools.
- Emotional maturity, professionalism, and the ability to work respectfully across cultures and socio-economic realities.
- Willingness to work without a traditional office environment.

Preferred (Not Mandatory)

- Background in social work, psychology, development studies, management, economics, public policy, education, or related fields.
- Prior volunteering, fieldwork, or campus leadership experience.
- Strong curiosity about India's development landscape.
- Comfort with travel and field conditions.

IMPORTANT NOTE ON COMPENSATION AND EXPENSES

Stipend

- **This internship is non-remunerated.**
  Please apply only if you can commit without a salary for 3 months.

Stay and Fixed Costs

One shared accommodation location has been identified for the small team.

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Fixed monthly costs per person:

- **Accommodation (shared): USD 500 per month per person**
- **Utilities (water + electricity): USD 25 per month per person**

Other expenses (food, local travel, mobile, personal expenses, and any additional travel) will be the intern's responsibility unless explicitly agreed otherwise on a case-by-case basis.

This transparency is intentional. We are building responsibly, not pretending.

BENEFITS OF INTERNING WITH YUVA INDIA

This internship is best understood as a leadership apprenticeship in real-world social impact.

You will gain:

1) Ground-Up Build Experience

You will learn what it actually takes to build an organisation from scratch: systems, strategy, relationships, positioning, and execution.

2) Exposure to High-Level Stakeholders

You will sit in real meetings with decision-makers across NGOs, education institutions, CSR, and community leadership.

3) Field Immersion Across India

You will deepen your understanding of India beyond theory through on-ground exposure, listening, and engagement.

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4) Real Skills, Not Just a Title

You will practise:

- research and mapping
- project concepting
- stakeholder management
- professional writing and documentation
- operational setup and team rhythm
- problem-solving under uncertainty

5) Mentorship and Coaching-Style Learning

Working directly with Dr Krishna Athal means you learn with intensity, reflection, and accountability.

6) Credible Proof of Work

Interns who perform strongly will receive:

- a detailed internship certificate
- a personalised recommendation letter (based on merit and output)
- a portfolio of tangible work artefacts (research briefs, project notes, ecosystem maps, trackers, concept notes)

7) Potential Continuation

Depending on YUVA India's early traction and funding, there may be opportunities to continue in a longer-term role.

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WHAT SUCCESS LOOKS LIKE AFTER 3 MONTHS

By the end of 3 months, the interns will ideally have helped create:

- A clear YUVA India direction and early focus areas
- A mapped ecosystem of partners and opportunities
- A stakeholder database with active conversations
- A short-list of potential projects and pilots
- Basic operating systems and documentation
- A realistic plan for the next 6-12 months

APPLICATION PROCESS

To apply, please email the YUVA Secretariat (secretariat@yuva.info) the following:

1. **Your CV (PDF)**
2. **A short cover letter (max 600-800 words)** answering:

    - Why YUVA India, and why now?
    - What makes you suited for ambiguity and building-from-zero work?
    - What are 2-3 strengths you will bring to this internship?
    - What do you want to learn in these 3 months?

3. **Your availability** (start date and confirmation you can commit for 3 months)
4. **Your current location** and ability to be Mumbai-based
5. Optional but strongly encouraged:

- A sample of your writing (1-2 pages) or a short project you have done (research note, report, blog, presentation)

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Shortlisting and Interaction

Shortlisted candidates will be invited for a brief conversation to assess:

- mindset and maturity
- communication and clarity
- real-world fit for field-and-build work
- reliability and initiative

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY STATEMENT

YUVA India welcomes applications from all backgrounds. What matters most is your integrity, readiness to learn, and willingness to build with care.

Suggested Candidate Mindset

If you are looking for comfort, structure, and certainty, this is not your internship. If you are looking for meaning, growth, real responsibility, and the rare privilege of building something that does not yet exist, you will probably love it.