

SBI YOUTH FOR INDIA VALEDICTION EVENT OF BATCH 2018-19 OCTOBER COHORT

[October 30, Mumbai] It is a matter of great pride for us to let you all know that SBI Youth for India witnessed the completion of the 6th Batch of SBI YFI Fellows. SBI YFI Fellowship is a 13-month long rural development fellowship program initiated and managed by SBI Foundation. It was a day to revisit projects and accomplishments made by the fellows over the past year. The gathering was held at the State Bank Bhawan Auditorium in Nariman Point, Mumbai on 30th October 2019.

Launched in 2011, SBI Youth for India Fellowship is the flagship initiative of SBI Foundation, the CSR arm of State Bank of India. It's a 13-months rural development program that connects the educated urban youth with a desire and passion to work at the grassroots level with prominent organisations working in the development sector.

Each year a handpicked group of young change makers proudly wear the badge of SBI YFI Fellows to go work in remote villages to help solve critical rural development challenges. This program is the flagship initiative of the SBI Foundation, the CSR arm of The State Bank of India.

Our October Cohort Fellows are doing great work in areas of Enhancing livelihoods, Menstrual health management, integrated WASH Model, Rain water harvesting, Sustainable waste management system, Improving digital literacy and so on.

The Valediction Ceremony witnessed presentations by outgoing fellows on their year-long projects in various domains, including health, education, livelihoods, environment, and many more. The event also had a display of products made by various rural communities all over the country, with an aim to increase their visibility and provide them with a platform for better marketing.

The highlight of the ceremony was the address by **Respected Chairman of SBI, Shri Rajnish Kumar** at the end. He remained connected for a significant part of the ceremony, sharing his expert inputs on the presentations by fellows, along with inspiring the audience and fellows to continue in the sector. Other very important dignitaries from SBI chief executives who graced the event were **Shri Arijit Basu**, Managing Director, **Shri Dinesh Khara**, Managing Director, **Shri PK Gupta**, Managing Director, **Shri Alok Kumar Chaudhary**, DMD, HR & CDO, **Shri Ishaat Hussain**, Director, SBI Foundation,

Addressing the outgoing batch of fellows and the esteemed guests, **Shri. Nixon Joseph**, President & COO, SBI Foundation, said, "We conduct the Valediction Event to appreciate the change these young people have made, to bring think tanks and to find better ways to engage youth in rural development. It's also to guide the fellows who have completed their journey to continue further on this path."

The ceremony was graced by **Mr. Kamlesh Mehta**, 8 times senior national title winner in Tennis and representatives of Partner NGOs, along with Mr. Amit Gordon, Barefoot College, Mr. R. Gopinath, MSSRF, Ms. Sanchita Mitra, SEWA Bharat, Ms. Shreeya Bhagwat & Mr. V Ramaprasad, BAIF, Mr. V. Venkateshan, DHAN Foundation.

The splendid evening was concluded by **Shri Mahendra Kumar Rekhi**, MD and CEO, SBI Foundation, sharing insights on the CSR domain and welcoming the highly motivated fellows to the development sector. We had experts from Development Sector along with chief SBI Executives.

About SBI Youth for India

SBI Youth for India is the flagship program of SBI Foundation that enables urban, educated Indian youth to work on rural development projects across India in partnership with globally recognized experienced NGOs. The projects focus across twelve thematic areas which are in turn key to identifying and solving various needs communities face. So far, the fellowship counts over 300+ fellows who've worked on various projects, while over 50+ still continue their work in the field. The fellowship also empowers the individual transformation of the youth into socially aware leaders who can go about making a positive impact on society even after the completion of their fellowship. The SBI Foundation is the CSR initiative of the State Bank of India, the largest state-owned banking and financial services company in India.



Group Image of our October Cohort Batch 2018-19 Valediction Program with Respected Chairman, MD's, DMD's and SBI Chief Executives and YFI Team