



## World Youth Festival 2024

The World Youth Festival 2024 was held at **Sirius, Russia** from **March 1 to March 7, 2024** under the decree signed by the President of the Russian Federation, Vladimir Putin on April 5th, 2023. The event brought together about 20,000 talented young leaders and specialists from various fields, including education, science, culture, international cooperation, volunteerism, sports, business, journalism and charity from more than 180 countries.

It sought to create an effective and inclusive platform for open conversation and opinion exchange where:

- Everyone can express their point of view and be heard
- Unite to solve social problems
- Help each other build a fair world

The festival aims to provide a chance for starting a dialogue and search for mutual understanding regardless of one's nationality, political views or cultural peculiarities.

It hopes to kickstart new friendships and mutual enrichment of various national cultures and traditions along with ushering in efforts towards implementing practical solutions to build a just world.

The event was organised by Rosmolodezh: Ministry for Youth Affairs of the Russian Federation. The participants' age ranged from **18 to 35 years old**. A total of 20,000 participants, 10,000 from Russia and 10,000 from abroad, attended the event after having passed a competitive selection process.

It fostered a collective vision for the future development of youth. Its agenda included discussions, educational, cultural and sports programs. It strived to consolidate global youth around the idea of justice and strengthen its role in the evolving system of international relations.



Moreover, the **cultural program** was designed to educate the participants about the history, culture and traditions of Russia and other countries. Alongside, the **sports program** allowed the participants to demonstrate their physical fitness and engage in a range of leisure activities.

All activities duly considered the participants' geographical background and address the development issues of various regions of the world (Americas, Middle East, Africa, Europe, Asia and Oceania). The **six official languages of the UN** (Russian, English, Arabic, Spanish, Chinese and French) have been chosen as the working languages of the festival.





Furthermore, the opening date of the festival coincided with the 10th anniversary of the end of the Winter Olympic Games in Sochi in 2014, and the Olympic Park served as the primary venue.

The festival's regional program took place from March 10-17, allowing participants to explore 30 cities across Russia.

The Indian delegation comprised a vibrant group of about 360 young Indians.



According to Petr Sizov, head of the press service at the Russian Embassy in New Delhi, the passenger list included high school and university students, young scientists, political leaders, educators and entrepreneurs - both male and female. Rakesh, one of the delegates, highlighted how the "**Bharat-360**" team had united 360 young delegates from across India to represent the country at the WYF 2024.

Valuable feedback of participants across the globe has also been extensively recorded who extolled their dynamic experience at the World Youth Festival, 2024.

*"Memories from the festival will remain for a long time. I met many people with whom I will keep in touch. A lot of people gave me souvenirs from their countries and cities, it was an unforgettable experience. I understood that I will have a chance to meet new people who might help me with the realization of the projects in the future. I want to say that Russia is indeed a country of opportunities. I experienced that at the fullest many times at the festival. It has opened many doors for me, and I am very grateful to this country and its people. I hope to have many more experiences like this in the not-so-distant future"*

**- Jeremmy Alexander Molina Barriga, student of the Institute of New Materials and Technologies from Ecuador.**

*"First of all, I would like to express my deep gratitude to Lobachevsky University for the opportunity to be a delegate of the World Youth Festival 2024 in Sochi. Being a part of this great event I had the opportunity to learn something new and move forward. I was involved in various activities and was able to interact with young minds and progressive young people from all over the world! The World Youth Festival was an unforgettable experience for a lifetime!"*

**- Aditya Shrivastava (India), one of the UNN delegation members.**

*"I am very happy to take part in the World Youth Festival in Sochi. During the festival I felt the warmth of the organisers and volunteers, met new friends from all over the world, took part in many Znanie marathons, as well as in exhibitions related to Russian traditional culture. This festival made me realise the responsibility and mission of youth, and also brought me closer to the 'Russian soul', making me love Russia even more!"*

**- Zhao Dongyang, a PhD student from China.**

*"This is my third time in Sochi. I have been a finalist at the International Financial Security Olympiad twice: first in 2022 and second in 2023. I have also been the gold medalist of that and the most active participant last year. I've also got the chance to speak to the President of Russian Federation Vladimir Putin. All these events are useful and interesting experiences for me. My question was related to cyber security and how international co-operation can be established to counter cyber threats. The President replied that Russia and India have good relations and the countries are*

*addressing the issue through international co-operation. Absolutely. I think it was a great opportunity for me and a memorable experience.”*

**- Kunal Gupta is a law student from India and a finalist of the III International Financial Security Olympiad.**



*“If we are all equal, there is no place for anyone’s exclusivity in the world. There is no place for arrogance, segregation or other behaviours that stem from the distorted notion of someone’s exclusivity. Dear friends, you have come to Russia and made many new friends. I want all of you to know that the entire Russia is now your friend. Our doors are always open for you and your noble intentions. I believe you will achieve great success. One of this festival’s slogans is ‘We begin the future together’. Let us believe that this future has already begun. It depends on all of you what kind of future it will be.”*

**- Russian President, Vladimir Putin at the Closing Ceremony of the World Youth Festival**

The festival aimed to unite the most progressive young people on the planet; concerned about a shared future. It was achieved through a series of scientific and educational activities and open discussions. These allowed the participants to address key youth development issues pertinent to the transition towards a more just, democratic and multipolar world order.

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