

YOUNG INDIANS SUMMIT
"CHALLENGING THE STATUS QUO"
2-3 February 2007: MUMBAI

CONCEPT NOTE

Promoted by CII, **Young Indians ("Yi")**, is a group consisting of Young Indian entrepreneurs, owner-managers and professionals from various walks of life, with the broad objectives of creating a better future for the Indian youth of today as well as create leaders for the India of tomorrow.

We have found that Yi has been able to bring together young Indians from all across the nation and garner strength, develop focus and most importantly undertake a holistic approach to nation building with a "We-can We-will" approach.

On September 11th 1906, at the Empire theatre in Johannesburg, 3000 Indians gathered to listen to a young barrister only of 37 years of age. He passionately asked them to **Challenge the Status Quo** and resist their colonial oppressors by adopting non-violent means. The barrister, as we all know was none other than Mohandas Karamchand Gandhi and that was the day he initiated "Satyagraha" – one of India's greatest gifts to the world till date.

Almost a hundred years on, Young Indians from across the country will gather at the 3rd Young Indians National Summit in Mumbai on the 2nd and 3rd of February 2007 to once again **Challenge the Status Quo**.

So what do we mean by "**Challenging the Status Quo**"

Everyday as we pass through the roads of our cities or the lanes of our villages, we see people with no clothes, no food, no roof, no education, no employment, no health care, and most importantly no hope! And we think to ourselves that they have "NO FUTURE."

Should this status quo continue then we as Indians will have "NO FUTURE"

Now, let us ask ourselves some more questions: Who is responsible for this status quo? Who will change this status quo? Will it ever change?

Yi has through its initiatives across 14 chapters in the last four years found that the answers are all there, within us, around us, amongst us; we simply need to begin the process of finding them. We need to realize that the keys to the doors of our future, which are today chained in illiteracy, disease, corruption, crime, ignorance, apathy, social divides lie in just one place: In our minds.

We have for long now, taken for granted that these chains are too big to be broken down and the doors too heavy to be opened up. Therefore, as Young Indians we feel that it is time we rise above our own mindsets, it is time we seek a better tomorrow and it is time **we challenge the status quo by assuming appropriate responsibility**.

The Young Indians Summit (Yi Summit), is a national platform where young Indians gather to voice, share, understand and collaborate on issues they feel are critical to India's development.

The earlier two summits have seen a range of issues from education, infrastructure, information technology, environment, apathy, leadership, global Indians, the Indian opportunity, media and entertainment, and much more, which were debated collated and then turned into organizational action plans. First held in Delhi in 2004 and then in Bangalore in 2005, the Yi Summits have had the pleasure of bringing together collectively 1500 delegates and 82 speakers from academia, NGOs, business, Government, entertainment, politics, rural townships, sports and the defense services across the length and breath of our nation.

The 3rd Yi Summit will begin with an **Inaugural Session** that outlines the thought:

"There are two primary choices in life, to accept conditions as they exist or accept the responsibility for changing them."

Yi chooses the responsibility to change the conditions that are roadblocks to making India a developed nation.

The 3rd Yi Summit proposes to challenge the status quo for:

➤ **Educating India: One Problem, Many Solutions**

The session will focus on issues such as:

- Sarva Siksha Abhiyan: How effective is it?
- Urban/Rural Education: Soft and Hard bottlenecks
- National Common Education Standard: A need of the hour
- Healthy Body: Healthy Mind
- Liberal Arts Education in schools: A holistic approach to student development

➤ **Employing India: Jobs without People: People without Jobs – The Indian paradox**

The session will focus on issues such as:

- Skills Mismatch: What we need and what we have
- Skills development and vocational education: Immediate solutions
- Developing Skills for the Rural Economy

➤ **Engaging India: Gandhigiri v/s. Lose Control**

The session will focus on issues such as:

- Is our education system preparing the citizens of tomorrow?
- Are we sitting on a social time-bomb?
- The disconnect of youth from the democratic process.
- Leveraging technology and media for engaging youth in the democratic process.
- What role can the Indian youth play?

The summit will conclude with a **Valedictory Session On “What Next – India Needs A Youth Policy”**

The 2nd Young Indians Summit ended with the spirit of what the Irish Playwright G.B. Shaw remarked once: “You see things and you say WHY, But I dream of things that never were and I say WHY NOT.” At the 3rd Yi Summit we invite you to say WHY NOT to our tomorrow by saying WHY to our today.

Together, Let us Challenge the Status Quo. Together, We can, We Will.