

## Report on Young Indians Special Delegation to United Kingdom

CII's Young Indians had a special delegation to United Kingdom on the 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> of June 2009. Dr. Rahul Mirchandani, Chairman, Yi National, led this special delegation to the United Kingdom aimed at strengthening the Indo-UK ties and to explore opportunities to build bridges between both 'Young Businesses & 'Young in Business', in UK and India. Positioned as enterprising brand ambassadors of New Age India and Indian Business, the delegation met like minded business, social and political leaders of UK.

### **24 June: Day I**

#### **Yi Delegation's interaction with Lord Meghnad Desai at the House of Lords**

The two day visit began with a meeting of the Yi delegation with **Lord Meghnad Desai** at the House of Lords. The delegation was received by Lord Meghnad Desai and was given a tour of the House of Lords. Post this interactive session the delegation sat down with Lord Meghnad Desai for a Q & A session on aspects like:

**Education systems** – The delegation compared the U.K educational system to the Indian System where lord Desai was of the view that the British model was far more focussed on application. The delegation deliberated on other essential aspects relating to education like the topic of how to uplift the section of society which was handicapped and the need to educate mothers through innovative methods.

**Migration of Labour** – The delegation debated on migration of labour. The Lord mentioned that there would continue to be a shortage of labour in Europe but more on the skilled side & migration would continue. However, due to the sensitivity of local opinion all governments would tread cautiously to protect local jobs especially in such times.

**Health Care** – The delegation then briefly discussed on the issue pertaining to healthcare & Lord Meghnad Desai emphasized on looking more carefully into this issue. He mentioned that the NHS still works well but also emphasized that public healthcare appears only once economies are in a well developed stage & therefore the need for a good substitute until that point, is clearly required.

**Role of Private & Public Sector** – The Lord urged today's generation to be a lot louder in voicing their opinions for getting the private sector to take a more active role in implementation of various projects. He mentioned that the private sector must emphasize their ability to do so with much greater efficiency even where public funds were involved.

**Environmental Issues** – With reference to environmental issues Lord Meghnad Desai touched the need for each individual to make a difference, however small, to protect the environment.

The discussion was particularly fruitful considering the delegation got a chance not only to interact with Lord Meghnad Desai but also represent the voice of Young Indians and share their perspective.



House of Lords

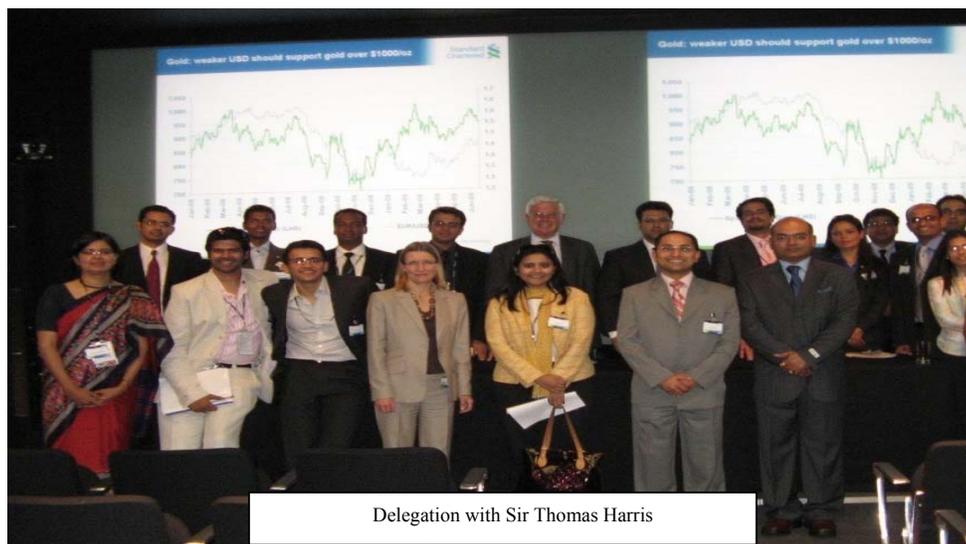


Members with Lord Meghnad Desai

### Delegation's Interaction with Sir Thomas Harris, Vice Chairman, Standard Chartered

Post this the Yi delegation departed for the Standard Chartered office at Basinghall Avenue to interact with **Sir Thomas Harris, Vice Chairman, Standard Chartered Plc**. Few members from UKIBC Next Generation and Standard Chartered commercial market also joined the meeting with the Young Indians.

The theme of this discussion started with Sir Thomas Harris giving an overview of Standard Chartered's global focus and the role of India as a very large market within their operations. He also mentioned the close ties with India & traced the roots of the bank giving a wonderful historical perspective. After this introduction **Ms. Sarah Hewin**, Chief Economist Standard Chartered made a presentation on global trends & future forecast scenarios, giving insights to the Yi delegation about the financial trends that presently derive the global business mechanism. Post the Q&A session with Sir Thomas Harris, the Yi delegation was taken for a walk through on the trading floor of the bank where the traders & dealers work providing a first hand experience of the extensive trading operations of the bank.



Delegation with Sir Thomas Harris

### Seminar on Young Talent: Destination UK / India with UKIBC

The delegation's final stop for day one was at the Nabarro, Lacon House where they attended a seminar on **'Young Talent: Destination UK / India'**, organised by the **UKIBC - UK India Business Council Next Generation Network**. The plenary session that was chaired by Ms. Sharon Bamford, CEO UK India Business council provided insights about the economic reality and commercial opportunities on the ground in India in light of the global meltdown as well as the vast potential for exploring mutual synergies that exists between UK and India. This was followed by an introduction to Yi by **Dr Rahul Mirchandani –National Chairman, CII's Yi**. A panel discussion on topic "Young Talent: Destination UK/India" was thereafter held with **Ms Bhairavi Jani, National Vice- Chairman of CII's Yi, Mr Dan Sandhu – CEO, ACIS, Mr Arjun Wallia – Founder & Chairman of Walsons Services Pvt Ltd & Mr Lucian Tarnowski – Founder of Brave New Talent.com** as the panellists. The Yi delegation discussed some very essential aspects briefing the UKIBC network. Dr. Rahul Mirchandani expounded that Young Indians are Ambassadors of India representing different aspects and faces of India. They aspire to be the voice of young Indians throughout the world. He also introduced the members of the delegation & gave a brief on the activities of Yi in India.

#### Mr Arjun Wallia:

- Even in this moment of global downturn the Indian economy is in motion and that there is a definite sense amongst the Indian population that their time has come with a new sense of urgency and vibrancy.

- India today is like America in the 1950's – a land of opportunity with entrepreneurs at play and enterprises in action – an ecosystem that grows every minute – where immense value lies in connecting the dots.
- Indian ecosystem is moving from a survival based economy to an aspiration based economy for example an Indian corporate doesn't want just any car, he wants a Bentley and they are prepared to work hard to achieve their goals. For example, while Europeans look at 34 hour weeks, the Young Indians look at 34 hour days. They work through the day and then continue to conduct their business late into the night.
- UK was an important gateway for Indian companies, who are looking to expand globally into areas such as Europe. Indian companies that are keen to enter Europe tend to first go through the UK because they are more comfortable with UK and its systems and ways.

**Ms. Bhairavi Jani:**

- The SME's in India are leading the way in creating opportunities and capturing fresh, new young talent rather than their larger counterparts.
- Vast majority of Indian corporations are SMEs looking to build and consolidate their role in the Indian industrial economy.
- There is a growing awareness amongst the Indian corporate world that it is no longer enough just to focus on wealth generation but social responsibility should also be taken into consideration.
- India will soon be the place for sustainable energy & green technologies and other CSR initiatives.
- The uniqueness of India as an industrial hub with a sound economic structure that is attracting a huge level of international investment. Hundreds of people who left in the 80s and 90s were returning to India looking for opportunities.
- The roadblocks of the 90s are today's opportunities and similarly the roadblocks of the 21st century will be tomorrow's opportunities.
- If the recession had not hit us, we might easily have been the fastest growing economy in the world and yet there is also so much enthusiasm amongst young people in India to achieve and get ahead and this is very infectious. By 2020, India will produce 500 million young skilled people.

**Mr Lucian Tarnowski** – touched upon the USP's of the Indian youth.

- The massive difference between UK talent and Indian talent in terms of hunger for education which is stronger amongst Indians as is also the belief in a shared future.
- Another major difference between young people in the UK and India is that the latter have to cope with huge expectations from their parents whereas parents in the UK do not normally tend to place such demands on their children.
- One of the positive outcomes of the economic downturn in the UK has been that it fuelled a greater trend towards entrepreneurship in the UK with 40% of UK MBAs looking to start their own business. This is a unique trend that shifts the burden from the government and should also be adapted by the Indian youth.

**Mr. Dan Sandhu** summed up and recapped all the speakers' thoughts and then raised some important questions that need to be considered such as:

- Will politics affect young entrepreneurs at local levels?
- Is it a good thing that development has taken the form of large concrete structures springing up in an unplanned fashion blocking out the horizon and harming the environment?
- We should think deeper about how we aspire for growth, and what is the right way to go about it?

- India needs to be wary of India Shining because we still need to see better planning and better governance in India. True economic recovery is only possible if there is true creation & sustainability of wealth.
- There is a vast amount of similarity between the UK and India that can be explored in greater depth and there should be a framework to learn from each other. The best way to do business in India is not through a telescope but to get out there and understand how people think and how the system works. Don't spend your money buying management books – buy a ticket to India instead. Indian entrepreneurs will be there to welcome you with open arms because they want to learn and integrate.
- Make mistakes then learn from your mistakes and follow your heart. The old boys' network is dead – but social networks are in. 50 years ago most people had very small networks – now there are much larger networks but people don't use these enough. In addition, he urged for better understanding and exchange of ideas & information between India & UK.
- There are also lots of institutions in India geared up to bring entrepreneurs together, bringing countries together. Networks like the Next Generation UK India Network will drive awareness about the reality on ground and create the arena to that would help foster greater participation and better partnerships.



Seminar on Young Talent : Designation UK / India with UKIBC

25 June: Day II

Yi Delegation's visit to Oxford University

The following day, on 25 June the delegation went to the Oxford University and was welcomed by a group comprising of members of the Next Generation and Oxford university dignitaries. The delegation was given a tour of the major colleges and Libraries, the famous landmarks in Oxford and then met the students of Oxford. This was followed by a speech by **Dr. Rahul Mirchandani, Chairman, Yi National** on the theme of Young Indians and the work that it has undertaken in India. He also spoke on the finer aspects of Indian entrepreneurship and the DNA of Indian entrepreneurs. There was also a talk on entrepreneurship and innovation by **Mr. Simon Biltcliffe, CEO Webmart & Mr. Alpesh Patel, Dealmaker at UK Trade & Investment**, who spoke on entrepreneurship & innovation, where they shared their own experiences with the Yi delegation. The special delegation then interacted with the members and interacted over a lunch session with the members of the MBA class and Oxford entrepreneurs.



Members at Oxford

## Yi Delegation's interaction with the Youth Wing of the Conservative Future party

In the final leg of this visit the Young Indians delegation met with the young parliamentarians at Millbank in London. The Yi delegation met with the Conservative Future (the Youth wing of the Conservative Party). The Yi delegation met with:

- **Mr Michael Rock**, Conservative Future National Chairman & Director - Rockitt Solutions LLP
- **Mr Christian May**, Conservative Future National Deputy Chairman & Director - Young Britons' Foundation
- **Ms Clare Hilley**, Conservative Future London Regional Chairman & Trainee Barrister
- **Mr Mohammed Ali Azeem**, City Future Board Member, Policy Advisor at Office of the Shadow Chancellor and Director at Four Limited.

At this interaction Conservative Future team initiated a dialogue with a very brief account of the typical activities of the Conservative Future, their roles & responsibilities and basic objective. The floor was then thrown open to questions & interactive discussion. Focus was then put on the similarities & differences between the happenings in India & U.K. A general discussion ensued on basic outlook of the conservative party, their typical policies, different views from the other political parties and business.

The Yi delegation initiated the conservative future party to bring a delegation of young MP's to India.

**Dr. Rahul Mirchandani, Chairman, Yi National** touched upon the key aspects of CII-Yi's work in India and solicited the support of all for starting this initiative in UK and to bring the two countries closer.

## Yi's Delegation's Road Show

The delegation's final stop was at Berwin Leighton Paisner for the CII – Yi's Road Show. At this road show **Ms. Warsha Kale, Associate Director, Berwin Leighton Paisner** gave the introductory speech. Around 75 delegates attended the road show.

**Dr. Rahul Mirchandani, Chairman Yi National** gave a chronology of the organisation's history and briefed the participants on Yi's agenda that focuses on going beyond business, the inspiration behind Yi. He gave a snapshot of the various opportunities in India, and reiterated the need of transposing these similar opportunities in London. He expressed the hope that the discussions would lead to a set of objectives which will eventually set the basis for the foundation for the first international chapter of Yi.

Dr. Mirchandani opened the house to the question of the possible focus areas of Yi London chapter. The discussion revolved around the focus area of promoting better connection between the young business leaders in both India and UK and sharing common platforms to exchange insights and solution to specific issues.

- Dr. Mirchandani touched upon many vital aspects like the issue of dual identity of overseas Indians. Dr. Mirchandani also informed the audience of the 'know India Program, where members travel to India, and work on social initiatives, so far 9 of which have been run successfully, allowing overseas Indians from the UK and 19 other countries to connect with people from India and conduct field work and research in the real India.
- Dr. Mirchandani touched on many essentials of the Yi's work area in India and the attempts that it has made in the process of nation building like offering assistance to social business entrepreneurs, CII's attempt at removing trade & investment restrictions, connecting and including women in governance and industry leadership, engagement with the backward castes in the process of nation building.

- He also touched upon the unique role Yi has played by integrating the efforts of the young and progressive farmers in the country.

The Yi road show ended with the summarizing the following points to base the agenda of work for potential future International chapters of Yi:

- Building the brand of new India in the UK. The agenda of Yi London should have India as the 'Stakeholders' in all it does, not necessarily the beneficiary.
- To provide people with a platform to voice their pride for India and deliberate issues.
- To help in transfer the ideas between the young Indians in India and UK
- Promoting trust and confidence

The delegation's two day visit was greatly appreciated and assisted in bringing the Indian community in UK together for a vision that was shared by CII's Young Indians of 'We Can, We Will'.



### Members of the Delegation

**Dr Rahul Mirchandani**, National Chairman, Yi & Executive Director, Aries Agro Limited  
**Mr Advait Chaturvedi**, Member – Yi Mumbai Chapter & Division Head Finance & Accounts-Overseas Infrastructure Alliance (India) Pvt Ltd  
**Ms Bhairavi Jani**, National Vice Chairman, Yi & Director, SCA Group of Companies  
**Mr Jacob Joy**, Chairman, Yi Kochi Chapter & Director, JJ CONFECTIONERY (P) LTD  
**Mr Raghu Marwah**, Member, Yi Delhi Chapter & Partner, R.N.Marwah & Company  
**Mr Gautom Menon**, Member Yi Coimbatore Chapter & Executive Director - Gomovius AlcoBev  
**Ms Mahua Moitra**, Co Chair , Women Engagement Yi & Indian National Congress  
**Mr Annush Ramasamy**, Member, Yi Coimbatore Chapter & President, SPM Limited  
**Mr Deepak Ramaswamy**, Members, Yi Chennai Chapter & Managing Director and International Clearing & Shipping Agency (India) Pvt Ltd  
**Mr Jaivir Singh**, Co Chair , Education - Yi Delhi Chapter and Vice President - Impact Group of Companies  
**Mr L V Swaminathan**, Member, Yi Chennai Chapter & CEO, M/s Sunshine Kareer  
**Mr Arjun Wallia**, Member Yi Delhi Chapter & Founder & Chairman-Walsons Services Pvt Ltd.

**Ms Shefali Chaturvedi**, Director & Head – CII's Young Indians

**Ms Gunveena Chadha**, Director & Head Designate, CII-UK, Confederation of Indian Industry

**Ms P Theja**, Executive Member – CII's Young Indians