

Yi held its first ever Annual summit at Vigyan Bhawan, New Delhi on the 10-11 March, 2004. The theme of the inaugural year was “Unleashing the India Opportunity”. The summit began with a session showcasing Young Indians and a brief introduction of Yi for the benefit of non Yi members. The National Chairman, Mr G V Sanjay Reddy, Executive Director, GVK Industries and other National Activity Chairs gave an insight into the current activities as well as those planned for the coming year. The Summit was inaugurated by the Chief Guest Mr N K Singh, Member, Planning Commission. Others present were Mr Narayan Sethuraman, Chair of the Yi Summit & Joint Managing Director, WS Industries Ltd and Mr Tarun Das, Director General, CII.

Introducing Yi, G V Sanjay Reddy said : It is group of young successful Indians from different walks of professional life working towards a common objective of contributing towards a developed India. The philosophy of this movement is captured in the simplest of phrases- “We can we Will”. Addressing the Summit, Mr Singh said. “... Yi faces the critical challenge of how to combine conflict with convergence...to allow competition with concurrence and how to change with consistency.” Concluding the inaugural session Mr Narayan Sethuraman said “ A mass movement of Young Indian, which is what Yi is all about, can achieve the twin objectives of unleashing the India opportunity and building a developed India”.

“India-Opportunities Unlimited” was chaired by Mr Banmali Agrawala, Chair of Yi (Mumbai Chapter) & Managing Director, Wartsila India. A presentation in this context was made by Mr Pramath Sinha, Principal, McKinsey & Co, in which he reiterated that India was one of the fastest growing economies of the world besides China, with an expected growth rate of more than 8 per cent. The key issues addressed during this presentation were:

- How to capture & leverage the host of opportunities available in various sectors
- What are the requirements for such leverage
- The risks associated with it

“The India Opportunity” presentation were made by successful Young Indians who act as youth icons and motivate Young Indians to feel positive about the infinite opportunities available in India today. The session was chaired by Mr Amitabh Chaturvedi, Chair of the National Finance Committee, Yi & CEO, Reliance Capital Asset Management. Among those who made presentations in this session were Mr Sanjiv Goenka, Vice Chairman, RPG Industries and Ms Sulajja Firodia Motwani, Joint Managing Director & Vice Chairperson, HSBC Securities. They expressed their views on India opportunities and how they are leveraging them. The session ended with concluding remarks by Mr Arjun Wallia, Chair, Yi (Delhi Chapter) & Managing Director, Walsons Services.

“Inspiring Young Indians to give back to India” showcased what Young Indians can do to make India a better place to live in. The session was chaired by Ms Sharda Agarwal, Member, Yi (Mumbai Chapter) & Director (Marketing), Coca Cola India. Sharing their views on the topic were Mr Naveen Jindal, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Jindal Steel & Power: Mr G V Sanjay Reddy: Ms Mahzbeen Siganporia, Student, Poddar College, Mumbai.

The second day started on a spiritual note with Swami Parthasarathy giving his views on 'Vedanta: Its relevance to Young Indians today'. Mr Sandeep Maini, Chairman, Bangalore Chapter, Yi & Managing Director, Maini Materials Movements chaired the session. The subsequent session titled "How should Young Indians view and react to geo-political trends" highlighted the significant impact that global geo-political, economic, social and cultural trends are having on the lives of young people in India today.

The session was chaired by Mr Shaffi Mather, Member of the Yi Governing Council & Vice President, Reliance Webstores. Presentations were made by Mr Tarun Khanna, Professor of Business Administration, Harvard Business School; Mr Sanjaya Baru, Chief Editor, The Financial Express and Mr Jayaprakash Narayan, National Coordinator, Lok Sabha. While speaking on the topic, Mr Tarun Khanna cautioned about various issues which "like the Albatrosses weigh around our necks and have the potential to pull 'Brand India' down. They therefore needed to be taken care of". Mr Baru's presentation mainly drew comparisons between India & China, stressing the fact that "military might alone is not sufficient... what is needed is a strong economic, entrepreneurial, cultural face to survive in today's competitive globalised environment

The pre-lunch session witnessed a talk by Young Stars from different walks of Indian Society under the title-"My Vision for India". Mr Umang Patodia, Chair, Yi (Kochi Chapter) & Managing Director, Patspin India was the session Chairman. Presentations were made by young leaders from different walks of life from fashion to sports and politics to media unraveling their vision for India. Taking the lead was Mr Sachin Pilot, Member Of Parliament who wanted to "...see a young, dynamic, vibrant growing India... and all Indians feeling proud in being Indians." Following him was Mr Sabyasachi Mukherjee, Fashion Designer, according to whom it is important for all of us to acknowledge our roots. The last speaker for the session was Ms Sania Mirza, Tennis Player, who spoke of India of her dreams having education affordable by all, no place for hunger, corruption free with water-tight accountability as well as affordable medical aid for all.

There was a panel discussion titled "Role of Young Indians in building developed India" which was moderated by Mr Vikram Chandra Senior Editor, NDTV 24X7. Among those who participated were Mr B J Panda, Member of Parliament and Leader, young Parliamentarians Forum: Sachin Pilot: Mr Gautam Thapar, Vice Chairman & Managing Director, Ballarpur Industries: Mr Sathish Reddy, Managing Director, Dr Reddy's Laboratory: Ms Mehur Pudumjee, Vice Chairperson, Thermax Group: Mr Karthik Sriram and Mr Firoz Gujral, Entrepreneur. The discussion revolved around evolving ways and means of harnessing the Youth potential in building a developed India. The panel agreed upon emphasizing on primary education, vocational training, continuous innovation, research-led education as also the contribution that the corporate sector can make in realizing all of the above.

The Valedictory session was chaired by Mr Rajeev Karwal, Member, Yi (Governing council) & CEO, Electrolux Kelvinator. A special address was given by Shiv Vikram Khemka, Director, SUN Group. The Chief Guest for the session was Mr Arun Shourie, Minister for Disinvestment,

Communications & Information Technology. In his keynote address, Mr Shourie urged the Young Indians to strive for excellence in everything they do emphasizing on the importance of reputation on today's competitive scenario. This was followed by concluding remarks by Narayan Sethuraman who urged all Young Indians "to have a passion and commitment to excel in our chosen profession and to actively build a developed India."

The Yi Summit '2004 brought to light the abundant opportunities India has to offer not only to Indians but also to the World at large. It highlighted the need for Young Indians to become more active in every sphere of Indian society and the important role they will have to play in helping India achieve her vision of becoming a developed country by 2020. It also served as a platform for Young Indians from all over the country to come together and share their dreams, aspirations and concerns on how they can contribute to India's development