

**Young Indians Southern Regional Summit on
“India on the rise - Sustaining its momentum through Young Indians”
14-15 July 2006: PSGIMS Auditorium: Coimbatore**

Concept Note

India's economy is on the fulcrum of an ever-increasing growth curve. With positive indicators such as a stable 8 percent annual growth, rising foreign exchange reserves of close to US\$ 140 billion, a booming capital market, flowing foreign direct investment (FDI) close to US\$ 8 billion and a more than 20 per cent surge in exports, it is easy to grasp why India is a leading destination for foreign investment. **Growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) at constant prices in excess of 8.0 per cent has been achieved by the economy in only five years of recorded history, and two out of these five are in the last three years.**

India has recorded one of the highest growth rates in the 1990s, its GDP is close to US\$ 500 billion and only China has had a GDP higher than India and grew faster than India. FDI's are also flowing into the country and the idea of India is changing. This is best proved by the increasing number of countries showing interest to invest in India. **India has displaced US as the second-most favoured destination for foreign direct investment (FDI) in the world after China according to an AT Kearney's FDI Confidence Index that tracked investor confidence among global executives to determine their order of preferences.**

India ranks as one of the three largest emerging markets in terms of economic size and stock market capitalization, with both breadth and depth on offer. There are about 100 companies in India with a market value of more than \$1 billion. Foreigners have invested in more than 1,000 Indian companies—a record for any country outside the United States.

Well, India is definitely on a rise.....

But, there is a challenge of maintaining its momentum and the youth have to take charge in leading this country.

All of us recognise that our objective of achieving a sustainable growth rate of 8 per cent and more is not an outcome that will occur automatically without any effort on our part. On the contrary, while there are many reasons why India is well placed to achieve acceleration in growth, a special effort is needed if we are to convert this potential into actuality and **sustainability becomes the buzzword**. We will certainly need to increase investment levels, upgrade technology, modernise the economy, and develop high quality infrastructure. For the growth to be inclusive, it must pay special attention to income growth in rural areas. It must also ensure adequate access to education and health services for the mass of the people.

With 72% of India's population being below the age of 40 and Young People being present in large numbers in every sphere of society, there is a need to harness their boundless energy, zeal and potential and align them with the vision of “Developed India 2020”. Appropriate leadership and inspiration have to be provided to capitalize on the Indian Youth's innate potential.

With this as the background, Young Indians is organizing the First Southern Regional Summit under the theme “India on the rise – Sustaining its momentum through Young Indians” scheduled for 14-15 July 2006 at the PSGIMS Auditorium, Coimbatore. This summit would bring in speakers and delegates from various backgrounds on a common platform and discuss on issues that concern us and our country at large. The topics would vary between business, sports, environment, right to education and on all phases that impact or support the sustainable growth of India.

Sure, this summit would attract the best of all and though we may not have made a drastic change to things the next morning, yes, we would have taken a small step towards the goal of sustaining the rise of India.

We can, we will.