

# Young minds provide global solutions

Ansy Austin | NIE

**Mumbai:** 'We are the leaders of tomorrow and hence we must take charge today. It is our duty and responsibility to make our voice heard. This is the essence of the international youth conference,' proudly declares the IYC team of Jamnabai Narsee School. These are not just words; the team has transformed its words into actions by conducting the International Youth Conference at the World Trade Centre. The two-day conference will conclude on August 21.

The conference is based on the model of the G-8 and G-20, which are groups of nations that were created to discuss acute international problems. During these two days, the student delegates representing different countries will focus on various issues. While the delegates of G-8 will focus on the topic 'Misuse of aid in Africa and nuclear waste disposal', the G-20 delegate will discuss issues on 'Financial stability and reduction in commodity prices' and 'Complete abolishment of child labour'.

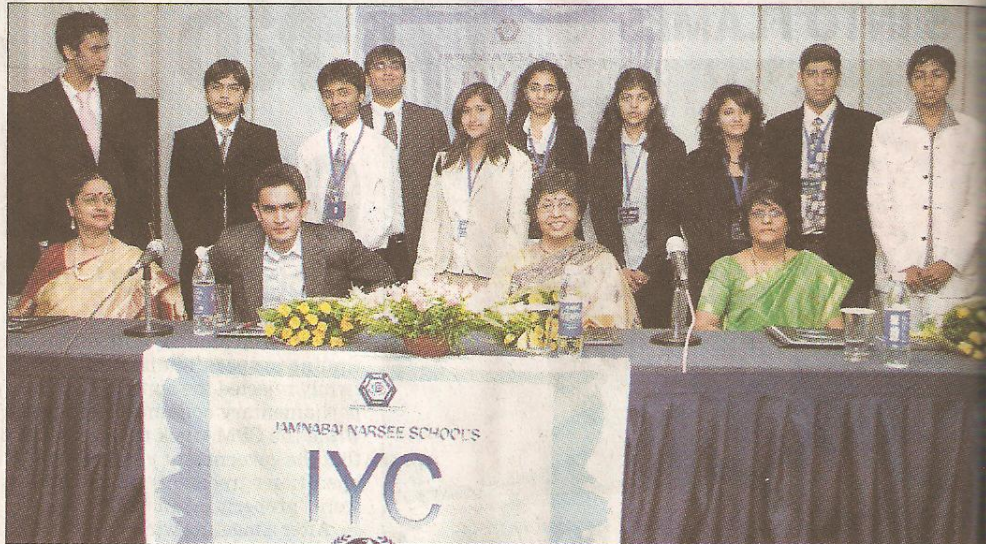
The selection procedure of students for the IYC was not an easy task. The students had to send in applications explaining why they would like to be a part of the IYC. Accordingly, teams of three representative delegates were made for each country. Approximately 96 students are part of the G-20 conference and 35 are part of the G-8 from across various schools and colleges in the city.

Explaining the problems faced by India, principal Jessie Vas of Jamnabai Narsee School said, "With all our economic progress we still are baffled to know that 240 million people are still to be lifted above the poverty line. Poverty and related socio economic problems are widespread over the globe. Class, caste and creed conflict manifests in global terrorism. Drug and arms trafficking goes on as man wants more than he needs." In an ardent call made to the young audience she added, "It is today your job to apply your minds and find solutions."

An alumni and trustee of Jamnabai Narsee School, Sujay Jairaj said, "After having a successful International Youth Conference last year - this is its second year and I am sure it will be great and everyone will have a good time. Also I am sure that we will make a difference wherever we go." He rightly added, "The youngsters are not only the leaders of tomorrow, but also partners of today."

Interestingly, this event, helped students get a hands-on experience in departments such research and development, press corps and logistics, allowing them to learn how to manage and organise an event. Thus, at least 200 students are a part of this conference. Manali Khandelwal, head of administration, informed, "We have invited around 20-25 institutes from all over India. Organising the event has been tough but it's a good experience." Speaking about the power of youth to bring about a change, Sujay Jairaj asserted, "Young people are a crucial segment of society; they are the basis for future development. Young people are social actors of change and can serve as a pressure group to lobby governments in defining their priorities."

The students clad in business formal, black suits and white shirts, not only looked like profes-



**YOUTH POWER:** Standing: Participants of IYC, Seated: (L-R) Sarojini Duggal, vice-principal & IBDP co-ordinator, Sujay Jairaj, Trustee Jamnabai Narsee School, Jessie Vas, principal of JNS, Dr Lakshmi Murthy, assistant IBDP co-ordinator



**ACTION PLAN:** Students are seen discussing global issues at IYC in the presence of organisers

sional delegates but also spoke them throughout the conference on Monday. Their thorough preparation over the past few months was evident. In fact, Nishant Mehta head of the G-8 has even been a delegate to conferences abroad after being a part of the IYC last year, "I was a part of the Global Young Leader Conference held at New York. It was an amazing experience as we were exposed globally to like minded people."

Director of G-20, Suyash Poddar explained, "IYC has given us a platform to voice our opinions on is-

ssues such as child labour. This conference will also help us become aware of our environment and future. We come out with concrete solutions for financial stability, complete abolishment of child labour, Indo US nuclear deal and the stand India should take." Speaking about converting words into action he further says, "We will try and approach ministers and will also email the president. This is just at the grass root level and we are making an attempt so that our opinions are taken into consideration."