

S.B.I.O.A EDUCATIONAL TRUST

VISION 2047

Dear Students,

Here is a call for all young minds - a call to visualise India as a developed, happy and caring Nation by 2047. Every country needs a vision statement, which stirs the imagination and motivates all segments of people to work in unison towards a common goal. This is an attempt to restore the glory of our nation which once stood in the forefront leaving footprints for others to emulate.

Incredible India will always be remembered for her glorious past. A peek into the history of our nation would unravel a saga, remarkably rich and variant in hues. Until the 17th century, India was in the vanguard of progress on all fronts - education, agriculture, and economy .Our civilization was one of the oldest and the richest in the world. Our scientists, surgeons, and physicians were the most renowned. The first university, the Takshasila University was founded in India. The university was the most sought after even by foreign students 2700 years ago, as there were more than 50 subjects taught.

With two lakh varieties of rice, India was a name to reckon with in farming before the Green Revolution. In terms of economy, India was the richest country in the world. India's income was 52% of the world income in the first and the second century. India had the largest quantum of gold in the world, till 1896. Thus, India blazed the trail in astronomy, in medicine, in surgery, in textiles, in agriculture, in transport, in foreign trade and also in industry.

But with the advent of the British, all developments came to a halt. There was stagnation everywhere. Worse still, agriculture was neglected. Industry was ignored. No constructive discoveries or inventions were made. When the British finally left the country in 1947, most of the resources of our nation had already been drained.

Independent India had to grapple with innumerable challenges, the chief being poverty. Today, though our nation is the seventh richest country in the world in terms of national income, our per capita income is very low. 50% of the people in the rural areas of Orissa, Bihar, Rajasthan, Uttar Pradesh, earn less than twenty rupees a day. Mounting inequalities have given rise to fresh challenges. Poverty, illiteracy, rural backwardness, and oppression of women are some of the other serious challenges which the nation has to combat with.

Even after six decades of independence, the concept of development still remains a distant dream. Corruption is high in India. The Berlin-based corruption watchdog Transparency International (TI) has put India at rank 76, in its latest Corruption Perception Index. In the ranking of universities published by Times Higher Education, no Indian university is there even in the top 200. Not even 20 % of our youth are in colleges. Only 15% of our engineering graduates are employable. India ranks 130 in the Happiness Quotient Index.

Development at all levels is the need of the hour. The day every child gets the best from this country in terms of food, education, shelter, clothing, longevity, we can call ourselves a developed nation. It is presumed that by 2050 many countries would be experiencing an ageing, shrinking population, while India would still be a relatively young nation with the median age being 27 years. This change in demographics should help us to harness youth power to the maximum and lead India to progress.

We have two options before us. We could either choose to be blind to all the problems around us and leave India to stagnation or take the initiative to visualise where India would be in the next three decades, provide equal opportunities for all as guaranteed by our freedom fighters and steer her to progress. India did make substantial progress but the growth is inadequate. Dr.Kalam's 'Vision 2020' foresaw India as an economically developed nation by the year 2020. But not all the goals have been realised.

Vision 2030 found the UN Summit lay down **17 Sustainable Development Goals- 'Agenda 2030 Goals'**, that could transform the world by 2030.The proposed 17 goals are as follows:

1. **No Poverty** - End poverty in all its forms everywhere.
2. **Zero Hunger** - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture.
3. **Good Health and Well-being** - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages
4. **Quality Education** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all
5. **Gender Equality** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
6. **Clean Water and Sanitation** - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all
7. **Affordable and Clean Energy** - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
8. **Decent Work and Economic Growth** - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all
9. **Industry, Innovation, and Infrastructure** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation
10. **Reduced Inequalities** - Reduce income inequality within and among countries^l
11. **Sustainable Cities and Communities** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable^l
12. **Responsible Consumption and Production** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns
13. **Climate Action** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts by regulating emissions and promoting developments in renewable energy
14. **Life Below Water** - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development

15. **Life on Land** - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss¹

16. **Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

17. **Partnerships for the Goals** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development.

The challenge before you is this. **Where could we see India in the next thirty years?** It is a vision to articulate where our country would be in 2047 and the steps to be taken to bring this vision to fruition. We encourage you to draft your ideas. We would like you to map the agenda in the domains other than those listed above. **Try to identify at least 17 fresh goals other than the 17 goals mentioned above and also suggest the various steps to be adopted to achieve these goals.**

For example, the first goal mentioned is, 'No Poverty'. One can put an end to poverty through education. Education will provide you with a decent work which will remove hunger, keep you well fed, and provide good health and well being. This, in turn, will help you to gain access to clean water and sanitation and also affordable and clean energy which will again help you to take action towards conserving our environment. This attempt will invariably help you to save life on land and below water. It will teach you how to produce and consume, based on your needs and not as per your greed etc.etc. All the seventeen goals could be realised through a single goal as they are inter-linked.

Your essay should contain an action plan with concrete steps to realize the goals.

The guidelines are as follows:

- **Length** : The essay should be original and should **not exceed 500 words**
- **Medium**: The essay could be written in **English or Tamil**
- **Eligibility**: Students of **class VIII and above** can participate in the competition.
- **Last Date** : The last date for submission is **10th Dec'16**
- **Prize** : The vision document shall be reviewed by a panel of judges and **20 best entries in English and Tamil each shall be rewarded, suitably.** The prize winning essays shall also be published as a book.

We would greatly appreciate if this task is taken up as a challenge by students and is ably supported by the staff and the institution heads. The suggestions and opinions will go a long way in realising our vision of a developed, happy and caring India. Let's work together to transform our nation into a 'developed India', and the desire to bring forth the change should emanate from our minds. All the best!

Thank you
D.Thomas Franco Rajendra Dev
Secretary & Correspondent