

Idea of India 2017

2016 Idea of India Summary

Winners: Meridian School, Banjara Hills **Runners Up:** Devnar School for the blind, Begumpet
Third Position: DAV Public School, Safilguda **Fourth Position:** Bhavans ARRS, Jubilee Hills
Judges: Dr Uma Joseph (Dean, St Francis College for Women, Hyd), Dr Indira Kasala (ex CfBT)
Themes: Idea of India, Patriotism, Government Schemes/Policies, Constitution, Environment, Non-Urban India (students were asked to pick any two)

General Instructions

- Each team submits one research report around any two themes - (T1,T2) and (T3,T4)
- General awareness of all themes may be required, to be able ask questions.
- Response to each theme shall not exceed 400 words.
- The best team which would have submitted the best research shall present during the event. One team per theme shall be selected. You may want to choose your themes strategically.
- Provide sources to back up your arguments, no woo woo please!
- If you disagree with any implicit assumptions in the question, please state your views explicitly.
- You'd receive extra marks. There are no correct answers and wrong answers in social sciences. Sciansation is very generous while awarding points, creative answers receive extramarks!

Judging Criterion

Sources- citations mentioning credible sources from which the data is obtained.

Reasoning- The arguments/assertions need to be justified.

Perspectives - exploring the issues from the point of view of all stake holders.

Literature Review- how did the student gather the necessary background.

Creativity- Out of the box solutions to the problems

Language- Usage of words/phrases/jargon within context

Experimentation- Small scale empirical testing/data collection to validate assumptions

2017 edition: themes

Theme1. Women in "Idea of India"

Q1: What are the socio-historical reasons to considered to understand the current state of women in various societies across the world?

Q2: Do women have a potential? Do they have a right to realize that potential (consider both ethical as well as utilitarian arguments)? Why do we require women empowerment?

Q3: Do we have to rewrite our narratives around Idea of India to portray women better? Would you want to think of an India with educated working class women? Do the cultural factors and gender stereotypes disadvantage women? How can this problem be solved?

Q4: What are the structural (social/environmental/economic), institutional(organizational policies/systems), infrastructural, cultural and personal factors which prevent education of girl child? What factors prevent women from pursuing their dream career?

Q5: What kind of solutions would you suggest towards education of the girl child, to bring in more women at the workplace and towards women empowerment in general?

Theme2: Inclusive Idea of India

Q1: Who are marginalized sections? Do a few communities get marginalized through multiple parameters? What do you think of Dalit agricultural rural women?

Q2: What are the socio-historical reasons which explain why a few communities are left out when you come with a grand narrative around a culture/civilization/country? Why do the ruling elite use religion/culture to marginalize these communities?

Q3: Does India require a national language? Does India need one religion? Does a nation require all citizens to have a few prerequisites to be considered patriotic? Is India giving a message of diversity to the world? Is India trying to mimic Europe in terms of nationalism and does that threaten Indian values?

Q4: One entrepreneur said- "When I compete with Chinese competitors, I don't try to cut down costs, I think like an India, my strength is to think abstract, I'll try and solve the problem better". Does every Indian entrepreneur have to think abstract? Do we even need an Idea of India?

Q5: What is your Idea of India? What are the kinds of riders accompanying your grand narrative?

Theme3: Information Technology in "Idea of India"

Q1: What do you understand by global labor arbitrage? What do you understand by outsourcing? How did India benefit from this phenomenon?

Q2: What is a H1B visa? Why was Donald Trump supported by an American majority for reforms which make it harder for somebody to get a H1B visa? How does that affect Indian IT companies?

Q3: What is Artificial Intelligence? How is Wipro's Holmes killing jobs of 4000 engineers? How did computers kill several jobs when they were employed at the workplace? Technological revolutions generally killed blue collared jobs unlike AI? How does this affect our education system?

Q4: Infosys brought in a new CEO Dr Vishal Sikka, who has a PhD in Artificial Intelligence from Stanford University. Does this indicate something? How would you reposition India with the current "low cost IT human resource" positioning being threatened by Artificial Intelligence?

Q5: How should India's school education system, higher education and corporate strategy change as per the positioning suggested by you in Q4?

Theme4: Applying Michael Porter's national competitive advantage theory to "Idea of India"

Q1: What do you understand by competitive advantage? What do you understand by national competitive advantage? Can you think of examples?

Q2: Can you analyze Indian BPO Industry with respect to Michael Porters' four forces- **Factor Conditions** (nation's position in factors of production, such as skilled labor or infrastructure), **Demand Conditions** (home-market demand for the industry's product/ service), **Related and Supporting Industries** (presence/absence in the nation of internationally competitive industries), **Firm Strategy, Structure, and Rivalry** (conditions governing companies' creation/organization/management and nature of domestic rivalry). Q3: Do you think these four factors are inter-related? Can they be represented as a diamond? Can domestic rivalry and geographic concentration transform the diamond into a system?

Q4: What is the role of government, company agenda and leadership towards evolving competitive advantage? Can we use the diamond system? How did the Japanese automobile industry respond to the American competitors who had lower production costs, due to economies of scale?

Q5: Michael Porter suggests that the only way in which a country gets a competitive advantage is by constantly innovating. Do you agree? Basis your understanding of this theory what would you suggest to Indian companies, government and business leaders?

Suggested Reading

Theme1 Women

- 1- <http://www.teindia.nic.in/mhrd/50yrsedu/y/3T/9U/3T9U0301.htm>
- 2- Nair, N. (2010). Women's education in India: A situational analysis. *Indore Management Journal*, Vol. 1, No. 4, pp. 100-114
- 3- <https://www.theguardian.com/public-leaders-network/2014/nov/08/world-war-women-workplace-public-services>

Theme2 Inclusive Idea of India

- 1- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xEkDN-wWUIA>
- 2- Amartya Sen's "Argumentative Indian"
- 3- Amartya Sen, Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, Ram Manohar Lohia's views on patriotism

Theme3 IT in Idea of India

- 1- <http://fortune.com/2017/04/05/jobs-automation-artificial-intelligence-robotics/>
- 2- <https://thewire.in/159807/india-artificial-intelligence/>
- 3- <http://www.firstpost.com/business/from-artificial-intelligence-to-design-thinking-how-indian-it-landscape-is-changing-through-reskilling-3903579.html>

Theme4 National Competitive Advantage in Idea of India

<https://hbr.org/1990/03/the-competitive-advantage-of-nations>

Suggested Sciansation Videos

- 1- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xMPhDkOK_jA
- 2- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WGRHDhWDzs>
- 3- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=iOM0sAOAirk>

Ten Commandments of Logic

1. **Ad Hominem:** Thou shall not attack the person's character, but the argument itself. ("Ad hominem")
2. **Straw Man Fallacy :** Thou shall not misrepresent or exaggerate a person's argument in order to make them easier to attack.
3. **Hasty Generalization:** Thou shall not use small numbers to represent the whole.
4. **Begging the Question:** Thou shall not argue thy position by assuming one of its premises is true.
5. **Post Hoc/False Cause:** Thou shall not claim that because something occurred before, it must be the cause.
6. **False Dichotomy:** Thou shall not reduce the argument down to only two possibilities when there is a clear middle ground.
7. **Ad Ignorantiam:** Thou shall not argue that because of our ignorance, the claim must be true or false.
8. **Burden of Proof Reversal:** Thou shall not lay the burn of proof onto him that is questioning the claim.
9. **Non Sequitur:** Thou shall not assume that "this" follows "that", when "it" has no logical connection.
10. **Bandwagon Fallacy:** Thou shall not claim that because a premise is popular, it must be true.