

From our Chief Executive



Lt. General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)

Dear Friends,

Today is a turning point in your life – your passage to adulthood in a world characterized by fierce competition, uncertainty, chaos, and constant highs and lows. How well you succeed in this world will depend a lot on how you re-define success and happiness. They are not the same. One can be successful in one's career but miserable in life. The renowned philosopher Albert Schweitzer once said, *"Success is not the key to happiness. Happiness is the key to success."*

I can only suggest what means common persons like you and me can adopt to seek happiness. Money can make you happy provided you give money away.

**First**, do not ever forget that you are the agent of change. When you change, the world around you will change. In order to change you have to pursue a **higher goal**, a goal beyond and above yourself. While interacting with some of you I got the impression that you are very internalized. Your world is still revolving around studies, around career and around parents. At this stage your life this is expected. But once you leave school try and develop a world view. Then the pursuit of a higher goal will become possible.

A few days back I read the story of a gifted boy named Rick. While in preschool he became obsessed with man-made disasters and diseases. His obsession bordered on paranoia. One day he asked his mother, *"What's the worst disease?"* The mother avoided a direct answer as she was worried about her son's morbid mental state. So she asked him why he wanted to know that. The young boy replied, *"If I knew what the worst disease is, I could find a cure for it, and then my life would have some reason for existing."*

**Second**, you can never be happy by being alone. **By giving, you become more.** By serving the community without expecting anything in return you become more. You serve by giving away what you consider most precious – your time, money, insight, power, whatever. We call this an act of love.

**Third**, happiness arises by genuinely showing gratitude to the family and community that has made you what you are. This is called **pay-back time**. There are scores of people and institutions that have given a lot to make you what you are today – start with your parents, the sacrifices they made, the time they spent caring for you; your school that made you a whole-person, gave you knowledge and shaped your core values and character; the society / country that gave you the opportunities to be free from fear, and the cultural moorings of self-hood. We must respect them, we must acknowledge them. And we do that by paying-back. Many of you will go to foreign universities to pursue higher studies, and possibly gain some work experience. That's a good strategy. But don't forget that India needs you – your leadership, your values, your experience, your respect, your gratitude. This is grand strategy.

I have suggested three essentials to be happy: **something to hope for** – your higher goal where means are as important as ends; **something to do** – your service to the community without expecting anything in return; and **something to feel** – gratitude to those who have nurtured you. In gratitude it's not enough to say "thank you." Gratitude is best expressed by action in living up the expectation of those who care for you.

With warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Arjun Ray". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Lieutenant General Arjun Ray, PVSM, VSM (Retd.)  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Indus Trust.