



**"Greater energy and greater passion is more extraordinary than greater genius."  
— Lt. General Arjun Ray, (Retd.), PVSM, VSM**

**Issue 166, November 2016**

## **International Mindedness**

We need to redefine international education and international-mindedness, exemplified by the International Baccalaureate. First, an international syllabus is a leadership curriculum, and Indus goes well beyond the IBO mandate by incorporating the following four key features:

- a. Fulfill the purpose of education by preparing children to lead from tomorrow, a tomorrow characterized by uncertainty and volatility. To achieve this vision, cognitive competencies alone will not help. School education must imbibe critical competencies in a child such as critical-thinking, creativity, collaboration, persuasive communication, problem-finding and living with diversity. In the 21<sup>st</sup> century these competencies or life-skills are more important than academic achievements.
- b. From a leadership perspective, every leader is a teacher and every teacher is a leader. The role of the teacher has remained unchanged over centuries. They have a common role: to unlock human potential, theirs, and the students they are responsible for. This is, indeed, a formidable challenge.



- c. Localism is the rock foundation of international education, namely, act local and then think global. The millennial or me-generation, lack situational awareness, with total apathy about what is happening around them – their culture, history, traditions, community and society. It is localism that gives them a reference point towards international-mindedness. The failure in the classroom is because teachers do not practice students in using classroom learning to solve real-life problems. Everything is *knowledge about* and scoring high marks for entry into prestigious colleges and universities; not *knowledge about*, and *knowledge to be*.
- d. Innovation is the #1 leadership competency.

With warm regards,

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