



# Sciensation Society

SNC134, Santoshimanagar,  
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Ph: +91 9849702501  
[www.sciensation.tv](http://www.sciensation.tv)

## Idea of India

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India, the world's largest democracy, with the largest youth population, is one of the most diverse countries with people having different languages, religions, cuisines, cultures and traditions. An interesting question to ask is- what is our Idea of India? Is it inclusive? Can we get everybody to relate with this idea of India?

Here is a list of 30 questions (around Idea of India and challenges faced by India). A team is required to **pick any two sections 10 questions**). We'll need the teams to back up their answers/claims with sufficient references to peer reviewed journals/ government records or other credible sources.

### Code of Conduct

- 1- No abusive/offensive content.
- 2- Teams should be ready to answer any questions and should be able to defend their claims with the help of proper evidence/reasoning.
- 3- Teams shall follow the ten commandments of debating, listed below

### Ten Commandments

1. Thou shall not attack the person's character, but the argument itself. ("Ad hominem")  
Example: Dave listens to Marilyn Manson, therefore his arguments against certain parts of religion are worthless. After all, would you trust someone who listens to that devil worshiper?
2. Thou shall not misrepresent or exaggerate a person's argument in order to make them easier to attack. ("Straw Man Fallacy")  
Example: After Jimmy said that we should put more money into health and education, Steve responded by saying that he was surprised that Jimmy hates our country so much that he wants to leave it defenceless by cutting1 military spending.
3. Thou shall not use small numbers to represent the whole. ("Hasty Generalization")  
Example: Climate Change Deniers take a small sample set of data to demonstrate that the Earth is cooling, not warming. They do this by zooming in on 10 years of data, ignoring the trend that is present in the entire data set which spans a century.
4. Thou shall not argue thy position by assuming one of its premises is true. ("Begging the Question")
5. Thou shall not claim that because something occurred before, but must be the cause. ("Post Hoc/False Cause").



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This can also be read as “correlation does not imply causation”.

Example: There were 3 murders in Dallas this week and on each day, it was raining. Therefore, murders occur on rainy days.

6. Thou shall not reduce the argument down to only two possibilities when there is a clear middle ground. (“False Dichotomy”)

Example: You’re either with me, or against me. Being neutral is not an option.

7. Thou shall not argue that because of our ignorance, the claim must be true or false. (“Ad Ignorantiam”).

Example: 95% of unidentified flying objects have been explained. 5% have not. Therefore, the 5% that are unexplained prove that aliens exist.

8. Thou shall not lay the burm of proof onto him that is questioning the claim. (“Burden of Proof Reversal”).

Example: Marcy claims she sees the ghosts of dead people, then challenges you to prove her wrong. The burden of proof is on Marcy, not you, since Marcy made the extraordinary claim.

9. Thou shall not assume that “this” follows “that”, when “it” has no logical connection. (“Non Sequitur”).

Similar, but the difference between the post hoc and non sequitur fallacies is that, whereas the post hoc fallacy is due to lack of a causal connection, in the non sequitur fallacy, the error is due to lack of a logical connection.

Example: If you do not buy this Vitamin X supplements for your infant, you are neglecting your her.

10. Thou shall not claim that because a premise is popular, therefore, it must be true. (“Bandwagon Fallacy”).

Example: Just because a celebrity like Dr. Oz endorses a product, it doesn’t make it any more legitimate.

[Ten Commandments examples from [relativelyinteresting.com](http://relativelyinteresting.com) ]

## Instructions

- Answers can be mailed to [register@sciensation.tv](mailto:register@sciensation.tv)
- Selected students will be invited to a workshop on August 14<sup>th</sup> (Sunday) so as to acclimatize them to the format.
- Final list of selected teams would be announced on the event day – August 15<sup>th</sup>2016.



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## Questions

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### Idea of India

- Q1 If you were to describe India within 50 words, how would you do it?
- Q2 Is it inclusive?
- Q3 India is called a sub-continent. Is its size a boon or a bane?
- Q4 Do you think geographical diversity has led to the country's diversity- cultures, beliefs, languages etc?
- Q5 Is the difference in cuisine a binding factor or dividing?

### Patriotism

(We recommend that students study views of different people, with different beliefs, before answering the following questions. In social sciences, it is very hard to put personal biases/beliefs aside, while addressing academic problems)

- Q1 What do you think of Rabindranath Tagore's view of patriotism?
- Q2 What do you think of Dr Ambedkar's view of patriotism?
- Q3 What do you think of Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's view of patriotism?
- Q4 What do you think of patriotism?
- Q5 Is patriotism important?

### Government Schemes/Policies

- Q1 Can you list various schemes/policies of various state/central governments?
- Q2 Which of the above schemes would you rate as the best one? Why?
- Q3 Would you suggest any schemes, for any of the marginalized sections of our society?
- Q4 Do we have Social security in India? Do we need it?
- Q5 Is the government reaching out to all the sections of the society? What are your suggestions?



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## **Constitution**

(Please note that answers have to be backed with proper evidence/reasoning)

Q1 Should we have complete freedom of speech?

Q2 Is democracy synonymous with the rule of the majority (keeping in mind the Indian constitution)?

Q3 Do you think any of our national challenges are interlinked with lack of awareness about the constitution or no proper enforcement?

Q4 What can be done to solve the problems highlighted in the above question?

Q5 Do you think our constitution is fair to all the sections of the society- irrespective of their religion, region, language, caste or color? What would you suggest?

## **Environment**(IPCC 2014 report, may be useful)

Q1 How is climate change affecting India?

Q2 How are Indian cities going to exist in 20years?

Q3 Would India have enough food in 2040?

Q4 Would India have enough water in 2080?

Q5 What are the biggest environmental challenges which India may face in the near future?

## **Non-Urban India**

Q1 How do you picture rural India?

Q2 Who is a tribal?

Q3 What are the difference in the dreams of rural students vs urban students?

Q4 What is a nation? How does the construction see India?

Q5 How are the livelihoods of communities like potters/weavers/snake-charmers changing?