

## International Students Retreat

### Concept Note

With over 60 percent of its population as youth, a fast growing economy, and stable governance, India has a promising future ahead. This opens various avenues of investing into human capital and capacity building measures, which would yield lasting results. India does this for millions of students through its higher education institutions. For thousands of years, India has invited students from the world over. Universities like Nalanda, Takshashila, Vikramshila were popular learning destinations for students in India as well as outside.

Today, close to 50,000 international students are studying in India. International Students Retreat is a step to engage with such students in a recreational and activity-oriented manner. Over two days, the brightest cohort of international students pursuing higher education will gather to engage in deliberations as relevant to their academics as well as make concerted efforts to familiarize themselves with India - its polity, economy and culture.

The underlying idea is to provide a platform for students to connect with their peers - Indians and international and cultivate relations which will eventually lead to cooperation at global scale over matters of global significance. This will also lead to creating cultural understanding of people and adopting a sensitive approach towards problem-solving and policy formulation.

### Vision India Foundation

Youth development and training is the prime focus of Vision India Foundation (VIF), a Delhi based think-do-tank. A flagship initiative of VIF to facilitate this is the Global Young Achievers Network (GYAN), through **which young leaders realize India's strength as a stable and promising global leader as well as participate in a collective journey towards prosperity.**

The International Students Retreat is amongst the various programmes of GYAN, which will provide a platform for students as motivated youth to engage in deliberations, dialogues and mutually beneficial learning on issues of domestic and international significance. It serves as forum to understand India - its cultural traditions, socioeconomic practices and governance institutions - as an integral aspect of diplomatic conduct.

International Students Retreat is scheduled as follows:

- Date: 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> February 2018
- Venue: The Maharaja Sayajirao University of Baroda, Gujarat