

S@ifur's BCS

৩৬তম লিখিত

- ☑ Reading Comprehension
- ☑ Essay : The Sustainable Development Goals

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English

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Recently, the well-known Boston Consulting Group wrote a piece entitled 'Bangladesh - the surging consumer market nobody saw coming'. It categorically states that the country is emerging as the 'world's next growth opportunities for consumer product companies'. Incredibly, every year about two million Bangladeshis join the ranks of the middle class and the affluent. This surge is seen as reflecting the quick graduation of Bangladesh to the level of a low middle income country from that of a least developed country. Policymakers in Bangladesh predict that the country would graduate to a middle income country with \$5000 + per capita in another five years. By 2025, about 30 million people will join the middle class here. Bangladesh's heretofore growth story was unfortunately overshadowed by the growth story of neighboring India. But the reasons behind Bangladesh's own success story are fast becoming apparent.

The fact that micro credit has spawned all over the country but has not affected inflation is another great sub-story. Besides garment manufacturing, footwear, pharmaceuticals and IT services have led the country to reap immense benefits. A consumer society whose median age will just be 24 in the near future will do wonders for manufacturers, whose consumer base will expand significantly. Add to this, the burgeoning foreign remittance of Bangladeshi workers and professionals now working abroad. Not only the spending, but the cash backup works as a mix for consumer expenditure in quality goods. Yet the Bangladesh story does not end there. From 2000, the country pulled its shoestring and began to rise, making significant improvements in the basic condition of people's lives. Life expectancy began to improve, and now stands at 70 years. The country can pride itself on having overtaken the life expectancy of neighboring India by five years.

This is in spite of India's citizens having more per capita income. Bangladesh has also taken giant steps in improving health and education. Today girls' education has crossed 95 percent, surpassing the education level of boys. Another great progress is in infant mortality. Child mortality has also more than halved and is now falling more rapidly. Maternal mortality has fallen by two-thirds. Today females live two years more than males. A unique phenomenon in Bangladesh today is that the rate of poverty reduction is more than the rate of growth per year. All this is the secret behind Bangladesh's growth story. Several factors seem to have contributed to this success. Birth control in Bangladesh has never been coercive; it has always been voluntary. This has encouraged couples and especially mothers to understand the path they need to take to build a happy family. Today, the fertility rate is 2.3, which is slightly above the replacement level. Add to this the widespread growth of female education. Two other phenomena have buttressed this achievement. The boom in the garment industry - Bangladesh is now the second largest garment exporter in the world just behind China, a behemoth in this field. The other is the introduction of microcredit that fuelled the income of women in the entire country.

These two growth elements have pumped money into the pockets of women who have spent mainly on health, education and nutritious food. This combination is so potent that it can be dubbed as the 'Bangladesh magic' behind growth. Meanwhile, food production in this tiny country has grown three times since 1971. What was the international basket case of Henry Kissinger of yore is turning into an almost food exporting nation. The Bangladeshi farmer is also diversifying crop production into vegetables and fruits as well as exotic food items. An extraordinary strategy used by Bangladeshi farmers was the use of high yielding seeds and irrigation to grow crops, turning the winter crop (Boro) into the largest yielding crop season.

The phenomenal growth of Bangladesh can also be attributed to the huge amount of foreign remittances sent by 10 million expatriate Bangladeshis. These remittances are serious money in the pockets of families and are spurring trade as well as small scale industries. A fascinating phenomenon of Bangladesh is that the diaspora does not belong to the poor families only. The middle income professionals are also a part of it. The social safety programs have leapfrogged and are now 12 percent of the GDP in the country. The Bangladesh society is now going through a rebalancing exercise. In spite of the country's cantankerous politics, there is a consensus in favor of social programs. The other extraordinary phenomenon of Bangladesh is the expansion in the growth of non-governmental organizations (NGOs). From the global giants, the Grameen Bank and BRAC, there seems to be an NGO for all worthy causes in Bangladesh. Yet two aspects of Bangladesh are disappointing.

The first is corruption. Like measles, it has pockmarked the society. It is not only a rent seeker but a policy drifter too. It contorts and deflects priorities. It becomes virulent at times. The other is dysfunctional politics. People are politically conscious but there are politicians and professionals who serve their own interests more than that of society. The government is trying to contain corruption by introducing digital technology in delivering goods and services. One of the remarkable things in this sphere is the use of the internet for government procurement and collection of revenue rather than for tendering and solicitation. About 20 percent of government purchases take place through the internet. But the use of digital technology needs to be sped up. Bangladesh needs course correction fast to achieve Bangabandhu's *Sonar Bangla*.

01. Answer the questions below. Do not copy any sentence from the passage above. Write the answers in your own sentences having your own wording and phrasing.

- a. Why do people out there think that Bangladesh is emerging the next big consumer opportunity?
- b. What does this flow of development suggest?
- c. What do the policy makers predict?
- d. How is the progress in Bangladesh deprived of highlight?
- e. What is another side story about the prosperity of Bangladesh?
- f. How many people of Bangladesh join the middle class every year?
- g. What is the 'Bangladesh magic' behind growth?
- h. What is the appearance of food production in this country now?
- i. What are the social safety programs?
- j. What are the disappointing aspects in Bangladesh?

02. Write the meanings of the following five words used in the passage. The meanings are provided in the box below. There are more than five words in the box. Choose the appropriate meanings :-

Overshadow, spawn, burgeon, buttress, behemoth

Ludicrous, shroud, strut, leviathan, mother, proliferate, navigate

03. Correct the following run-ons by using appropriate subordinators (Such as, though, although, since, till, until, unless, lest, while, in case, if, in order that, given, as if, as though)

- He appears to earn quite a meager amount; he leads a very extravagant life.
- The girl walks, she were the president of USA.
- Give the customer the mobile number of the chairman, he wants to make a deal.
- He passed the whole year without having a single look at the syllabus, he could get hold of no question in the test.
- People from all walks of life come forward to remove gender discrimination, girls will be getting less advantages.

04. Use appropriate capitalization, punctuation, and quotation marks where required :

- kamal my student at asia pacific university in the department of english has helped the phd thesis of the department chairman Mr. chowdhury.
- Seeing the rising sun the girl said how amazingly golden the sun is.

05. Summarize the passage in your own words in 100 words. 20

06. Translate the Passage into Bangla: 25

Sustainable development is conceived to be anchored on three pillars, which are to evolve concomitantly on sustainable factors, namely, economic, social and environmental; and to be centred on the human being, implying that the process of sustainable development is necessarily inclusive and should promote unity in cultural and other forms of diversity. But it is essential, in the context of establishing this unity, that diverse cultures, interests and wishes, particularly of the downtrodden and disadvantaged groups, are facilitated to flourish and find proper expressions in appropriate forms. Such a process conducted within a broad framework under provision of the Constitution of the country should help all groups, the majority and the minorities, to understand each other's points of view and needs and find common grounds to work together for an all- inclusive, equitable social progress.

Sustainable development also invokes intra- and inter-generational equity, i.e. equity among and within nations at the present time and the management of natural and other resources such that while the present generation meets its needs, the future generations can meet theirs too Bangladesh seeks to promote sustainable inclusive development. So the cultural aspect of sustainable development is a very pertinent issue.

Hence, this country focuses on the promotion of cultures of all ethnic and other minorities and their own languages where appropriate; on the promotion of the rights and prospects of women and children as the cross-cutting groups; and on the socio-economic development of various disadvantaged groups including street children, physically challenged people, and people living in backward areas. Vision 2021 adopted by the government is emphatic in this regard. National Education Policy 2010 provides for inclusive quality education, identifying the needs of each of the above mentioned groups along with those of the majority as well as the ways in which these identified needs will be met. It has proposed measures to integrate respect of languages and cultures of ethnic minorities for their promotion. However, Bangla is the country's lingua franca and state language.

07. Translate the Passage into English:

25

গত কয়েক বছর যাবৎ ঢাকাসহ সারাদেশের ভূগর্ভস্থ পানির স্তর দ্রুত নেমে যাচ্ছে। রাজধানীর অবস্থা আশঙ্কাজনক। প্রতিদিন ক্রমবর্ধমান চাহিদার চাপে সুপেয় পানি সরবরাহ করতে ভূগর্ভস্থ পানি তুলতে বাধ্য হচ্ছে ওয়াসা। ঢাকার চারদিকের নদীর পানি মাত্রাতিরিক্ত দূষিত হওয়ায় ভূউপরস্থ পানির ব্যবহার বাড়ছে না। ফলে বাড়ছে মাটির তলের পানির উৎসের উপর চাপ। ফলে পরিবেশ ভারসাম্য হারাচ্ছে। বিশেষজ্ঞরা আশঙ্কা করছেন, ঢাকার ভূগর্ভস্থ জলাধারের কোনো কোনো জায়গায় প্রতি বছর দুই থেকে তিন মিটার পানি নেমে যাচ্ছে। ভূগর্ভস্থ পানির স্তর ক্রমাগত নেমে যাওয়ায় পরিবেশ যেমন ক্ষতিগ্রস্ত হচ্ছে তেমনি বুড়িগঙ্গাসহ ঢাকার আশপাশের নদীর দূষিত পানি এই স্তরে ঢুকে পড়ছে। এর ফলে ওই সব স্তরে দূষণ সংক্রমিত হচ্ছে। এই পানি রোগ ছড়াচ্ছে এবং ঝুঁকি বাড়ছে পরিবেশ বিপর্যয় ও ভূমিকম্পের।

পৃথিবীর মোট মিঠা পানির একটি অংশ রয়েছে আমাদের দেশে। নদীমাতৃক এই দেশে এক সময় ব্যবহারিক পানির প্রধান উৎস ছিল এর নদনদী খালবিল। ভূউপরস্থ মিঠা পানির স্বাভাবিক প্রবাহ আজ নানা কারণেই মারাত্মকভাবে সীমিত হয়ে পড়েছে। তার কারণে ভূগর্ভস্থ পানির প্রবাহের উপর চাপ বেড়েছে। সেই পানির স্তর আজ ক্রমান্বয়ে যেভাবে নেমে যেতে শুরু করেছে তাতে এই আশঙ্কা এখন প্রবল হয়ে উঠেছে যে বাংলাদেশ অচিরেই সুপেয় পানির সঙ্কটে পড়তে যাচ্ছে। সে কারণে আমাদের আবার খুঁজতে হবে সুপেয় পানির আদি উৎস, আমাদের নদনদীর পানির ধারা।

08. Fill in the table by putting words in the empty cells according to their parts of speech:-

Noun	Verb	Adjective
Word	X	(a).....
Gold	(b).....	x
Sun	(c)	x
(d).....	Provide	x
Food	(e)	x

Some optional question patterns (08-16) on reading comprehension have also been introduced as questions may vary from passage to passage. Sample answers will be given in the upcoming lecture sheets.

09. Correct the following sentences :

- In many sectors, Bangladesh has attained proud.
- The social safety programs have leapfrogged and is now 12 percent of the GDP in the country.
- Many good attempts are worth to try for.
- The country already achieved a satisfactory food solvent.
- Many phenomenon are getting improved day by day.

10. Complete the following sentences :

- Bangladesh is going ahead with a view to.....
- Though the country has gained laudable progress in many areas,
- Many public and private organizations are working together so that
- Even though the country was once called a bottomless basket,
- Given the fact that we have garnered accomplishments in versatile sectors,

11. Change the voice of the following sentences :

- Corruption has pockmarked the society.
- The phenomenal growth of Bangladesh can also be attributed to the huge amount of foreign remittances.
- Bangladesh's heretofore growth story was unfortunately overshadowed by the growth story of neighboring India.
- Bangladesh has also taken giant steps in improving health and education.
- The government is trying to contain corruption.

12. Transform the following sentences as directed :

- The social safety programs have leapfrogged. (negative)
- The first disappointing aspect is corruption. (Interrogative)
- The Diaspora does not belong to the poor families only. (affirmative)
- Birth control has always been voluntary. (negative)
- The Bangladeshi farmer is also diversifying crop production. (negative)

13. Complete the following sentences with the correct forms of verbs :

- About 50 percent of the pupils (succeed) the progressive test lately.
- Corruption needs (contain) by hook or crook.
- Many technological apparatus (use) in the farming sector.
- Infant mortality (reduce) quite satisfactorily so far.
- Much of the economic development (emerge) from the peasants.

14. Complete the sentences with the appropriate words :

- Many gifts were entitled the chairman.
- Good luck has been bestowed this country.
- Despite a notable growth, Bangladesh is not so highlighted as India.
- The country is now in a position to food.
- All these precious developments are by the nasty politics.

15. Make sentences with the following words/phrases in your own language :

Contort, at times, solicit, leapfrog, cantankerous

16. Write one antonym for each of the following words :

Phenomenal, spurring, diaspora, exotic, dubbed

The Sustainable Development Goals

Introduction : The sustainable development goals (SDGs) are a new, universal set of goals, targets and indicators that UN member states will be expected to use to frame their agendas and political policies over the next 15 years. The SDGs follow and expand on the **millennium development goals (MDGs)**, which were agreed by governments in 2001 and are due to expire at the end of this year. ..

Description in Detail : The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), officially known as transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, are an intergovernmental set of aspiration Goals with 169 targets. The Goals are contained in paragraph 54 United Nations Resolution A/RES/70/1 of 25 September 2015. The Resolution is a broader intergovernmental agreement that, while acting as the Post 2015 Development Agenda (successor to the Millennium Development Goals), builds on the Principles agreed upon under Resolution A/RES/66/288, popularly known as The Future We Want. On 19 July 2014, the UN General Assembly's Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) forwarded a proposal for the SDGs to the Assembly.

The proposal contained 17 goals with 169 targets covering a broad range of sustainable development issues. These included ending poverty and hunger, improving health and education, making cities more sustainable, combating climate change, and protecting oceans and forests. On 5 December 2014, the UN General Assembly accepted the Secretary-General's Synthesis Report which stated that the agenda for the post-2015 SDG process would be based on the OWG proposals. The Intergovernmental Negotiations on the Post 2015 Development Agenda (IGN) began in January 2015 and ended in August 2015. Following the negotiations, a final document was adopted at the UN Sustainable Development Summit September 25-27, 2015 in New York, USA. The title of the agenda is "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development".

Background: The history of the SDGs can be traced to 1972 when governments met under the auspices of the United Nations Human and Environment Conference, to consider the rights of the human family to a healthy and productive environment. It was not until 1983 that the United Nations agreed to create the World Commission on Environment and Development as an independent body of the UN. In 1992 the first UN conference on Environment and Development was held in Rio. It was here that the first agenda for Environment and Development was developed and adopted, also known as Agenda 21. Twenty years later, a resolution, known as The Future We Want was reached by member states. Among the key themes agreed on were on poverty eradication, energy, water and sanitation, health, and human settlement.

Paragraph 246 of the Future We Want outcome document forms the link between The Rio +20 agreement and the Millennium Development Goals: "We recognize that the development of goals could also be useful for pursuing focused and coherent action on sustainable development." The goals should address and incorporate in a balanced way all three dimensions of sustainable development (environment, economics, and society) and their interlinkages. The development of these goals should not divert focus or effort from the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals" Paragraph 249 states that, "the process needs to be coordinated and coherent with the processes to consider the post-2015 development agenda." Taken together, these two paragraphs paved the way to bring together the development agenda centered on the *Millennium Development Goals* (MDGs), which were officially established following the Millennium Summit of the United Nations in 2000, and the agreement under the Future We Want outcome document. The Rio+20 summit also agreed that the process of designing sustainable development goals, should be "action-oriented, concise and easy to communicate, limited in number, aspirational, global in nature and universally applicable to all countries while taking into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respecting national policies and priorities".

The MDGs were supposed to be achieved by 2015. A further process was needed to agree and develop development goals from 2015-2030. Discussion on the post-2015 framework for international development began well in advance, with the United Nations System Task Team on Post 2015 Development Agenda releasing the first report known as *Realizing The Future We Want* The Report was the first attempt to achieve the requirements under paragraph 246 and 249 of the Future We Want Outcome Document. It identified four dimensions as part of a global vision for sustainable development: Inclusive Social Development, Environmental Sustainability, Inclusive Economic Development, and Peace and Security. Other processes included the UN Secretary General's High Level Panel on Post 2015 Development Agenda, whose report was submitted to the Secretary General in 2013.

Sustainable development goals: On 25 September 2015, the 193 countries of the UN General Assembly adopted the 2030 Development Agenda titled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development". Following the adoption, UN agencies, under the umbrella of the United Nations Development Group, decided to support a campaign by several independent entities, among them corporate institutions and International Organizations. The Campaign, known as Project Everyone, introduced the term *Global Goals* and is intended to help communicate the agreed Sustainable Development Goals to a wider constituency. However the decision to support what is an independent campaign, without the approval of the member states, has met resistance from several sections of civil society and governments, who accuse the UNDG of ignoring the most important communication aspect of the agreement: Sustainability. There are also concerns that Global Goals is a term used to refer to several other processes that are not related to the United Nations.

Goals and agenda : The Official Agenda for Sustainable Development adopted on 25 September 2015 has 92 paragraphs; with the main paragraph (51) outlining the 17 Sustainable Development Goals and its associated 169 targets. This included the following goals -

1. **Poverty** - End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
2. **Food** - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture;
3. **Health** - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
4. **Education** - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
5. **Women** - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
6. **Water** - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
7. **Energy** - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and clean energy for all;
8. **Economy** - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
9. **Infrastructure** - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation;
10. **Inequality** - Reduce inequality within and among countries;
11. **Habitation** - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
12. **Consumption** - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
13. **Climate** - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;
14. **Marine-ecosystems** - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
15. **Ecosystems** - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss;
16. **Institutions** - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;
17. **Sustainability** - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development. As of August 2015, there were 169 proposed targets for these goals and 304 proposed indicators to show compliance.

Post-2015 development agenda process :

Since Rio+20 did not elaborate specific goals, a 30-member Open Working Group (OWG) was established on 22 January 2013 by the decision of the UN General Assembly. The OWG was tasked with preparing a proposal on the SDGs for consideration during the 68th session of the General Assembly, September 2013 - September 2014. The OWG used a constituency-based system of representation, which meant that most of the seats in the working group are shared by several countries. After 13 sessions, the OWG submitted their proposal of 17 SDGs and 169 targets to the 68th session of the UN General Assembly in September, 2014.

The Rio + 20 outcome document stated that, "at the outset, the OWG will decide on its methods of work, including developing modalities to ensure the full involvement of relevant stakeholders and expertise from civil society, the scientific community and the United Nations system in its work, in order to provide a diversity of perspectives and experience".

Critique : A report by the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) of 2013 criticized the efforts of the SDGs as not ambitious enough. Instead of aiming for an end to poverty by 2030, the report "An Ambitious Development Goal: Ending Hunger and Undernutrition by 2025" by Shenggen Fan and Paul Polman calls for a greater emphasis on eliminating hunger and undernutrition and achieving that in 5 years less, by 2025. It bases its claims on an analysis of the experiences from China, Vietnam, Brazil and Thailand and identifies 3 pathways to achieving this goal: agriculture-led, social protection and nutrition intervention-led, or a combination of both of these approaches. Jason Hickel of the London School of Economics has criticised the SDGs for being contradictory, arguing that in seeking high levels of global GDP growth, they will undermine their own ecological objectives. He also notes, in relation to the headline goal of eliminating extreme poverty, that "a growing number of scholars are pointing out that \$1.25 is actually not adequate for human subsistence," and the poverty line should be revised to as high as \$5. A commentary in The Economist argued that the 169 targets for the SDGs are too many, calling them "sprawling," "misconceived," and "a mess" compared to the Millennium Development Goals. It also criticised the goals for ignoring local context and promoting "cookie-cutter development policies."

Education : Achieving the SDGs requires economic growth that will provide the resources for achieving the range of goals that are considered. Eric Hanushek and Ludger Woessmann argue that the most important determinant of economic growth is the "knowledge capital" of nations, which they define as the aggregate skills of the country's population and which they measure by achievement scores on international mathematics and science examinations. This argument indicates that the importance of the education goal should be elevated, because achieving it would provide the resources to reduce poverty, to improve health, and to provide for inclusive growth that lessens inequality within and between countries. In related analysis, they provide a measurable definition of quality: basic skills, or achieving Level 1 on the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA). With this definition, they show the economic gains for each of the 76 countries with test data that can be achieved by reaching universal secondary schooling along with all students having basic skills. While access to school is important (consistent with the prior Millennium Development Goals), improving the quality of schools provides a much larger economic impact for both developing and developed countries.

Water, sanitation, and hygiene : WASH experts have stated that without progress on Goal 6, the other goals and targets will not be able to be achieved.

Paris climate deal : Nations and other parties negotiating at the UN have highlighted the links between the post-2015 SDG process, the Funding for Development process to be concluded in Addis Ababa in July and the COP 21 Climate Change conference in Paris in December. In May 2015, a report concluded that only a very ambitious climate deal in Paris in 2015 will enable countries to reach the sustainable development goals and targets. The report also states that tackling climate change will only be possible if the SDGs are met; and that development and climate are inextricably linked, particularly around poverty, gender equality, and energy.

Purpose of the Goals: There is broad agreement that, while the MDGs provided a focal point for governments – a framework around which they could develop policies and overseas aid programmes designed to end poverty and improve the lives of poor people – as well as a rallying point for NGOs to hold them to account, they were too narrow. The eight MDGs – reduce poverty and hunger; achieve universal education; promote gender equality; reduce child and maternal deaths; combat HIV, malaria and other diseases; ensure environmental sustainability; develop global partnerships – failed to consider the root causes of poverty and overlooked gender inequality as well as the holistic nature of development. The goals made no mention of human rights and did not specifically address economic development. While the MDGs, in theory, applied to all countries, in reality they were considered targets for poor countries to achieve, with finance from wealthy states. Conversely, every country will be expected to work towards achieving the SDGs. As the MDG deadline approaches, about 1 billion people still live on less than \$1.25 a day – the World Bank measure on poverty – and more than 800 million people do not have enough food to eat. Women are still fighting hard for their rights, and millions of women still die in childbirth.

The Demands of the Goals :

- 01) End poverty in all its forms everywhere;
- 02) End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture;
- 03) Ensure healthy lives and promote wellbeing for all at all ages;
- 04) Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all;
- 05) Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- 06) Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;
- 07) Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all;
- 08) Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all;
- 09) Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation, and foster innovation;
- 10) Reduce inequality within and among countries;
- 11) Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable;
- 12) Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns;
- 13) Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (taking note of agreements made by the UNFCCC forum);

- 14) Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- 15) Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification and halt and reverse land degradation, and halt biodiversity loss;
- 16) Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels;
- 17) Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalise the global partnership for sustainable development;

Within the goals are 169 targets, to put a bit of meat on the bones. Targets under goal one, for example, include reducing by at least half the number of people living in poverty by 2030, and eradicating extreme poverty (people living on less than \$1.25 a day). Under goal five, there's a target on eliminating violence against women, while goal 16 has a target to promote the rule of law and equal access to justice. The Selection of the goals: Unlike the MDGs, which were drawn up by a group of men in the basement of UN headquarters (or so the legend goes), the UN has conducted the largest consultation programme in its history to gauge opinion on what the SDGs should include. Establishing post-2015 goals was an outcome of the Rio + 20 summit in 2012, which mandated the creation of an open working group to come up with a draft agenda. The open working group, with representatives from 70 countries, had its first meeting in March 2013 and published its final draft, with its 17 suggestions, in July 2014. The draft was presented to the UN general assembly in September last year.

Member state negotiations followed, and the final wording of the goals and targets, and the preamble and declaration that comes with them, were agreed in August 2015. Alongside the open working group discussions, the UN conducted a series of "global conversations". These included 11 thematic and 83 national consultations, and door-to-door surveys. The UN also launched an online My World survey asking people to prioritise the areas they'd like to see addressed in the goals. The results of the consultations were fed into the the working group's discussions.

The governments' Position about the Goals :

The majority seem to be, but a handful of member states, including the UK and Japan, aren't so keen. Some countries feel that an agenda consisting of 17 goals is too unwieldy to implement or sell to the public, and would prefer a narrower brief. Or so they say. Some believe the underlying reason is to get rid of some of the more uncomfortable goals, such as those relating to the environment. Britain's prime minister, David Cameron, has publicly said he wants 12 goals at the most, preferably 10. It's not clear, though, which goals the UK government would like taken out if they had the choice. Amina Mohammed, the UN secretary general's special adviser on post-2015 development planning, said it had been a hard fight to get the number of goals down to 17, so there would be strong resistance to reducing them further.

Some NGOs also believe there are too many goals, but there is a general consensus that it is better to have 17 goals that include targets on women's empowerment, good governance, and peace and security, for example, than fewer goals that don't address these issues.

The Yardstick for the Goals: The indicators are still being thrashed out by an expert group. Each indicator is being assessed for its feasibility, suitability and relevance, and roughly two for each target are expected. The indicators are due to be finalised in March 2016.

The Funds for the Goals: That's the trillion-dollar question. Rough calculations from the intergovernmental committee of experts on sustainable development financing have put the cost of providing a social safety net to eradicate extreme poverty at about \$66bn (£43bn) a year, while annual investments in improving infrastructure (water, agriculture, transport, power) could be up to a total of \$7tn globally. In its report last year, the committee said public finance and aid would be central to support the implementation of the SDGs. But it insisted that money generated from the private sector, through tax reforms, and through a crackdown on illicit financial flows and corruption, was also vital.

A major conference on financing for the SDGs, held in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa in July, failed to ease concerns that there will not be enough cash to meet the aspirational nature of the goals. The UN said the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA for short) contained "bold measures to overhaul global finance practices and generate investment" for tackling the challenges of sustainable development. It included a recommitment to the UN target on aid spending – 0.7% of GNI – set more than 40 years ago and pledges to collect more taxes and fight tax evasion. But civil society groups were less impressed, saying the summit had failed to produce new money to fund the goals, or offer ways to transform the international finance system. Calls for a new international tax body fell on deaf ears.

The Deadline for the Goals : The SDGs will be officially adopted at a UN summit in New York in September, and will become applicable from January 2016. The deadline for the SDGS is 2030.

Conclusion : The sustainable goals have been brought to consideration with a view to lifting the whole world to a stable standard of economy and living. The ascertained goals are in fact the most necessary demands of human life for making it worth living in every sense of the word. The nations of the world are concertedly striving to give a healthy look to the myriad imperative ingredients of human existence. As soon as these urgent needs are brought to control, people of the world will be certainly able to get rid of the vicious circle of poverty and the ominous incentives of all sorts of negative entities. Hence, it is a requirement of time that all the countries of the world come forward to give a push to the effectuation of the sustainable goals in their respective capability for the purpose of making the life of the citizens meaningful to the fullest.

Sample Answer of Reading Comprehension (Lecture - 07)

01. Answer :

- a. The refugee crisis is a humanitarian issue. If left uncared, it ends up affecting all the countries. These people may have to face the dire injustice of life and may ultimately turn against the total humanity.
- b. The USA and Russia are seemingly stirring the crisis instead of trying to put and end to the mayhem. They are supporting different factions of the trouble making it lingering and creating more havoc.
- c. The proposed coalition's sole mission would be ensuring peace in Syria and asserting a palpable solution to the refugee surge. It will put pressure on the government of Basar Al Asad to say yes to the terms convenient to sustaining peace.
- d. Japan is responding to Iran in a very positive manner. It wants to help Iran have nuclear power and to work united for bilateral business boon.
- e. Syrian crisis is a threat to other countries as it gives birth to various anomalies around. It creates desperate ethnic conflicts and terrorist groups which put the world at risk.

02. Answer :

Breach = transgression

Perennial = eternal

Obligation = onus

Shy away = forsake

Confront = oppose

03. Answer :

- a. Although many politicians are corrupt to the core, they are enjoying a very high hand in the mainstream government.
- b. These people are taking everything for granted as though there were no rules and regulations.
- c. The girl took a makeup of a boy while taking the risky journey lest she should be recognized by the nefarious goons.
- d. We are constantly in apprehension in case of any earthquake since the buildings here are not constructed following the due rules.
- e. They are marching ahead with immense development in all sectors while we are brooding over our own interests in every case.

04. Answer :

- Father Benjamin Costa of the Christian Missionary College instructed his favourite students, James, Michael, Jessy, Merry and Svetlana, to accomplish the assigned task relating the World War 2.
- She lives at 22nd Down Street, Dhaka, the capital city of Bangladesh, the biggest delta in the world.

-: Optional Questions :-**08. Answer :**

- The refugee crisis has crossed its supposed limit = To put an intimidating impact on many states.
- Two major powers of the world = Seem to be doing more rehearsal than action.
- A coalition is the need of the time = To let the war mongers know that the world does not hail them.
- To create a palpable solution to the refugee crisis, = People should be made assured of their needlessness to flee.
- Even India cannot succeed in its targeted work = In absence of peace in Syria.

09. Answer :

- interests
- deal
- assertive
- tightening
- spade

10. Answer :

- What doesn't Global Leadership simply mean?
- What concept did Brazil put forward?
- Whom is the crisis affecting now?
- Where does this put India?
- What could the coalition members do?

11. Answer :

- Many people are fleeing to other European countries.
- The world does not approve of the conflict in Syria.
- The Assad government must cease to continue its annihilating war.
- The Syrian crisis can very possibly create havoc all over the world.
- The countries all over the world must come up with a palpable solution to this bad omen.

12. Answer :

Strain : The strain of ethnic war goes on in the Middle East incessantly.

Exacerbate : The major superpowers are seen to exacerbate the warring opponents for their own booty.

On the line : The two conflicting countries were on the line of putting a running blow on each other.

Influx : The influx of Rohingyas in Bangladesh is a very threatening issue.

Leverage : Political leverage from the influencing states sometimes makes the weaker states eat humble pie.

13. Answer :

- a. Adjective
- b. Verb
- c. Noun.
- d. Adverb.
- e. Noun

14. Answer :

Breach = Formation

Perennial = Transient

Obligation = Deliberation

Shy away = Accept

Confront = Agree

15. Answer :

- a. Millions of people are fleeing the conflict ridden country.
- b. Countries of the world for a greater interest need to come in agreement on some issues.
- c. Almost all the major countries of the world target to gain ground in the world politics.
- d. The root causes of refugee influx have to be withdrawn.
- e. In many regions, countries need to form forums.