



Towards a Great India

A magazine of the Freedom Team of India

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Care for India? Then lead India.

It will take at least 1500 people to reform India's governance. If you believe you can lead India, then apply to join the Freedom Team.

- India can be changed.
- India can become an ethical place.
- But the very best Indians must come together on one platform first.

Target

Year	Number of leaders
2008	100
2009	500
2010	1500

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Message from the Team

We all share a common purpose in life. Our daily activities are intended to benefit either our own children or, more generally, the society as a whole. We all want a Great India. But why is there so much failure around us despite these good intentions? One answer must lie in the methods used to achieve our purpose. Perhaps only some methods work; if so, we must ask: does *our* method work? Does it deliver good health, wealth, good roads and services? If not, we may be doing something wrong! It may be time to change what we are doing.

India lags behind developed countries in its quality of life because of the poor quality of our governance, and because for 60 years we chose to ignore methods that have worked in free societies. The sum of these two: bad governance and bad policies, have added up to make India a highly corrupt, poor nation.

But why should our governance be so bad? We believe it is primarily because our best people do not enter politics. The Freedom Team has chosen to fix this problem. The Team will bring together 1500 leaders committed to integrity, freedom, and good policy, and provide Indians with high quality candidates at elections. We all deserve to get our very best people into parliament.

The daily life of a street child



Lack of freedom and poverty go hand in hand.

This child, selling flowers at road intersections in Delhi, surely dreams of owning a car one day.

People in the cars – people like us – can make this dream come true by providing India with good governance.

Governments and the people: poles apart!



Our fear-stricken, besieged governments are in physical retreat. After so many politicians and officials have been killed over the years by terrorists and the like, governments are now afraid of the citizens who elected them, equally as citizens are afraid of the governments they have elected.

While we are a 'free' nation theoretically, almost all the doors and entrances to our government offices are securely locked. We are frisked at each step.

Political leaders, escorted by hooded gunmen, live inside sheltered cocoons with Z category security. Roads are cleared of people before travel. The gap between us and governments keeps getting bigger.

Recommended readings

1. **Capitalism and Freedom** by Milton Friedman
2. **Capitalism: The Unknown Ideal** by Ayn Rand, Nathaniel Branden, Alan Greenspan and Robert Hessen
3. **The Ultimate Resource II** by Julian Simon
4. **Breaking Free of Nehru** by Sanjeev Sabhlok
5. **The Use of Knowledge in Society** by Friedrich A. Hayek
6. **India Unbound** by Gurcharan Das
7. **On Liberty** by John Stuart Mill
8. **The Law** by Frédéric Bastiat
9. **Liberalism** by Ludwig Von Mises
10. **Treatise on Government** by John Locke
11. **Good to Great** by Jim Collins

Feedback to improve this magazine welcomed!

Apart from the photograph of the child on the street, other photographs were downloaded from the internet without permission on an assumption that this would be a fair use of the images for this non-commercial venture. We thank the photographers and respective copyright owners.

Law and order - a distant dream



Law and order is a distant dream for most of us. Even registering a murder in a Thana is virtually impossible without bribing the police.

Some readers who are “well connected” may shrug off this concern. But this is no laughing matter. Bad elements in the police and justice system, who work with criminals (or politicians) have terrorised the people.

‘Sensible’ people avoid politics like the plague



Armchair philosophers! Are you interested in walking the talk?

Politics should be a profession for the wise and learned of a society. Plato’s ideal for a society was the philosopher king. The rightful place for philosophers and thinkers is therefore in politics.

Gandhi was a philosopher. Nehru was one as well, in his own right. So were Rajaji, Radhakrishnan and the many great leaders of the freedom movement.

But do such people join politics today? No! We all avoid politics like the plague. Our capable people flee and run for cover at the very thought of politics!

On the other hand, the West has become what it is – wealthy and powerful – because its thinkers *did not* sit on their haunches, complaining and moaning. Bertrand Russell did his Fabian society thing; Benjamin Franklin, Thomas Jefferson and Edmund Burke did their Freedom thing; JS Mill became an MP to promote Liberty. Marx promoted communist movements in Europe. Heidegger did his evil, Fascism thing. For good or bad, thinkers have determined the history of mankind.

But in India, our feeble thinkers sit and moan in a corner even as they bury their heads in sand and allow their children to abandon India rather than deal with the challenge of governing India. In 1982 when asked about why our politics is so dirty, Indira Gandhi said to IAS probationers: “You only get the right to ask that question if you enter politics; no one has stopped you from entering politics and fixing the problem”. It was a challenge she threw but no one took it up. Meekly these probationers went about being ordinary IAS officers, working under our hopelessly corrupt ‘leaders’.

Politics seeks the best possible ordering of our lives. It is the black belt in the science of leadership and philosophy. It is the place where compassion and wisdom come together. What could be more exhilarating and more challenging?

The Freedom Team seeks 1500 leaders, and is confident that there *are* at least 1500 philosopher kings among the 113 crore people of India. Since it is going to be hard to change the rules of India’s politics, so the Freedom Team won’t jump into electoral politics right away. It will build a common platform and strategy first. And so we *want you* – if you are capable enough, and humble enough. Join as an equal member. Work together for the shared cause of a Great India.

We seek your ongoing support for this work. Please forward this magazine to your friends and relatives. Help us find the leaders we are all looking for.

To subscribe: <http://groups.google.com/group/towards-a-great-india>.