



Towards a Great India

A magazine of the Freedom Team of India

15 May 2010

Volume 3, Number 2

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Want change? Then lead.

India's governance can be reformed, but first Indian citizen-leaders (at least 1500 of them) must come together and agree to a common policy platform. **Join the Freedom Team of India.**

Target/ achievement

Year	Number of leaders wanted	Number of initial FTI members
2008	100	38*
2009	500	91*
2010	1500	93#
2011	2500+	

*Including *observers* who have since been transitioned as Freedom Partners.

#Less than a third of these initial members are likely to upgrade to full membership of FTI.

Join the White Force in its war against corruption and mis-governance

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Message from the Team



The question isn't who is going to let me; it's who is going to stop me.

Ayn Rand, in *The Fountainhead*

We are guilty of making idle noises about the misgovernance of India. Barely do we lift our finger to do anything about it. It would seem that one billion Indians have given up on India. That is because our education system creates clerks for the job market, not citizens.

Our educated elites are ready to the bidding of anyone who will pay them a wage, and many will happily work for the corrupt so long as their salary is assured. Neither a high ethical standard nor a culture of taking responsibility for the nation comes in the way of the self-interest of our educated classes.

FTI's job, therefore, is to cajole and wheedle Indians to take responsibility for India. So far this has not been easy. As [Bhuvan Singh](#), an FTI member has noted: "**This freedom struggle is more challenging than the 'independence struggle'**". Then the enemy was clear - the British. But here we are fighting the enemy from within our borders, within ourselves, within our minds".

Despite India's inertia, FTI members are determined to change India. Success requires unrelenting determination and irresistible persistence, and that FTI members have in abundance. Our efforts are directed within the Team, outside the Team to gain supporters (partners) and members, and also against misgovernance. Over the past year FTI has worked as a closely knit team to produce outstanding outputs despite its limited resources. A recent example is the letter sent out to 4000 independents who contested the May 2009 Parliamentary elections. This issue of TAGI reports on FTI's recent initiatives.

Key FTI documents

- [FTI Brochure](#)
- [FTI Trust Deed](#)
- [FTI Rules & Code of Conduct](#)
- [FTI Strategy](#)
- [How to join FTI](#)
- [FTI Basic Principles](#)

Become a Freedom Partner

The **Freedom Partner** member category has been launched for those who want to promote freedom and good governance in India without themselves contesting elections (all *full* members of FTI must be committed, in principle, to contesting elections). **To become a Freedom Partner, please join the Google Group <http://groups.google.com.au/group/freedom-partners>.** We aim to find at least 2 lakh Freedom Partners this year.

Support FTI with your time and money

FTI invites you to join in this movement for freedom and good governance as a full member. If you are unable to become a member, then please support it with your time and money (see [this link](#) for details). Pass on this magazine.

Articles by Team Members

NOTE: Only FTI members are entitled to write for this magazine. Non-members can contribute to [India Policy Update](#). We aim to provide an outlet for Freedom Partners in the coming months. Since FTI members are volunteers with full-time jobs, we don't have time to edit this magazine. As well, we aim to give full freedom of expression to our members. Therefore these articles are either not edited, or very lightly edited. Please do note that the views expressed in these articles **may not** represent the views of FTI.

1. Update since the last issue of TAGI (March 2010)

Quarterly telephone conference: On 23 April 2010, FTI held its first telephonic Conference Call. Members from across India and the world called into an appropriate telephone number and spoke for over one hour. This conference was part of the follow up of the February 2010 Annual conference where it was decided to hold regular telephonic conferences, in addition to fortnightly Skype conferences and the physical conferences on the ground.

Freedom Partner membership category: After making initial efforts in this direction earlier this year, the Freedom Partner category is now being strengthened as the flagship vehicle for all supporters of FTI. In May 2010 information were widely disseminated, inviting Indians who support freedom and the Freedom Team to join as Freedom Partners. There is **no membership fee** under the current arrangements.

Guest membership category: The General Body of FTI agreed to introduce a guest membership category the details of which will be published in the amended FTI rules in the coming weeks. In essence, it allows those who are willing to contest elections but are not quite certain about how FTI works, to join as guests for a limited period during which they can ask questions and determine whether FTI suits their needs.

Letter to independents: A report on this topic is provided separately, below.

Things under way:

Commercial ventures: A few commercial ventures are being progressed by FTI members with a view to generating surpluses for FTI.

National conference on topics of interest: A proposal is currently being considered on FTI to hold more national conferences on topics of interest to the people. These would help spread awareness about FTI. If you are interested in sponsoring such a conference, please contact FTI.

2. Report on the letter sent to independents

In March 2010, FTI prepared and sent out an inland letter to around 4,000 independents who contested India's parliamentary elections in May 2009. A copy of the letter, including material printed on the back of the letter, is provided below.

FTI wants to thank the many members who contributed their valuable time and money to this effort. In particular, FTI is indebted to the work put in by Ajay Anand and L.K. Kandpal not only in preparing, printing, and sending out the letters but in taking the large number of follow up calls from people from across India. At the time of publishing this issue, 109 independents had contacted FTI members over phone or email.

FTI remains committed to findings, developing, and providing only the most outstanding leaders to India. We will therefore ensure that of these 109 independents, only those will be able to join FTI who understand and abide by classical liberalism, and meet our stringent conditions of integrity.

FTI aims to increase membership to at least 500 by end-2010. This won't happen easily, given the slow uptake so far. **Your active support and participation is crucial if FTI (and India) is to succeed!**

FREEDOM TEAM OF INDIA

TOWARDS A GREAT INDIA-A FREE INDIA

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Dear

I am pleased to write to you on behalf of **Freedom Team of India ('FTI', or 'The team')**, which is a platform for leaders who wish to contest elections in India. I have chosen to write to you because you contested Lok Sabha elections, 2009 and therefore may be interested in knowing more about this platform. It is my belief that if your views are compatible with our broad ideological principles and ethical goals, FTI could provide you the most suitable platform for the 2014 parliamentary elections.

Before I proceed further, **let me commend you on your act of citizenship**. Not many Indians have the strong sense of ownership and responsibility for their country to make them want to offer themselves as political representatives. Instead, most Indians merely complain about the rotten governance system. It takes great courage to fight elections for the betterment of India, and **we at FTI salute your resolve**.

About FTI

FTI is a not-for-profit organisation registered in July 2009, and only accepts leaders as members. FTI leaders are committed in-principle to contest elections, subject meeting certain preconditions. The first precondition is to have 1500 high quality leaders willing to contest elections, and, atleast 500 of them before 2011. The next precondition is that all 1500 leaders should agree fully to a common set of policies, and, should have signed on them. Once these preconditions are met these leaders would launch a suitable political platform. Currently, FTI commands a membership of about 100 outstanding leaders from all walks of life, across India.

FTI is currently formulating strategies and preparing ground work and logistics to translate the ideas of individual freedom and dignity (classical liberalism) and good governance into reality. FTI believes that only a dramatic change in our system of governance can improve the life of every citizen of India. Such a change would provide an enabling government with minimal but effective regulation, would allow citizens to provide themselves with basic necessities of food, clean water, clothing and shelter, and ultimately wealth and well being.

FTI is working to build and expand its grass roots base in the years 2010-11 through it's branch, **Adharshila**, and by recruiting Freedom Partners. Adharshila is planned as a local unit in every village and mohalla with the aim to foster active participation of citizens in their civic life and show how liberal solutions based on freedom and good governance can solve their problems and improve lives. FTI has also conducted a few outreach programs in 2009, which have been well received.

As a step in this direction of finding exceptional leaders, FTI is approaching a number of people who want to change the governance of this great nation, where unfortunately the worst elements of society seem to become our leaders. As a part of this effort, FTI is now writing to **all** independent candidates (like you) of the 2009 parliamentary elections.

What we seek from you: FTI believes that there is no dearth of educated, talented people in India who want to see India change. However, they lack a good platform to launch themselves. FTI is the platform for all such leaders to come together. We have extremely stringent conditions of entry, and only accept honest people who understand good policy, and believe in freedom with accountability. **You are already meeting at least one condition: the willingness to contest elections.**

You can learn more about FTI's mission, core beliefs and the conditions of entry at <http://www.freedomteam.in> or by contacting any of our regional representatives, whose names are provided overleaf.

We believe that together we can and we will build a strong, resurgent and honest India, an India of every Indian's dreams. **We look forward to hearing from you shortly.**

L.K Kandpal

Secretary

Freedom Team of India

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Our Vision
An India where everyone is guaranteed equal opportunity and equal dignity, and has the freedom to pursue his or her own happiness under an accountable and participative government.

Figure: Obverse of the inland letter sent to independents

3. Environmental policy in a free society



Sanjeev Sabhlok, PhD, former member of the Indian Administrative Service, currently works as a public servant in Australia. Contact: sabhlok@yahoo.com. Sanjeev is Honorary Member of FTI (being an Overseas Citizen of India).

This article was published in Freedom First, May 2010.

The liberal is deeply committed to a clean and healthy environment. Sadly, India's continuing fascination with socialism and centralised approaches has converted the country into a toxic garbage dump: our rivers and lakes are badly damaged, our wildlife and rare fauna are threatened with extinction.

Bad stewardship of the environment harms both our health and wealth. Toxic waste, polluted air and filth harms our health, but the economy suffers as well. For instance, we don't get as many visitors to the Taj Mahal as we could have because the moment they enter Agra, obnoxious stink overpowers them. Similarly we lose many economic opportunities because we can't develop nature sports or tourism in ravaged and filthy natural habitats.

Socialism, the enemy of the environment

Nehruvian socialism harmed India's environment in many ways. Despite so-called family planning, socialist policies directly led to a dramatic increase in India's population. For details please see *Breaking Free of Nehru* (page 233, <http://bfn.sabhlokcity.com/>). While a large population can be very good for a nation, it can prove fatal for the environment if the government is corrupt and incompetent and does not hold this large population to account for the harm caused.

Also, while wealthy societies have the wherewithal to clean up their rivers and lakes, socialist societies like India can't afford to do that. And our governments lack *any capacity whatsoever* to enforce *any* law. Instead, our corrupt lawmakers and their cronies have looted our natural resources for 60 years, and connived with industries that harm the environment.

Freedom is not license to harm

What would happen differently if India were to some day become a free society? In a free society everyone is accountable for the harm they cause. There is no freedom to pollute. Negative externalities are their heart *ethical* and *governance* failures (not 'market failures', as economists like to call them). A free society simply

This task – of environmental stewardship in a free society – is not trivial. The harm caused cannot always be easily attributed to a particular individual. Those who cause harm do not voluntarily come forward to disclose their polluting activities, either. Indeed, in some cases entire societies collude to pass on costs to future generations! Harm such as acid rain can also spread across national borders. Environmental policy is thus a very challenging area. But by carefully investigating incentives, the free society can achieve reasonable solutions and maintain a healthy environment without reducing economic activity unnecessarily. Let me outline some of these solutions.

Non-regulatory solutions

The mere existence of negative externalities should not be assumed to call for government intervention. Where affected parties can identify each other clearly and the cost of negotiation is low, the externality can be mitigated through bargaining (see Ronald Coase's 1960 paper, *The Problem of Social Cost*). The government must therefore seek to clarify property rights and not rush into taking direct action. The use of intelligence, not brute force, is called for.

This also applies to the preservation of flora and fauna. If businesses are allocated property rights to rear and sell endangered species, then the supply of these species will increase, removing the threat to their survival. It is beyond belief that we even try to lecture others to stop using ivory, rhino horns or tiger skins. By the time we stop our puerile lectures to Chinese smugglers, all our precious animals would have died.

When have prohibitions ever worked? Legalising (and appropriately regulating) trade in environmental goods is crucial if we want a healthy environment. Let India earn an honest living from its fauna, not endanger its tigers and rhinos through socialist policies that only end up benefitting smugglers and arms dealers. I have absolutely no doubt that without well-regulated property rights and legalised trade, *all* endangered species in the world will die out.

Regulatory solutions

The property rights option may not be feasible in all cases (although its applicability is quite vast). Where direct government intervention is considered necessary, the costs and benefits of all options should be carefully scrutinised and only the most effective (and efficient) solution deployed. Options include:

a) Market based instruments: Creating markets for externalities, such as cap-and-trade schemes, can sometimes be viable. In these schemes, polluters receive signals directly from the market about whether they should spend money to reduce pollution or simply buy permits to pollute.

b) Mandatory change in behaviour: After a cost-benefit analysis, a government could, in some cases, mandate the use of non-polluting technologies. This direct approach can minimise economic harm while reducing pollution. Mandatory restrictions or standards could be relevant for positional arms races in which it is not in anyone's interest to stop the harmful activity unless everyone else gives it up. Thus, athletes would use increasingly greater amounts of anabolic steroids unless everyone was prohibited from using them.

c) Mandatory insurance and good behaviour bonds: Where the risk of environmental harm is considerable, mandatory insurance requirements can be imposed as part of licence conditions for starting a business. In some cases, good behaviour bonds can be mandated in lieu, although these tend to lock up valuable capital.

d) Pigovian tax: In this case a tax is imposed on the polluter. The tax is equal in value to the harm caused. The polluter internalises the costs imposed on others, and is therefore motivated to reduce the pollution. Where specific polluters can't be readily identified, Pigovian taxes can be imposed on upstream activities that contribute to the pollution (for instance, a general tax on all cars regardless of the actual pollution caused by a car). It is important that Pigovian taxes are offset by reducing taxes elsewhere, else resources will be transferred from the private sector to government, leading to a drop in productivity.

e) Criminalising the harm: Where extremely severe harm can be caused, such as by the transportation of dangerous goods without appropriate precautions, criminal penalties can be imposed. Prohibitions may also be appropriate where identifying a specific polluter is difficult or a single polluter causes only a small part of the harm. An example is the ban on smoking in bars where no specific individual can be held responsible for cancer that a bartender may develop after working in a smoke-filled environment.

In addition, there are many other ways to preserve the environment. The problem that India faces, however, is that none of these ideas are either tried, or if tried, implemented faithfully by its corrupt governments.

Freedom Team of India

The solution for India is for its liberals (such as the readers of this esteemed magazine) to take responsibility for India and work to directly improve India's governance. The Freedom Team of India (<http://freedomteam.in/>) is a team of leaders who will, when ready, contest elections under the banner of liberty and provide good governance to India. Unfortunately, the team has struggled over the past two years to find enough leaders to start a serious political movement. I trust you will help in some way.

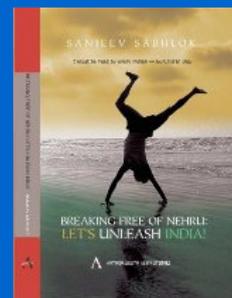
Recommended readings

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. **Economics in One Lesson** by Henry Hazlitt
6. **The Use of Knowledge in Society** by F.A. Hayek
7. **The Constitution of Liberty** by F.A. Hayek
8. **India Unbound** by Gurcharan Das
9. **On Liberty** by John Stuart Mill
10. **The Law** by Frédéric Bastiat

11. **Liberalism** by Ludwig Von Mises
12. **Two Treatises of Government** by John Locke
13. **The Triumph of Liberty** by Jim Powell
14. **Growth Triumphant** by Richard Easterlin
15. **Roots of Freedom** by John W. Danford
16. **Good to Great** by Jim Collins

Breaking Free of Nehru – Let's Unleash India! NOW AVAILABLE FREE

This book (December 2008, Anthem Press) introduces the idea of a Freedom Team of India, and proposes policies that such a Team could consider. Now a **free e-book**: <http://bfm.sabhlokcitcity.com/>



FTI's Speakers Panel



Swaminathan S. Anklesaria Aiyar



Pavan Choudary



Gurcharan Das



Barun Mitra



S.V. Raju



Ramesh Ramanathan



Parth Shah



Atanu Dey

(not pictured)

Mohit Saytananda

Facebook groups of FTI, and related initiatives, causes, and books

Group: We DEMAND Freedom and Good Governance

facebook

Page: Freedom Team of India

facebook

Cause: We want Freedom and Good Governance in India

facebook

Page: Rajaji, the great Indian Liberal

facebook

Page: Minoo Masani, a great liberal

facebook

Group: One Rupee Freedom Movement

facebook

Cause: One Rupee Freedom Movement

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Group: The Discovery of Freedom

facebook

Group: Breaking Free of Nehru

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Please pass this along!

Let's join hands to break the cycle of apathy among educated Indians.

Supporting FTI is simple: Just pass on this magazine to all your friends and relatives in India so they can help us find the leaders India needs.

Surely, India has 1500 leaders who believe in freedom!

