



# 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

**To join the War for Freedom – a War against corruption and sloth – go to this website:**

<http://freedom.sabhlokcity.com>  
[free.t.india@gmail.com](mailto:free.t.india@gmail.com)

## Message from the Team

The Team deeply mourns the loss of innocent lives in Jaipur on 13 May 2008.

**Just because you do not take an interest in politics doesn't mean politics won't take an interest in you!** - Pericles (430 B.C.)

Of the things we take for granted in our lives, politics must surely rank the highest. Politics determines policy, and policy determines our lives. It impacts whether our children will be around to look after us in our old age; whether we will be taken quickly to hospital after a hit-and-run road accident – indeed, whether there will be an emergency vehicle available at all or even whether a hospital will exist; whether we will find a job; whether we will find a house to live in; whether our street will have functioning drains; and so on. Virtually everything in our lives is *determined* by politics, even how we respond to relentless terrorism.

We neglect politics only at great peril. The difference between the life of citizens in genuinely free countries and in India boils down to the difference in the quality of politics in these countries. It is therefore better to control politics than to let it control us. Our actions *today*: whether we choose the politics of freedom, or connive with the politics of collectivism and corruption, will determine our future.

## How can anyone make a living from selling slices of coconut?!



No one in developed countries will be found living off a few coconut slices sold under the hot sun each day. So why is this man forced to waste his entire life in this totally insignificant activity? An answer is found in our politics.

This man could well have been a successful industrialist or entrepreneur given the right opportunities. But today, most Indians are either illiterate or unskilled. Socialists (most existing parties are socialist) have sentenced this man and millions of other Indians like him to a lifetime of miserable poverty. Politics is the key difference between success and failure.

The Freedom Team of India is collating policies which will ensure that each Indian will have the freedom and opportunity to develop into a successful citizen.

## The magic of free trade

Adam Smith showed in 1776 that we become richer each time we trade. Both sides gain. Free societies therefore do not indulge in the futile battle between winners and losers. Everyone can be a winner. Wealth creation is not a zero-sum game. The size of the pie is not fixed in free societies; it constantly expands. Even if a person's relative share of the pie declines as the pie becomes larger (ie. inequality increases), each person still ends up becoming better off.

Adam Smith showed that if each of us produces things of the *greatest* value we can, and are allowed to maximise our personal gain, we will end up contributing the most to society. If everyone produces most effectively, a society's total wealth will increase. Indeed, this is trivially obvious. So why did India discard Adam Smith and follow Karl Marx and the Fabian socialists instead?

## 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 Friedrich A. Hayek
7. **India Unbound** by Gurcharan Das
8. **On Liberty** by John Stuart Mill
9. **The Law** by Frédéric Bastiat
10. **Liberalism** by Ludwig Von Mises
11. **Two treatises of Government** by John Locke
12. **Good to Great** by Jim Collins



**A country's wealth grows through each trade of goods or services**

## The stark choice before India: success vs. failure

India will continue its bad policies if we continue to elect the same old corrupt socialist governments. Today, our governments are not held to account. Our municipalities do not clean up the roads nor provide well-lit foot paths. We do not get regular supply of water and electricity. All this is happening even as the quality of life in the West gets better each day through good governance.

If we really *want* to, we *can* get accountable governments in India very soon - governments that enable citizens to achieve their highest potential; governments that follow world-best policy. But it will mean changing *almost everything* we have done for sixty years. It will mean demanding the policies of freedom. It will mean that many of us will have to join active politics to promote freedom. Societies cannot change unless ideas are translated into action by real leaders.

### The choice before a society: freedom vs. shackles, success vs. failure

	<b>Free society</b> <i>Good governance</i>	<b>Shackled society</b> <i>Bad governance</i>
<b>Daily actions of people are based on:</b>	<b>constructive competition</b> Win-win and trusting transactions among free agents. Each trade benefits both parties. Honest and accountable transactions reinforce trust and build greater cooperation in society.	<b>destructive competition</b> Overall 'pie' is perceived as being fixed, leading to constant battles to increase one's share of the 'pie' at the expense of others. Destructive, dishonest competition weakens trust, reduces cooperation.
<b>Overall strategies of the society are:</b>	<b>not hampered by ego; its people are genuine leaders</b> Society willing to use proven policies that have worked well elsewhere to leapfrog and lead. Constant urge to follow and create world's best policy.	<b>hampered by ego; its people are 'petty' leaders</b> Society driven by ego and arrogance. Its people think their society is "different" and reinvent the wheel (eg. an 'Indian' solution), making mistakes over and over again.
<b>Day-to-day consequences for citizens:</b>	<b>increased trust, prosperity</b> A united society which is used to succeeding in every way. Its achievement of success breeds more success. Citizens constantly achieve the world's best performance.	<b>decreased trust, stagnation</b> A divided society bogged down by repeated failure and cynicism. People abandon the society for greener pastures. Repetitive failure daunts and numbs the society's morale. Low aspirations, low achievement.

## Together, we can overcome



All great feats have initially appeared to be utopian. Those trying to change things are often the butt of ridicule. Leading attracts criticism, and so most of India's highly educated and competent people prefer to follow India's corrupt leaders like sheep following a pack of wolves. In doing so we escape criticism. We can say "It is 'their' fault, not ours"! But whose fault is it *really*? Why is it that India grinds in poverty even as the West succeeds and grows richer each day? By following the corrupt like sheep, we *all* fail. The sheep must revolt.

The Freedom Team has launched the War for the Liberation of India. This War will rid India of its sloth and corruption. But this can't be the War only of members of the Team. It must equally be your War as well. You must be in the thick of it, or it will fail. Only together will we overcome. Please choose either to be the leader we are looking for, or help us find good leaders.

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

## Feedback to improve this magazine welcomed!

The photograph of the man selling coconut slices is by a member of the Team. The 'We Shall Overcome' button has been downloaded from the internet without permission on an assumption that this would constitute fair use of the image for this non-commercial venture. We thank the photographer and respective copyright owner/s.