



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 1,500 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 – click here:

<http://freedom.sabhlोकcity.com>

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Message from the Team

So long as the people do not care to exercise their freedom, those who wish to tyrannize will do so; for tyrants are active and ardent, and will devote themselves in the name of any number of gods, religious and otherwise, to put shackles upon sleeping men. – Voltaire



Demolition of Babri Masjid



Bomb blast in Jaipur last month

The citizenship of free India comes with its responsibilities. In a free society, it is a minimum requirement that everyone must respect the life and liberty of others. Freedom is not license to destroy or kill. Intolerance, hate-mongering, and lawlessness of any sort is totally unacceptable.

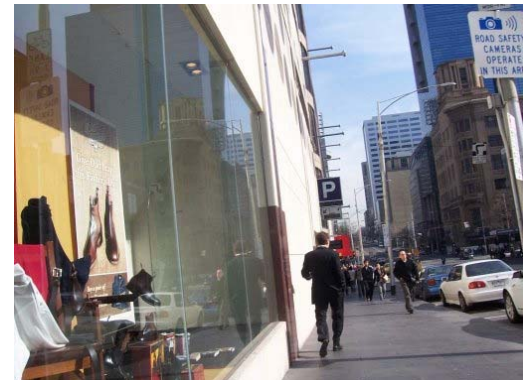
Unfortunately, criminals claiming to be religiously motivated, fanatic Maoists, and violent secessionist groups periodically terrorize fellow Indians. Public and private property is demolished and senseless violence meted out to completely innocent people. These criminals and groups are the enemies of India, wanting to tear apart the incipient edifice of freedom established in 1947. Sadly, India is a weak state with a particularly weak enforcement of the rule of law. Demagogues of all sorts flourish unchecked. Hateful ideologies are allowed to go unpunished.

India needs strong leaders today, leaders determined to ensure the life and liberty of each India citizen. The Freedom Team calls upon all the good people of India who believe in freedom to awaken from their deep slumber of 60 years and guide the country. Else India's days of relative freedom may well be numbered.

Free society, clean cities



Roadside garbage in Delhi



A street in Melbourne

The performance of Indian governments is poor in every respect because no one is accountable for their actions; everyone blames someone else. We are unable to dismiss anyone for the garbage found on our streets. But freedom means holding people to account. Our leaders *must* ensure clean cities and villages, or go.

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

Feedback to improve this magazine welcomed!

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Powerful elected local governments



The city of Melbourne provides garbage bins (green bin to the left) and bicycle stands.

Free societies do not have inefficient, tenured civil services. It is fortunate for Melbourne City that it does not have IAS officers.

Instead, directly elected representatives (Councillors) in the Melbourne City local government area hire excellent managers on five year contracts and pay them very well to deliver results. If they don't deliver, these managers are fired! The citizens also actively participate in Council meetings. If despite that the Councillors fail to deliver results then they are voted out in the next elections.

In Indian governments no one is *directly and solely* accountable for anything. But freedom can't exist without accountability. Therefore, India's colonial governance frameworks and policies of socialism must go. Accountability must be established.

Freedom first

A country is jointly created by its citizens through a social contract to defend their life and liberty. Freedom actually comes before everything else even if we don't often think about it. It is vital to our existence.

As Pearl S. Buck said, "Men would rather be starving and free than fed in bonds". Even the poorest villager prefers to roam free and enjoy the sunset, than stay in solitary confinement for the whole of his life inside a large house with golden cutlery, lavish food, and a silken bed, but without windows, books, companionship, or awareness of the outside world.

What is freedom?

Freedom can mean many things: 1) Liberty of the person, and protection against abuse of power, e.g. protection from slavery, detention, or oppression. This means absence of arbitrary exercise of authority. This is closely related to 2) Being unhampered. This refers to our power to engage in actions without control or interference. Finally, 3) Self-determination or the power of self-determination: This refers to the capacity to exercise choice through free will. This includes access to power, or the "right to be a participant in government" (Hannah Arendt).

Together, these tell us something about 'freedom'. But taken out of context, any of these meanings can become problematic. Freedom must therefore be closely integrated with justice or accountability. Unconstrained action can quickly degenerate into license. No one is free to steal or pollute or kill, or to throw their garbage on the streets.

Two points to note: (1) Political independence of nations has little to do with freedom. When people talk of India's 'freedom' movement, or a book is entitled, *Freedom at Midnight*, the issue refers to national independence, not freedom. Stalin's Russia, Mao's China, and even Nehru's India (no matter how democratic) were independent but they were not free. (2) Freedom is not an exemption from unpleasant or onerous conditions. Being 'free' from poverty has little to do with freedom. Slaves or prisoners are not exactly poor, being given food and shelter; but they are not free.

FTI is looking for outstanding leaders to lead India to life and liberty. You must be prepared to contest elections after 1500 leaders like you have assembled and agreed to a detailed policy platform.

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