



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

Update

We have far less than 100 people so far in 2008. Without leaders this effort will fail. Please consider joining FTI or getting others to join.

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

<http://freedomteam.in>

info@freedomteam.in

Message from the Team

The Team condemns the killings in Delhi by Muslim terrorists on 13 September.

Where liberty dwells, there is my country. – Benjamin Franklin

Some people assume that the institutions of democratic governance in India were a natural by-product of the independence movement. Not so! Democracy, the rule of law, independent judiciary, legislature and executive were not part of India's landscape prior to the arrival of the British. These institutions are the result of the great battles for freedom fought mainly in England on behalf of all peoples of the world since 1215 with the Magna Carta; battles later waged by philosophers like Thomas Hobbes, John Milton, John Locke, Edmund Burke and J.S. Mill. The institutions of freedom we have today came down to us as a gift from these great philosophers through the *Government of India Act 1935* which forms the bedrock of our 1950 constitution.

Becoming independent without getting our modern institutions would have hobbled us badly and taken us back to the stone Age with bickering monarchies, leading to chronic war, thuggery, and poverty. We were fortunate to get the chance in 1947 to become a prosperous nation: a chance we have largely squandered because we did not care to fully understand the requirements of freedom.

The philosophy of freedom is very demanding. It calls upon us to ask hard questions at each step: How can we maximise equal freedom while holding everyone accountable for their actions? How can we provide incentives to attract good people to government? Having done that, how can we ensure sufficient checks and balances to prevent our governments from misusing their powers?

But India avoids the hard questions. We have therefore allowed anachronistic colonial institutions like the IAS to continue even as the British and others long since abandoned tenured services in favour of direct, open, recruitment to all public service positions. Similarly, we expect altruistic parliamentarians to manage our country on our behalf at a salary lower than what we pay fresh management graduates! As the saying goes: When you pay peanuts you get monkeys.

It is also quite unbelievable that the ideology of socialism continues to find a place in the Preamble of our constitution. Socialism destroys merit-based incentives, leaving a hollow shell of incompetence behind. India has therefore lost many of its most talented people to the West and will lose many more unless it eliminates the word 'socialism' from its vocabulary and insists on following the dictates of freedom.

The Freedom Team of India is committed to bringing world-best models of regulation and governance to India to help take it from penury to wealth, from corruption to morality, from chronic violence to peace.

Poverty - the natural consequence of socialism

Had India adopted the policies of freedom that C. Rajagopalachari (Rajaji) advocated through his Swatantra Party in the 1960s, we would have been an extremely rich nation by now. Socialism claims to help the poor but ends up impoverishing them further. As Winston Churchill said: "The inherent vice of capitalism is the unequal sharing of the blessings. The inherent blessing of socialism is the equal sharing of misery." With access to so much knowledge and technology today, poverty can only exist in countries which insist on following bad policies.

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. **The Triumph of Liberty** by Jim Powell
13. **Growth Triumphant** by Richard Easterlin
14. **Roots of Freedom** by John W. Danford
15. **Good to Great** by Jim Collins

FTI in Freedom First

Sanjeev Sabhlok of the Freedom Team now writes a monthly article on the Freedom Team in the **Freedom First** magazine which is published by the Indian Liberal Group. Details for subscription to *Freedom First* are available at: <http://freedomteam.in/mag/>

Pass this on!

Please forward this magazine to *all* your friends and relatives in India. The apathy of Indians towards good governance **can** be broken by all good people uniting under the umbrella of freedom.

Photographs

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Resting their tired bones on a rubbish heap, these hapless, citizens will probably elect socialists again, mesmerised by false slogans.

Good leaders are needed to explain the benefits of freedom to these socialist poor.

Environment and the free society



The scene on the left is from Mumbai, on the Arabian Sea. The scene on the right is from Barcelona. The images speak for themselves.

Yet a myth is propounded by some Indian intellectuals that the environment is better maintained in socialist India than in free societies. Constantly carping about the West, Indians claim a position of moral superiority despite having one of the world's worst records of corruption, killing of innocent people, poverty, and mismanagement of the environment. Even Indians who have widely travelled across the world will suddenly say: "But the West has damaged the environment."

In reality, free societies have a reasonably clean environment. Economic development based on freedom is compatible with a clean environment through the following process: First, the innovation which arises from freedom leads to industrial development along with increased pollution as natural resources are tapped and exploited. As awareness about pollution then develops, a regulatory framework of accountability is introduced in free societies to force polluters to clean up or face penalties. A strong enforcement mechanism and system of justice is a crucial part of this framework. Being rich helps as well, making it easier for free societies to clean the environment. These steps make alternative technologies profitable and viable, further reducing environmental damage.

As a result of these processes, polluting industries and agriculture have been cleaned up in the West, and rivers and lakes reclaimed, reverting most parts of the West to near-pristine environments. In comparison, India's regulatory framework is shoddy and almost totally ineffective. Not only have the Himalayan foothills been denuded and our wildlife destroyed, we are unable to maintain the Taj Mahal, and our cities stink. Good governance based on the principles of freedom is the key to a clean environment – but good governance is exactly what is missing in India!

Freedom Team news

The Freedom Team has purchased its own domain 'freedomteam.in'. We request innovative web designers to step forward to help us develop this website.

To ensure that **all** potential leaders of India are brought together in this fight for freedom please either join the Team or ask your friends and relatives to do so. And do pass on this magazine as widely as you can. Everyone must get involved!

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