



Towards a Great India

A magazine of the Freedom Team of India

15 March 2009

Volume 2, Number 2

In This Issue

- **Message** from the Team
- **Articles** by members
 - L. K. Kandpal
 - Sanjeev Sabhlok
 - Ritesh Shukla
 - Honish Zaveri

Care for India? Then lead India.

It will take at least 1500 leaders 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/ achievement

Year	Number of leaders wanted (excluding observers)	Number of leaders on FTI (including observers)
2008	100	38
2009	500	58
2010	1500	
Beyond	2500+	

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

Where the mind is without fear and the head is held high ...

- Rabindranath Tagore (Gitanjali)

Contradictory though it might sound, India is in many ways an *overdeveloped*, not an underdeveloped country – somewhat like an over-ripened fruit. Our history has fostered great complexity and conflict which needs to be reviewed and redirected. We need to freshen up India for a new journey that lies ahead.

India (as a conglomeration of hundreds of kingdoms) was one of the world's greatest free markets in the past. And 2500 years ago it allowed, even promoted, wide ranging philosophical discourse. But Dark Ages overtook this openness with the rapid entrenchment of the caste system which excluded large sections in India from educational opportunity. Rigid practices grew strong and freedoms declined precipitously. Our mind grew full of fear – of authority.

The consequent societal decline made India vulnerable to foreign attack. Things did not change after power shifted to Islamic kings, since many of them similarly imposed rigid worldviews (albeit different) and displayed little interest in new learning – for Islam had lost its early spurt of intellectual vigour by then. Since everyone in India believed that everything important had already been said and done, no one bothered to think any more.

While India still remained technologically advanced compared to the rest of the world, its tradition-bound approach made it extremely vulnerable to the new kid on the block - the British: a people freshly groomed in the ideas of freedom. The British had been groomed on the ideas initially thought up by St. Thomas Aquinas who reconciled pagan Greek thought (once shunned) with Christianity and made it possible to think once again. Invention, innovation and technological breakthroughs poured from the West, soon shifting the world's balance of power.

Unfortunately India remained reluctant to imbibe this new spurt of freedom. After all, Indians thought: what did these barbaric pale-skinned beef-eaters know?

It is true that India must look backward, but only to rediscover the great vigour and freedom that launched our great career 2500 years ago. Once we have found that freshness of approach, we must add to it the modern ideas of freedom and scientific inquiry, and re-assert our thought leadership in the world.

Freedom means the freedom to trade, freedom to think, freedom to innovate. Freedom means building governance mechanisms compatible with human incentives. The **Freedom Team of India** (FTI) is determined to rejuvenate India through new freedoms to think critically, without fear.

Website, brochure, and progress towards a Trust

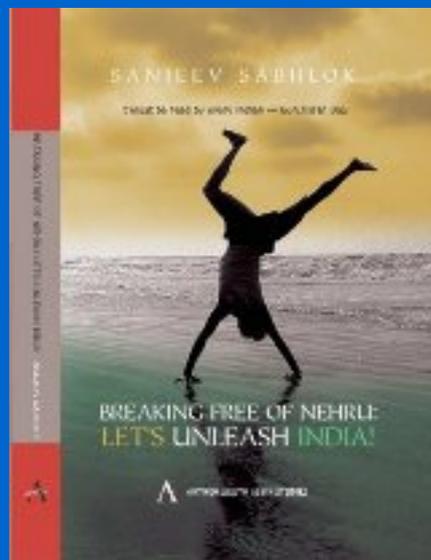
FTI released its new, professionally designed website (<http://freedomteam.in>) and Brochure on 26 January 2009. A draft deed has been prepared to soon register this association as a Trust. FTI will then open a bank account to help raise funds for its search for leaders. FTI will perhaps approach you for donations to help fund its rapidly growing activities in the coming months.

Join the Freedom Team, or ask your friends and relatives to do so.

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

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



Breaking Free of Nehru – Let's Unleash India

This book introduces the concept of Freedom Team and proposes policies that the Team could consider. Details of the book, including a preview, are available at: <http://www.sanjeev.sabhlokcity.com/breakingfree.html>

Institutes promoting liberty in India

Centre for Civil Society (ccs.in)
Liberty Institute (libertyindia.org)
Janaagraha (janaagraha.org)
India Policy Institute (indiapolicy.org)

Institutes promoting liberty internationally

Ludwig von Mises Institute (mises.org)
The Mont Perlin Society (montpelerin.org)
Institute of Economic Affairs (lea.org.uk)
Centre for Independent Studies (cis.org.au)

Political parties (broadly) promoting liberty in India

Lok Satta, Jago Party, Bharatiya Democratic Party, Yuva Party, Lokayat

FTI does not necessarily endorse all policies of these parties. There could be other parties not yet listed here.

Articles by Team Members

FTI members have authored the following articles, published in alphabetical order of the last name of the member. Given resources limitations, and to allow freedom of expression, these articles are not edited.

Disclaimer

Views expressed in these articles **may not represent the views of the Freedom Team.**

Notes

It may be noted that the Team does not require its members to publicly disclose their identity at this stage. Hence full names or contact details of our writers are not necessarily provided publicly at this stage.

1. Why can't India become a Super Power?

L K Kandpal

Mr Kandpal is Principal of New Digamber Public School, Indore. He can be contacted on 9826013060

Indian culture is as ancient as human civilisation. It has a unique amalgamation of all diverse cultures- a crossroads of cultures from China to Europe and Africa. It will not be an exaggeration if we describe Indian history as a microcosm of human history itself - a syncretism of all civilisations.

India has been divinely endowed with the blessings of sages who have spread the message of '*Vasudhev Kutumbukam*' – the world only is a family. The sages bequeathed on generation after generation the spiritual wisdom and knowledge. Their equanimity of mind through *sadhana* or yoga spread throughout the whole of the East and has even influenced many Westerners. The *sanatana dharma* is not a religion in narrow terms. It's the dharma - a duty towards mankind and whole of

creation. What Albert Schweitzer has said in the following quotes is truly applicable to the *sanatan* philosophy. "Man's ethics must not end with man, but should extend to the universe. He must regain the consciousness of the great Chain of Life from which he cannot be separated" (Albert Schweitzer).

Science may not have developed in India in absolute terms and India may not have had scientists like Newton, Faraday, and Edison; yet, ancient India had a strong craftsmanship, artisanship and made significant advances in astronomy, mathematics, medicine, spirituality and literature. Unfortunately, gradually there was downfall and we became rooted in superstitions and many social evils like sati, dowry and child marriage infested our society.

Macaulay's English education definitely enlightened Indians and they started reading about their past and many of them were educated in Britain. To a great extent, this education may have helped in national awareness and ultimately in the freedom struggle. But, the biggest harm Macaulay's education has done to India is that we have been totally blinded by what is Western including our mindset. Macaulay's hangover still persists some way or the other.

I somehow feel strongly that the British launched a psychological warfare with Indian mindset as was practised by many invaders before them. They broke the very backbone of India- the spiritual and cultural heritage passed on to us by the great seers and *rishis*. This is the reason we hardly mention our own scientists and mathematicians such as Lagadha, Baudhayana, Panini, Pingala, Aryabhata, Bhaskara, Madhava and Nilakantha, who have contributed extensively to the study of mathematics. Indian scholars' contribution to Mathematics has been recorded in the book: *Indian Mathematics: Redressing the Balance* by IG Pearce (University of St. Andrews, 2002).

Irrespective of Macaulay's contribution, his education created in us a babu mentality and to some extent he was successful in isolating us from our culture and we blindly followed the west and we are so much hypnotised by the west that we treat Indian great thinkers, scientists and mathematicians as fictional and mythological characters- a conspiracy or figment of imagination by some Hindu fanatics.

We still suffer from complexes about being Indian and the Macaulay impact was visible in all Indians, the most glaring being in Indian cricketers. We had great players but most of the time we lost a psychological game. Of late, things are changing after Dhoni took over though we must also give credit to Saurabh Ganguli for making a beginning when he waved his shirt at the Lord's cricket ground in 2002. He showed us that this is a world of aggression -a world where winning only counts - a world where 'never die down' attitude matters, a world which inspires us to stamp our authority. As cricket is a passion for Indians, it may be a symbol of stamping our greatness on the world.

Such changes are also felt at other levels as well. We have the young entrepreneurs who are ready to change the face of India. The world has also started realising the power of India now. To me, India is a great country with rich cultural heritage, a wonderfully woven composite cultural mosaic full of colourful folklore; music and dance forms. Nature has been so generous in giving all seasons of festivity. India has a spirit and a power representing the spirit of beauty, truth and peace. India is a land of immense resources- natural and human. We have the resources- the brain, hard working people and every thing, which makes nation great.

The Indians have created waves across the globe by their contribution in every field they laid their hands on. Indian Diaspora spreads across almost all countries and continents. Nevertheless, they all share a common identity with their country of origin; they feel that they are an inseparable part of their cultural moorings. Indians can be seen in all cricket grounds, sports stadia waving Indian tri-colour with pride. We can see them everywhere doing India proud. They have held positions of eminence- whether in governance, academics or industries- in both developing and developed countries.

"No gold did they find underneath any stone; they touched and turned yet every stone they touched into solid gold." - Vishwamitra Ganga Aashutosh, Mauritian

For Indians, the resurgent India can be felt when our Industrialists are taking over industrial units in developed countries. We can feel pride when Bobby Jindal is chosen to hold the post of Governor in the state of Louisiana, USA. Who knows, he might be next US presidential candidate?

Despite all odds and deep malaise India is infested with, India is emerging as a strong economic, social, and nuclear power. What is now required is creating a civil society; a good governance and strong institutions to safeguard human freedom and dignity. We have to build a public opinion about the great strength of India reminding all Indians that India can be very powerful global player if we

have good leadership. It is encouraging to note that many groups have started coming together to voice their concerns through various forums and blogs and even active participation in political process of the country. These are good omens but we need to do more. We have to actively participate in shaping India's future. We must come forward to lead. There is no point in finding fault with the system until we volunteer to set the things right. We all can play a pivotal role. A small contribution from every Indian - living within or outside India – the Indian Diaspora, NRIs and PIOs, will make a difference.

Let's all celebrate this spirit and the idea of India. India is certainly going to become a super power. Let's all pledge to make India what it truly deserves to be! Let each of us contribute his/her mite.

"The world is moved not only by the mighty shoves of the heroes but also by the aggregate of the tiny pushes of each honest worker." - Helen Keller

2. Mythical barriers to joining politics

Sanjeev Sabhlok

This article was published in the March 2009 issue of *Freedom First*. Sanjeev Sabhlok, PhD. is a former member of the Indian Administrative Service. He currently works as a public servant in Australia. Contact details: sabhlok AT yahoo DOT com

The February issue of *Freedom First* carried some of the best writings published in this magazine over the past fifty years. But most of these writings perhaps fell on deaf ears, for they advocated freedom at a time when few Indians cared about freedom. Indeed, Indians don't seem to care much about freedom even today. Law and order has deteriorated, and corruption has become entrenched, but defenders of liberty are nowhere to be seen on the political stage.

Since the Swatantra Party wound up in 1974, virtually no liberal has bothered to contest elections. Yet the basic entry fee for contesting elections in India has remained low – merely a security deposit of Rs. 10,000. There is also no obvious shortage of people with liberal inclinations. And while many young liberals with families may be hard-pressed to contest elections, thousands of retired liberals can surely be mobilized for the defence of liberty.

So why aren't liberals contesting elections regularly and in sufficient numbers? Are they scared of 'dirty' politics and electoral violence? Do they believe elections are too costly? I will show below that these barriers are not as bad as we make them out to be. In any case, the existence of such problems is all the more reason for us to join the fray and fight to change the system.

Myth 1: Indian elections are excessively violent

The belief that our elections are excessively violent is somewhat overdone. Of course, there is some electoral violence, but its magnitude is small in comparison to India's size (we should avoid comparing India with developed countries at this early stage of our development). Of our six lakh villages, only a few hundred will experience violence, with possibly a few hundred people injured and a dozen or two killed. Booth-capturing is also the exception than the norm. Similarly, the Indian Police is particularly good at protecting candidates: virtually no candidate is assaulted or killed of the many thousands who contest. And so, while we should take due precautions, merely contesting elections won't (generally speaking) kill us.

Myth 2: Money wins elections

The second myth relates to money. We know that many parties spend crores of rupees in elections. Accordingly I was recently told: "You require at least 2 crores to fight a parliament election." True, most corrupt parties do such things but why should we copy these corrupt gangsters? Aren't we different? We believe in integrity. We do not break the law, even though we disagree with it (I strongly disagree with limits on electoral expenses). We must therefore stick with the Rs. 25 lakhs expense limit prescribed for parliamentary elections. Raising this amount is far easier than raising Rs. 2 crores, particularly for outstanding liberals with good networks.

Then there is the belief that money buys electoral results. It is thought that *basti wallahs* sell their votes for "Rs.250/- cash, a packet of Biryani and a sachet of country arrack". But the reality is that voters take money from whosoever gives it to them, but then vote (in the quiet secrecy the polling booth) for the candidate they actually believe in. I know of a politician who disbursed Rs.35 lakhs in slum areas in Mumbai *in* a single night but lost the election! In any event, bribing *every* voter can be

astoundingly expensive, costing over Rs. 30 crores per constituency! No one spends that much in any election.

At the broader level, I question why even Rs. 25 lakhs is really necessary. Some reflection will show that electoral results depend primarily on the following four things.

- a) **The message.** While the average voter is not interested in the details of policy, he wants to know what the proposed policies will mean for him. A well-tailored campaign can make a great difference, and that does not mean throwing money around.
- b) **Time spent talking to the electorate.** Good candidates spend a lot of time in their constituencies to build networks of supporters.
- c) **Quality and commitment of the candidate.** Good candidates speak coherently and demonstrate commitment to their constituents' interests.
- d) **Credibility of the bid.** The Indian voter is highly strategic and doesn't waste his vote on independent candidates or on ill-prepared 'one-man political parties'. He wants to know that the candidate he will vote for has a *genuine* chance of becoming a part of government.

While money can facilitate these things, it is not the key driver of success. If liberals do their homework and work as a team, then even Rs. 25 lakhs won't be needed to win. Ask the Janata Party which trounced the corrupt Congress of 1977. Or ask the Telugu Desam of 1982, or Asom Gana Parishad of 1985. Many of these parties were formed weeks before elections and barely spent any money, but won huge majorities.

Time to stop making excuses!

If contesting elections is not that dangerous nor that expensive, then why do we find so many excuses? Highly successful organisational leaders tell us with a serious face that they "don't have the leadership capability to lead India". If even these excellent people think they can't lead us politically, then who can? The local gangster?

Nandan M Nilekani of Infosys wrote in *Imagining India* that he is "quite unelectable" – thus conveniently washing his hands off politics. Apart from the fact that it is highly presumptuous for anyone to assume the response of the voter, all that the voter really wants is a demonstration of good citizenship, not some mythical glorious leadership. I therefore ask Mr Nilekani and others like him to stop making excuses and join politics as good citizens. Give our voters a chance to elect good people.

Maybe (I hope I'm wrong on this one!) some liberals have big egos which will receive a rude jolt if they lose elections. If the idea of losing elections prevents people from contesting elections, let me assure them that fighting elections honourably will be seen by every right thinking person as a sign of good citizenship. Indeed, the benchmark in politics is so low that *any* good person who enters politics will be highly regarded. Beyond that, the true liberal must *never* be bothered about victory or defeat. We are obliged to do the right thing irrespective of results. The fight for freedom is too important for us to make our fight contingent on future success. Let us first get out there and fight for our freedoms. Let the fight succeed whenever it will; that is not for us to worry about.

A good liberal platform needed

The real gap today is *not* of funds or potential leaders, but of a platform where good people can assemble and offer a viable alternative to the voter. That is what the Freedom Team of India (FTI) aims to become. FTI has now developed a professionally designed website (freedomteam.in) and well-written brochure. Please take a look at these for yourself and ponder your future plans. Do you want to continue making excuses for the rest of your life or are ready to work as a team to start defending your liberties?

3. We the Electorates

Ritesh Shuka

Ritesh Shukla runs uniteindia.net. This (abridged) article is from his website.

Every time the elections are around, the question emerges who to vote for? What have we got in lieu of our votes? What ought we get?

Role of the government

There is a difference between state and government. Governments change but the state remains; it is A priori. A States' chief concern and prime responsibility is to secure its subjects and their property from all the threats irrespective whether they emerge externally or internally. Governments are formed to ensure that the States objectives are met and that citizens are provisioned with the primary facilities with utmost priority. There can be various methods to choose a government but I personally believe that there could be none better than what we already have.

Citizen is the best resource a nation has and the government is made capable to ensure the security of its subjects by giving it the sole right of exercising violence so that all and sundry do not hack and kill as per their whims and fancies. If the citizen and the property is not secured then it simply infers that the governments have been ineffective.

The unfortunate role of Indian politicians

[Unfortunately,] in the name of Religion, Language, caste or region the masses have been butchered and burnt consistently and the beneficiary has only been the selfish politician. India would not have lost as many lives during war as she has lost during peace in the name of garnering votes.

In the normal conversation today the word political leader does not invoke the feeling of respect rather it connotes as abuse. The word Government inspires fear and the masses attempts ways to not to get in touch with government in any of its forms. People find it easier to live with injustice than knock on the doors of the court.

The basic premise of society and nations existence is the surety that the people will enjoy the fruits of materialistic developments and will be involved in spiritual (not necessarily religious) activities. Man is different from other species because it has used its spiritual equipments to develop materialistic equipments so that it can withstand the natural difficulties. Political and social structures should be so robust that every citizen avails the opportunity to enhance his skills as per his her choice.

If Paucity of food leads to indifference towards education and sharpening of skills then it infers that the society is insensitive and the government is incapable. Mid day meal is the biggest scar on our face. It suggests that our adult is capable only to produce children but is not productive enough to feed them while they attend the school. Unfortunate becomes the situation when political leaders call policies like mid day meal as their achievement and even more unfortunate is the fact that the administrative parties eat away the meal themselves in the evening.

What did we get in lieu of our votes?

The suppression of the 'masses'

We have gotten struggle between one language over the other. The propagators of vernacular languages can hardly read in a language and writing is beyond their mettle. He forces others to stay away from English and other foreign languages. The world is shrinking because of technology and it is imperative that we learn and master English and other foreign languages lest we should remain in the superstitious darkness forever. In such a situation we find our leaders propagating animosity between Hindi, Marathi, Tamil and other linguistic groups.

Government schools would use vernacular medium but the university and colleges would have English as the medium of instructions. Is this because only a minority could gain the world class education so that they can subjugate the common masses?

Why should we not infer that the political families in connivance with the bureaucratic class have never allowed the masses to enhance their skills and get involved in the world market rather they have forced them to struggle day in and out in merely managing a meal a day so that they and their future generations could remain ignorant of their own subjugation. Isn't it a simple formula; keep them illiterate and divide them in the name of language, caste, religion and region and be in power forever?

We have received conspiracy in exchange for our votes. The conspiracy of the last 6 decades suggests that the governments in India have given the minimum development to its people so that they could be fooled, robbed and beaten as and when required and the robbers and gundas will reign them.

The drought of good leaders

Who do we cast our vote for? Do we see a single political party or a single leader we can rely upon? India is suffering from the acutest drought ever in her history as today there seems to be no leadership

coming out from the pool of billion plus people. What do we do in such a situation? There are two ways. First and the easier option is to let things remain the way they are and wait for the gloomy future of our country go darker. The second is to get out of our complacency and go beyond just discussing the plight of our country over swigs of whisky. There is nothing left to discuss and prove. It is time to act. She, our country, is eagerly waiting for those rational but fearless, liberal but strong and honest but passionate people to come forth and take charge. It will not happen overnight but we do not have much time as well. Now is the time to make history or else we will go down in history as cowards who allowed a Wonder that is India to degenerate into a hell where there is no India.

We must enter politics

Shashi Tharoor has asked the middle class of our country to enter into politics in one of his articles published in the Sunday times recently. He laments as follows in one of his books "...we believe religion should not determine public policy or individual opportunity. And, in Indian politics, we are pretty much irrelevant. We don't get a look in. We don't enter the fray because we can't win. We tell ourselves ruefully that we are able, but not electable. We don't have the votes: there are too few of us, and we don't speak the idiom of masses. Instead we have learned to talk about the political issues without the expectation that we will be able to do anything about them" pg-43, "India From Midnight to the Millenium and beyond", Shashi Tharoor

This shows the frustration of a learned man of Shashi's stature. Similar are the feelings of stalwarts like Bimal Jalan and other good Indians. Are we all similarly frustrated? If yes then it is the time to work on it.

We, the people, neither have the capital to back us nor do we have the muscle power to pull us in power and last we are sporadically distributed. We still can rise against the odds. We have the power of our frustration. We have the power to elect. We only need to choose the best ones. We only need 554 capable people, one from every constituency. We need to make a chain. We can start with one person per state then one per district then one per village and we will see the new dawn laced in the colour of our desire. Let's unite before we perish.

4. Building an Innovative & Entrepreneurial India

Honish Zaveri

Honish's article (slightly edited) is from his contribution at:
<http://knowledgeportal.in/contests/node/247>

India has always been a country of entrepreneurs. however unfortunately entrepreneurship was suppressed in this country from 1947-1991 before India liberalized its economy. After liberalization we have seen the emergence of several new entrepreneurs like N R Narayana Murthy, Sunil Mittal, Azim Premji, Capt Gopinath, Kishore Biyani etc who have gone on to become global icons & household names in India. But I feel that India still has a long way to go as far as unleashing our entrepreneurial potential is concerned.

Innovation is an integral aspect of developing an entrepreneurial culture & both of them should be seen as 2 sides of the same coin.

I will hereby discuss some of the policies and steps that the Government should take in order to unleash India's innovation & entrepreneurial potential. Let me take the topic of innovation first & then I will focus on Entrepreneurship

Innovation

Innovation, which can be defined as ' A Process which can result in value creation/ enhancement, improve quality, new ways of delivery, reduce cost for products or services or help in the creation of new products or services '

To improve the innovation climate in India we have to initiate several economic reforms, improve processes, reform governance structures of science & technology policy, build active partnerships between Government, Education Sector, & the Private sector, reform for IP and Patent protection systems, & in general move to a mindset of 'Patent, Publish & Prosper'. Some of the major & urgent steps that need to be taken for improving the Innovation climate in India are as follows:

1) Remove all barriers to competition in all sectors by abolishing the remaining SSI reservations, equity caps for FDI for all sectors, except perhaps defence, doing away with high entry barriers like 'Minimum investment of 2000 crore in upstream sector to invest in downstream/ petrol retailing, Restrictions on Foreign Banks to open more than 12 branches a year, sugar controls etc. Competition is a pre requisite to unleashing innovation in all sectors of the economy, since competitive pressures force companies to reduce costs, improve quality of the products/services offered, or otherwise risk losing customers, market share, revenue growth etc.

2) Reform the way Science & Technology(S&T) policy is governed in this country. Establish a National S&T Advisory Council (NSAC) to the PM. This Council should advise & suggest the Government on key Science & Technology issues & policies. Secondly create an independent, but accountable National Technology Board which can directly work with the private sector & universities on key Technology initiatives in several key sectors like Renewable Energy, Photonics, Bio Tech, Nano Tech etc. The Government should make investments in R&D through this Technology Board which in turn will create sector specific programmes, initiatives, plans & work in tandem with the private sector on these key plans & programs.

3) Science Technology Engineering Maths (STEM) skilled graduates. post graduates & Phd's are very important to the agenda of Innovation & hence we should take all possible steps to improve and enhance STEM skills amongst the youth. We should start with reforming science & maths teaching in schools with trained teachers who can explain the key concepts of science to the students & arouse their curiosity in these subjects. We also need to launch a national mission to increase the no of graduates with STEM skills & who can take up research & development (R&D) as a full time career.

4) Reform the Higher Education sector in general so that we can attract the best minds to universities & who can transform our universities into hotbeds of research and take the innovation agenda forward.

5) Reform IP & Patent protection processes & invest in Patent offices, the key personnel involved to fasten up & introduce transparency, clarity in Registration of Patents & facilitating IP protection in general.

6) The government should scale up its investments in R&D to up to at least 2% of GDP in next 5 years, which in turn will help to leverage private sector investments in R&D as well.

7) Promote India as a favourable destination for establishing R&D Units in the world, especially to attract R&D investments from companies in US, EU, APAC regions etc.

8) Attract India's international diaspora, working on the cutting edge areas of science & technology to come back to India so that as a country we can benefit from their knowledge, skills and expertise.

Entrepreneurship

I now turn to some of the key reforms that are required to unleash an entrepreneurial culture in India. Some of the most important reforms that will help the case of entrepreneurship in the country are as follows:

1) Improve the key indicators of doing business in India like Starting a Business Registering Property Getting Administrative clearances Getting Licenses & Permits. For this purpose government should constitute a task force of people from the private sector, consultants from WB etc which will look at some of the key parameters of doing business in India & benchmark them against the best practices internationally. The target should be to get India in the top 20 countries of the world in 'Ease of Doing Business' in next 2 years.

2) Improve physical infrastructure across the country like roads, ports, power, airports so that the transactional cost of doing business in India is reduced The government should create clusters with all the necessary infrastructure, so that companies, especially SME's can benefit from shared services & infrastructure

3) Improve the access to early stage/start up finance, by encouraging VC/PE funds, angel investors etc. The Government should create a Fund of Funds on the lines of Small Business Investment Company (SBIC) program in the US, where the management of the VC fund is in private sector, but it can leverage the initial investments/guarantees given by the government.

4) Implement a policy on Business Incubators that can help startup companies & young entrepreneurs to bootstrap themselves, give advice, & promote their products & services to potential customers

- 5) Entrepreneurship should be introduced as a core subject from school level itself & universities/colleges should actively promote entrepreneurship amongst the students
- 6) Start a national publicity campaign highlighting the benefits & advantages of Entrepreneurship, & encourage young minds to take risks without the stigma attached to failure.
- 7) Reform the legal process for closing down a business/company so that the assets can be quickly re deployed
- 8) Create a national department on the lines of SBA in US, which functions as one stop shop for all information related to opening of a business, legal procedures involved, financing options available to the entrepreneur based on his risk profile, the necessary permits /licenses required etc. The Government should come out with a complete information manual or booklet which will help an entrepreneur right from the process of registering a company, complete legal formalities, to running & scaling up a business.

These are some of the recommendations which I believe will go a long way in unleashing the innovation & entrepreneurial potential in India

Please pass this on!

It is time to break the cycle of apathy among educated Indians.

Act now. Support this work. All that is needed is to pass this magazine along to *all* your friends and relatives in India, so we can all find the leaders we need. Surely, India has 1500 leaders who believe in freedom!

