



Colloquium on the Indian Liberal Tradition 13-15 June 2010

Bangalore Management Academy (BMA)
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Concept Note

In partnership with Friedrich Naumann-Stiftung für die Freiheit and Bangalore Management Academy, Centre for Civil Society is hosting the “Colloquium on the Indian Liberal Tradition” to be held at the Bangalore Management Academy on 13-15 June.

Styled on the lines of the internationally acclaimed and much coveted Liberty Fund Conferences, the Colloquium follows a Socratic discussion format to create a conducive environment for a full and open exploration of ideas. As a result, our Colloquium is also roundtable in nature. The exchange of ideas is facilitated by a facilitator chosen to lead the discussion but who is neither a conferee nor an advocate. A set of original works based on the chosen theme are distributed well in advance and serve as a starting place for discussion. The purpose of the discussions is neither to convey doctrine nor to drive home certain conclusions. The Colloquium challenges participants to examine, refine, and extend their own ideas in the company of inquiring colleagues who also are interested in questions of liberty and responsibility.

The Indian liberal space with its long history, old defenders and emerging advocates is as diverse and wide ranging as the liberal political spectrum. While the space includes thinkers and scholars with the conscious liberal tag, there are countless others whose writings without the tag could find resonance with the liberal ethos. Therefore, studying such writers can also offer us a new lens to look at age-old questions of the role of the state, society and market.

The Colloquium aims to discuss and reflect on writings of Indian liberals with an aim to apply this understanding to current challenges and strategise for innovative approaches for the dissemination of liberal ideas today. Is there a unique brand of Indian liberalism? An important point of discussion would be the differences and similarities between Indian and Anglo-Saxon liberalism.



The Colloquium will bring together 20 selected participants from think tanks, academics, media, and political parties. We have kept a few slots for nomination to be selected on a competitive basis.

We plan to select readings from B R Shenoy, Minoo Masani, C Rajagopalachari, R K Amin, Dadabhai Navroji, Mahatma Gandhi, Rabindranath Tagore, B R Ambedkar, Swami Vivekananda. **We also invite suggestions for authors and specific writings.** I am taking the liberty to attach my article on the *Evolution of Indian Liberalism* as food for further thought.

Participants will receive a package of selected readings of about 250 pages at least a month in advance. Every participant is expected to have read and reflected upon these readings before arriving at the venue. This is critical as the readings will be the core focus of discussion during the Colloquium.

In order to participate, one must be able to attend the entire Colloquium (no late arrivals or early departures).

By accepting this invitation, the applicant is committing to read and reflect the assigned readings and attend the entire Colloquium. We will cover the economy return air travel, meals and accommodation during the program (for upto three nights).

Participants can get nominated by their organizations or apply directly. Interested individuals are requested to complete the attached [application form](#) and/or [nomination form](#), to be submitted along with their CV latest by **19 April 2010** to programs@ccs.in or to the address given below.

In liberty,

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