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**Express • Assert • Change**



## Freedom: What?

People from different strata of society dream of freedom. We may say freedom is an innate right which human beings have had since birth. Different people have different perceptions about freedom. Some talk about political freedom, some may talk about social freedom and some may talk about personal or religious freedoms. But a fact remains true in all cases that everyone wants to be free.

Enjoying freedom does not mean disregarding others rights and live the way we feel right. The rights and feelings of the people around should be respected; that is the real sense of freedom. If any society needs a creative and flourishing mind then it should have an atmosphere of freeness, where people can express their ideas, views, opinions and beliefs without any fear. If a person is anxious and worried he cannot enjoy the scenic beauty of nature or a sculpture. Hence, freedom is also a state of mind. For students, freedom may be to get away from the home/school and play with their peers. Women might believe that smashing the patriarchy and wishing to wear what they like to be freedom. Teenagers may feel to escape from the clutches of their parents and pursue the course they like. Thus, freedom does not have a

particular definition. Freedom as a belief changes from individual to individual.

When India got independence, we got freedom from British rule. The Constitution later gave the citizens fundamental rights. It is almost 75 years of Independence we have not been able to fulfil our fundamental rights. Governments' time and again have been curbing people's voice, expression, beliefs. There has been a gradual spike in the communal clashes. Freedom is the non-denial of our basic rights. Millions of people are being exploited by corporate companies. The atrocities on Dalit women have increased drastically. Looking at these examples, makes us wonder about freedom. Deprivation of freedom is like a punishment to the human being.

Has India started to lose freedom? Are we making effective use of the freedom that has been granted by our Constitution? Is freedom still a dream for many in our country? I will let you decide and ponder.

## *Talking to Readers*

We are very happy to bring to your notice that best response is received for our attempt. It is because of you all.

Our efforts will continue to our level best, and it is once again requested to extend assistance in making this magazine a success.

See that this 'VoY' reaches your friends too.

Expecting your feedback and write-ups at [voiceofyouth15@gmail.com](mailto:voiceofyouth15@gmail.com)  
Mobile number - 7619458186



# INCREASED DROP OUT RATES IN IITs

**IITs** across India are institutes of national importance. They were started with the positive purpose of making quality education accessible to all the students. According to the recent report, there has been an increase in the dropout rates. The most saddening part is in 7 IITs 60 % of students who have dropped out belong to SC/ST communities. This indicates a great irony in the system. Dalit and Adivasi student activists have time and again stressed the pressure and discrimination faced by these disadvantaged student groups.

This divide is a threat to the nation as a whole. The government has been citing scholarships,

fees reductions, financial aid as preventive measures adopted to stop dropouts. Yet, the figures tell us a different story. It becomes the responsibility of the government to find a committee and understand the real problems faced by these students. These prestigious institutions should also work on keeping as inclusive and non-discriminatory campus. The quality of education depends on the humanitarian values rather than technology. Having completed 75 years of Independence India is yet to reach its Constitutional values. The youth of this country should become more aware and organize themselves to get their rights and also make this a better society to live.

## Did You Know?

- \* India did not have an official national anthem at the time of Independence. The Constituent Assembly on 24th January 1950 adopted 'Jan Gana Mana'.

- \* The current flag with saffron, white and green stripes with the 24-spoke Ashok Chakra was officially adopted on 22nd July 1947 and hoisted on 15th August 1947.

- \* 'Vande Mataram' is our National Song. It was composed by Bankim Chandra Chatterjee.

- \* Apart from India, five other countries celebrate Independence Day on 15th August. These include North Korea, South Korea, the Republic of Congo, Bahrain and Liechtenstein.

- \* The Indian flag is manufactured and supplied from only one place in the country. The Karnataka Khadi Gramodyoga Samyukta Sangha (KKGSS) has the authority to manufacture and supply the Indian flag.

- \* According to the Bureau of Indian Standards, the national flag is manufactured only with hand-spun and handwoven cotton khadi bunting.

- \* Before 2002, normal citizens of India were not allowed to hoist the National Flag except on Independence Day and Republic Day. In 2002, the Supreme Court of India amended the flag code and gave rights to all citizens to hoist the flag any time as per the flag code.

# A Must Read book

During unexpected Covid and Lockdown, I made use of the time. I happened to read one of the international bestseller classic novels 'Jonathan Livingston Seagull'. A book by Richards Bach. This book made me wonder and think from a new perspective. This was my experience.

The name of the novel is the name of the protagonist as well. It is a very simple story that causes you to stop and think. The other most interesting part of this book is one can finish the book in an hour. The author has metaphorically narrated the story of a young seagull who is bored of the mundane life of fishing and eating. He is also disheartened by the folk who have no zeal to learn beyond their conformed norms. Whereas he desired to fly and develop an understanding of what is flying. The fellow folks discouraged the young seagull's passion and subsequently expelled him for bringing shame to the folk. However, with his persistent effort, Jonathan reaches his goals. By non-conforming to the folk rules, he was able to pursue his dreams and find a new purpose in his life. In his search for success, he comes across like-minded seagulls. This is an example to all the young generation who are struggling currently to pursue their passion.

Richard Bach has also beautifully illustrated the act of paying back. Jonathan doesn't just pursue his dreams he goes further to share the knowledge with others. Living

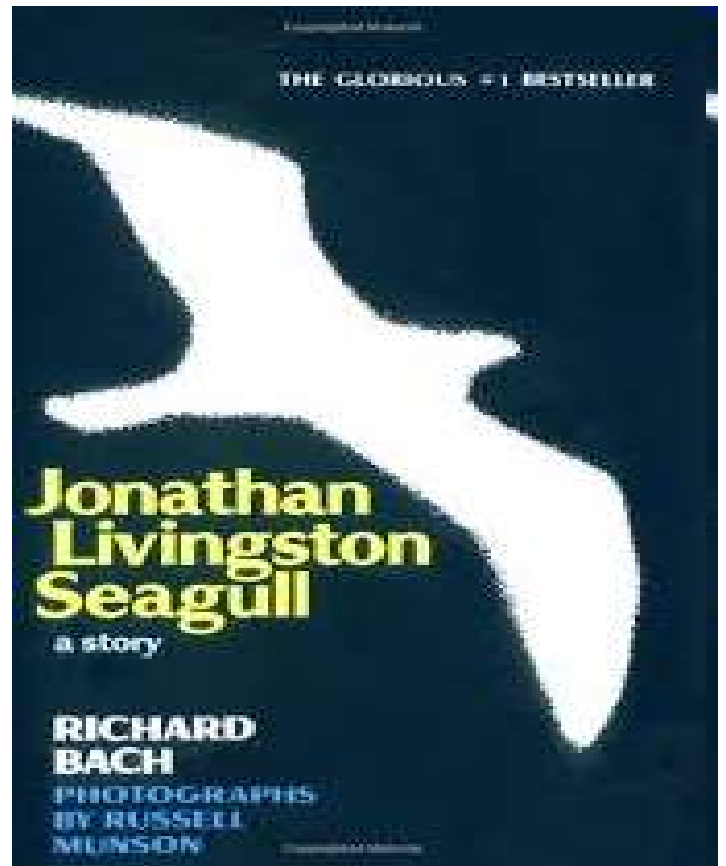


## Three Quotes

A room without books is like a body without a soul.

The person who doesn't get taste in reading good books, must be intolerably stupid.

Good friends, good books enhance the value of our life.



in an era where everybody is competing to get better opportunities. This is a strong message to work on.

After a long thought, Seagull returns to his folk and gains a small, loyal following of close students who learn from him and pass on his knowledge, which has become theirs. When Jonathan Livingston Seagull finally leaves, his exceptionalism is turned into extraordinary supernatural abilities. The gull is turned into a god, and what he had achieved becomes the acts of deity and not of any ordinary Seagull. Metaphorically in every culture, there are historical personalities who have broken the traditional norms and have spread the message of good values and teachings; in the present times, they are merely confined to statues. Their perseverance, teachings and values have somewhere disappeared. Richard Bach is pointing out the irony in this art. He continues the fourth part with the situation after the death of Jonathan Seagull and his students.

This book is a classic for a good reason. There are no wasted words. It can inspire some of the youth on different issues.

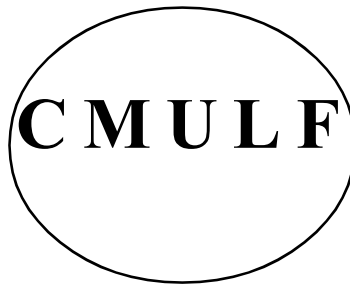
Do read the book and send in your insights and understandings.





## your attention please

Chief Minister Urban Leader Fellowship (CMULF) is a fellowship for youth under the age of 35 years. It gives youth across the country the opportunity to work along with the Delhi government to address some pressing urban issues. This fellowship is for people who are interested in public service and who are willing to work for 2 years with the Delhi government. The selected fellows will be trained on government process, its functioning, project ownership, working with communities etc. through interactive sessions. Apart from the above, the fellows compulsorily have to spend focused time on field, day-day function of the departments. Remuneration offered is also very



attractive. If you are someone who are looking to understand public service. This is a great opportunity for you.

### *Timelines for 2021 CMULF application (Tentative dates)*

16th August 2021 - Application Deadline  
27th August 2021 - Announcement of First

#### Shortlist

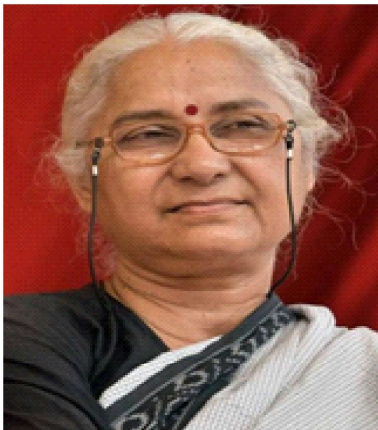
First week of September - Interviews  
Second week of September - Announcement of Final List  
October 2021 - Fellowship programme begins

For more information visit

<https://ddc.delhi.gov.in/cmulf/>

**Guess the below placed personalities and write 200 words  
on their contributions and send it to us.**

**We will publish your piece in our next edition.**



## Drawing your attention

**“Lohia Today” is a website which gives unique information on the present scenario of our country. Log in to [www.lohiatoday.com](http://www.lohiatoday.com)**

**To learn about Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia (March 23, 1910 – October 12, 1967), his contributions to the Indian Independence Movement, Socialist Movement, his ideas and ideals, writings by him and about him, history and leaders of Indian Socialist movement, commentary on current issues Please visit the website. You will also be familiar with other leaders like Gandhi, Ambedkar, Tagore, and Erich Fromm etc.,**

## My Body is My Own

I asked the painted flowers – Can you hide my body?  
No, he would pluck it – garland it  
I asked the worded fruits – Can you hide my body?  
No, he would eat it – juice it  
I asked the wounded gazelles – Can you hide my body?  
No, he would skin it – prize it  
I asked the sticks and stones – Can you hide my body?  
No, he would rub it and make fire  
I asked the walls and clothes – Can you hide my body?  
No, he would shroud it in a marble tomb

It is a thing  
I am not it  
Don't touch and go

You shoot me  
You upload me  
You share me  
You download me  
You morph into me



Superman with x-ray vision,  
My body is my own

**Gayathri** , Bangalore

## What we have to remember.. ..

As responsible citizens of this country we must abide by our Constitution.

The constitution is everything when it comes to the nation as a whole.

Voting is our constitutional right if one is above 18 years of age and a citizen of this country. Every vote matters.

Not voting is a dis-service to the nation.

Never go by the caste, religion or region of the candidate.

What is important is not the quality of the candidate but the quality of the party, he/ she represents

It is been registered that less educated voters come to the booths in large numbers.

A sizable percentage of educated voters stay indoors or go to picnic on the voting day.

A responsible group of voters can bring a marvelous change in their locality.

Prefer the party that gives due representation to all sections of our society.

Study the parties in our countries, their rise, their role in bringing progress in the society, their history etc.,

Youth are around 40% of the voters. They can come together and draw out plan for the future of the country.

**Nilesh**, Mysuru



### Shahu Maharaja

Chatrapathi Rajarshri Shahu was the first Maharaja of the Indian princely state. This charismatic personality was very different from the rest of the kings in India. He is associated with various progressive policies and social reforms during his rule.

Shahu Maharaja worked relentlessly for the upliftment of the lower caste and women. He made suitable arrangements for education and employment facilities. He was the first emperor to bring affirmative

action (reservation) for the backward and weaker section. Shahu Maharaja was influenced by the works of Jyothibha Phule and Savithribha Phule. He abolished the Devadasi system and even legalized inter-caste marriages. He was also a king who loved art, literature and culture. During his period, he sent out a strong message to citizens of his empire to respect other human beings irrespective of their caste, creed and religion. This gives all of us a chance to look back and learn from great personalities on the values of justice, equality and fraternity.

### Saalumarada Thimakka

Saalumarada Thimakka is a renowned environmentalist from Karnataka. She is noted for her work in planting and tending to 384 banyan trees along a 4 kilometre stretch of highway from Hulikal and Kudur. She had no formal education and was a normal labourer at a quarry. Thimakka and her husband carried piles of water for a distance 4 kilometres and looked after the trees with at most care as their own children.

Her work has been recognized and has been awarded with many awards. In 2019, Government of India awarded her with Padma Shri. She has been actively involved in social activities ‘**Thimmakka Mathu 284 Makkalu**’ was a documentary featuring the works of Thimakka in 1999 and it was featured in International Film Festival of India



### Nelson Mandela

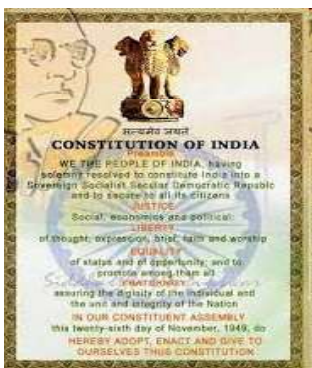
Nelson Mandela was born on 18 July 1918 in a village called Mvezo of South Africa. He was a South African anti-apartheid revolutionary and who served as President of South Africa from 1994-1999.

He was South Africa’s first black head and first fully democratically elected representative. Ideologically an African Nationalist and a Socialist. In



1955 he was involved in drafting the freedom charter, a document which called for non-racial social democracy.

He was awarded ‘Nobel Peace Prize’ in 1993 for his work of peaceful termination of apartheid and laying foundation for South Africa of democracy. After suffering from a prolonged respiratory illness, Mandela died on December 5, 2013 at the age of 95.



### Do you know?

The Constituent Assembly took two years, eleven months and seventeen days to complete the task of drafting the Constitution for Independent India. During this period, it held eleven sessions covering a total of 165 days. Of these, 114 days were spent on the consideration of the Draft Constitution.

