

Gujarat sees sharp rise in economic freedom

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GANDHINAGAR: As Gujarat leaves behind its sordid past of [communal violence](#) and destruction, other states are unable to improve security of life and property in the manner required, says a report prepared by three senior scholars - Bibek Debroy, Laveesh Bhandari and Swaminathan S Anklesaria Aiyar.

The report says Gujarat is one of the two foremost states to have registered a sharp improvement in its [economic freedom](#) index - up from the fifth position to the second place between 2005 and 2009.

Called 'Economic Freedom of the States of India 2011', the report has been copublished by two of India's reputed institutes, Academic Foundation and Indicus Analytics , Germany's Freidrich Naumann Foundation and US's [Cato Institute](#).

While Tamil Nadu continues to top the list, its economic freedom is starting to decline , along with West Bengal, Maharashtra and Karnataka.

"Only two states, Gujarat and Andhra Pradesh, have registered improvement in economic freedom index," says the report.

According to the report, Gujarat is "a well-known success story through much of the 2000s" , adding the state "has been among the most rapidly-growing states of India and has also attracted large investments. Moreover, it has had major successes in agriculture, social welfare programmes, and water resource management. All of this is being achieved without an inordinate increase in the size of the government."

Further, it says, "Gujarat's ratings show a significant improvement over time; and this improvement has been on many fronts. The value of property recovered out of property stolen, cases under economic offences, vacant posts in the judiciary, and share of violent crimes all contribute to its improved position at number five."