

# The Gandhian Way To Freedom And Privacy

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[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gandhi\\_spinning.jpg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Gandhi_spinning.jpg)

“Be the change you wish to see in the world.”



# I build and help people build

Computer Networks with Equipment made of

Free Software and Liberated Hardware

at

The logo for 'unmukti' is written in a blue, lowercase, sans-serif font. The letter 'i' at the end of the word has a small red and green dot above it, resembling the Indian national flag's saffron and green stripes.

<https://unmukti.in>

# Disclaimer 1

I am *not* a Gandhian thoughts scholar

## Disclaimer 2

I am *not* a Historian or a history scholar as well

# Free The Future?

What about the Present?

And the Past?



# The Present

We are giving up our privacy for convenience

Society is being reduced to data generating machine

Almost every business wants our data, even the ISPs!

Centralisation of users' data with corporates

Censorship and Internet Shutdown

Government colluding with corporations



# THIS IS YOUR DATA ON INTEL

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## Samsung's warning: Our Smart TVs record your living room chatter

Technically Incorrect: Samsung's small print says that its Smart TV's voice recognition system will not only capture your private conversations, but also pass them onto third parties.



**Chris Matyszczyk** 🐦 February 8, 2015 2:10 PM PST



*Technically Incorrect offers a slightly twisted take on the tech that's taken over our lives.*



**THE ROBOT REMEMBERS.** Don't like vacuuming, but also don't like the idea of criminals knowing where you keep your valuables? iRobot's got you covered.

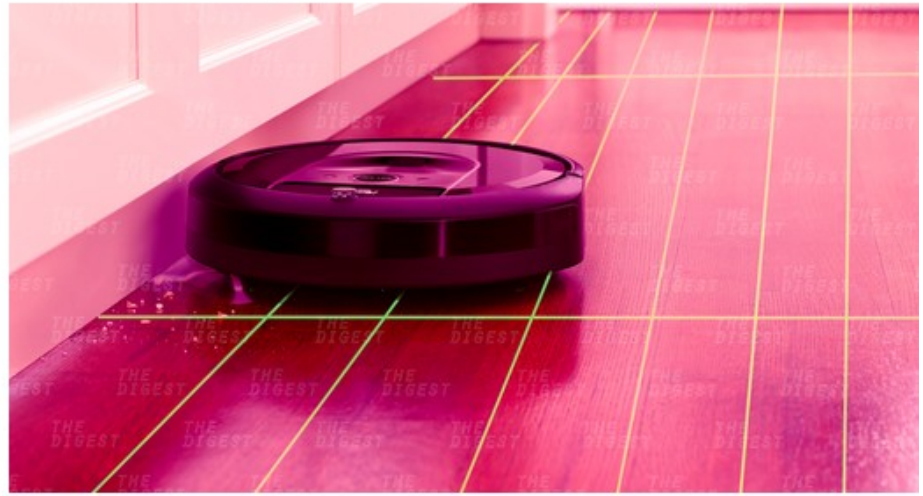
On Thursday, the robotics company unveiled the newest version of Roomba, the autonomous robotic vacuum cleaner that's been helping keep homes dust-free since 2002.

Unlike previous versions, Roomba i7+ is able to empty itself. Pretty cool! Potentially less cool, depending on how much you value your privacy: the bot also stores images of your home in its internal memory and a map of your home's layout in the cloud.

**TO THE CLOUD.** This isn't the first Roomba capable of mapping the floor plan of its master's home — iRobot gave the bots that ability back in 2015 to help them navigate homes and cover every foot of floorspace. But those versions deleted the information right away. This one stores it, though the company says protecting user data is its top priority.

ROBOTS & MACHINES

# TODAY IN DYSTOPIA: THIS ROOMBA "REMEMBERS" A MAP OF YOUR HOUSE



IROBOT/VICTOR TANGERMANN



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## 1. What advertising programs use the Unique Identifier Header (UIDH)?

Our Relevant Mobile Advertising and Verizon Selects programs help make advertising you see more personalized and useful by using certain customer information we have to connect that advertising with your interests. These advertising programs share information with Oath (formed by the combination of Yahoo and AOL) and the UIDH is used in these programs.

Details about the data the advertising programs use is available in the FAQs we provide for [Relevant Mobile Advertising](#) and [Verizon Selects](#). You can choose whether to be a part of these programs at any time through opt-out (Relevant Mobile Advertising) or opt-in (Verizon Selects) choices found on your privacy settings online, on your device in MyVerizon, or by calling 1-(866) 211-0874 (for Relevant Mobile Advertising opt-out). You also have choices about Oath's use of information it collects and uses for advertising purposes.

We do not share information that identifies you personally as part of these programs other than with vendors and partners who do work for us. We require that these vendors and partners protect the information and use it only for the services they are providing us.





https://www.cnbc.com/2020/03/13/google-creating-coron



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CNBC TV

# Google is making a coronavirus information site to help find testing as more kits become available

PUBLISHED FRI, MAR 13 2020 4:03 PM EDT | UPDATED FRI, MAR 13 2020 8:52 PM EDT



Jennifer Elias  
@JENN\_ELIAS

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## KEY POINTS

- Alphabet Sundar Pichai said in an email to employees Thursday that Verily and Google are working on a new effort to help with coronavirus testing.
- The company is also asking employees if they want to volunteer in the effort.
- President Donald Trump said Friday Google has 1,700 engineers working on a website right now.

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# The cost of convenience?

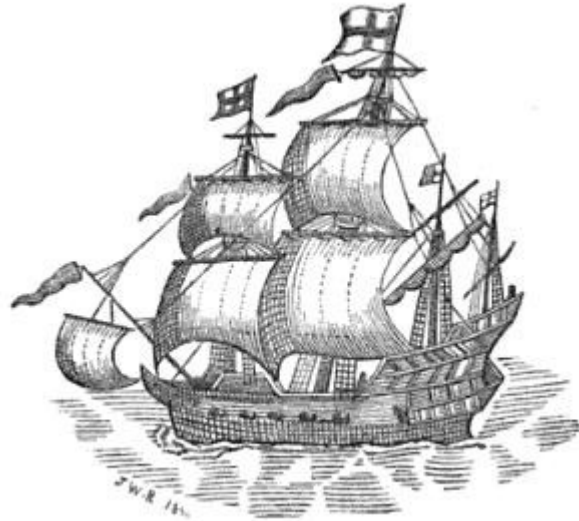
2018 SEBI filings for advertising revenues:

**f:** \$55 billion

**g:** \$116 billion

# Let's travel back in the Past

About 300 years back!



# **There was a Start-Up in London**

East India Company

Planned to export Indian textile to the World

Financed by Indian bankers and financiers

Paid loans back on time

Issued company bonds to Indians

# **With money, came power**

Indian rulers delegated revenue collection to the company

Became largest employer of Britain

Secured rights to issue Passport

200,000 strong Mercenary Army in India

Enforced arbitrary laws in collusion with British Govt

# Arbitrary Laws and Coercion

Indian farmers forced to grow Opium & Indigo

TEA ACT allowed tax free imports of Tea to America by the company.

SALT TAX Law prohibited Indians from manufacturing or selling salt. Only British could.



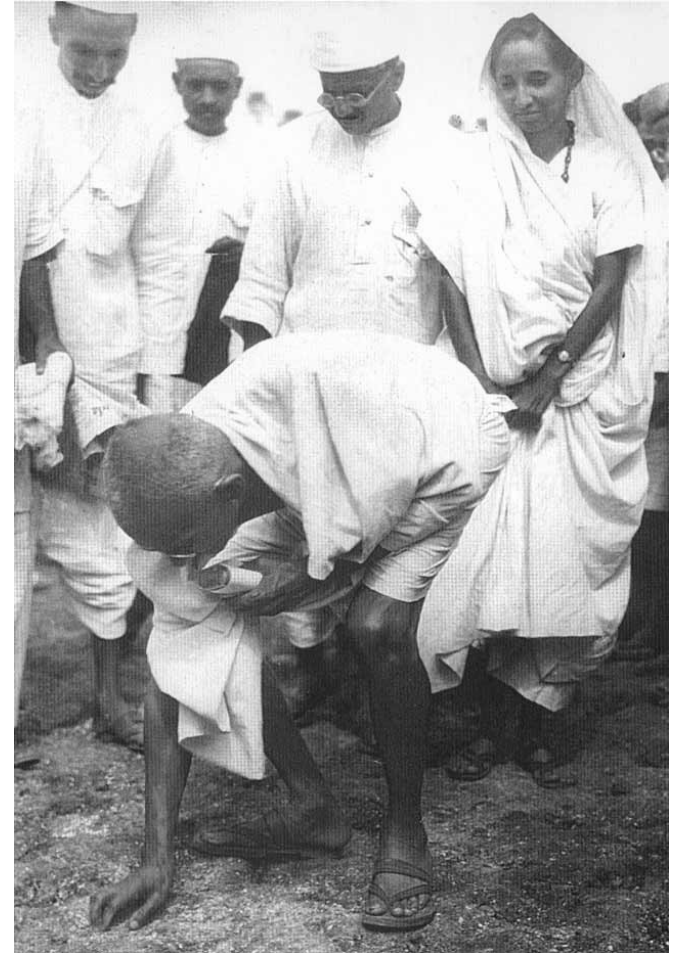
# Boston Tea Party

A group of 30 to 130 men over the course of three hours, dumped all 342 chests of tea into the water at Boston.



# Salt March (Dandi March)

Gandhi at Dandi, South Gujarat,  
picking salt on the beach at the end  
of the Salt March, 5 April 1930



# **Ok, back to the Company**

Corruption caused it to crash

It was too big to fail

British government had to bail out

Government officially took over India from the company

# **More exploitation with Industrial Revolution**

Large textile mills came up in Britain

Exported Indian Cotton for those mills

Imported costly textile and clothes in India

Forcedly grown Indigo exported to Britain

Destroyed India's hand woven textile industry

Destroyed Indian farmers and India's food security

# **Khadi Movement: Revolution to Liberation**

Mahatma Gandhi started it in 1918

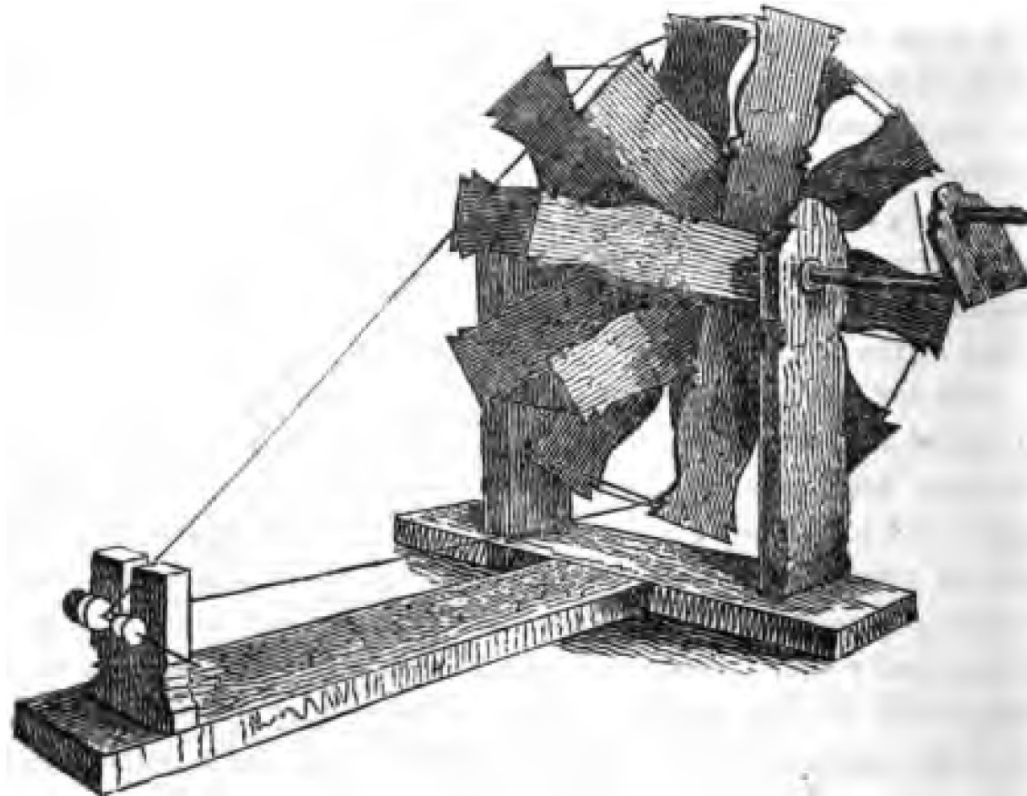
Khadi – Hand woven and Hand spun cloth

Cotton, Wool or Silk

Ideology for Self-Reliance and Self-Governance

Vision of ending dependency on foreign material and rule

# The Charkha - Spinning Wheel



**HINDOO SPINNING-WHEEL.**

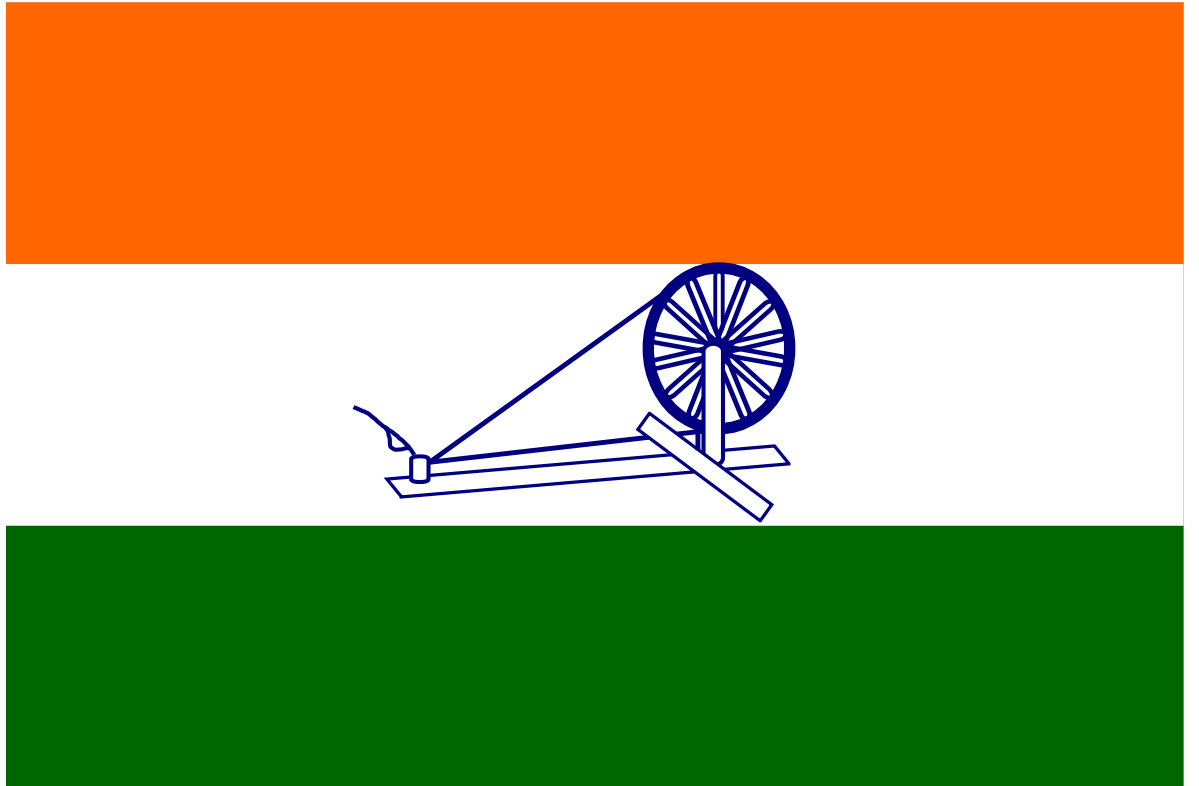
# A Handloom



[https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c0/Bishnupur\\_Handloom.JPG](https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c0/Bishnupur_Handloom.JPG)  
Amartyabag / CC BY-SA (<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>)

# Charkha: Symbol of Self-Governance

The Swaraj Flag,  
officially adopted  
by the Indian  
National Congress  
in 1931





# Let's come back to the Present

Can we compare 18th century's  
**Industrial Revolution**  
with today's  
**Big Data Revolution**  
which is thriving the  
**Surveillance Capitalism?**



# Is decentralisation the answer?

*“Without decentralisation of cotton cultivation, universal manufacture in villages may not be possible...”*

Decentralising the data can cut  
the feed to the data predators!

# Self-Hosting is Self-Reliance?

Own our Devices, Networks and Network services

Own our Data to safeguard our Freedom and Privacy

Build community networks

Host services for community members

Self-Reliance in communication and computational needs

# When Government presses the KILL switch

Internet Shutdown

A community mesh-network – Wired + Wireless

Hosted services like Email, IM with Voice & Video, Forums, Microblogging

Internet becomes optional to communicate within community

Inter-network of community networks

# **That's alright. But the real-time road traffic?**

Lot of us are stuck with data predators only for this

OpenStreetMap is good for navigation

Can we build something together to solve the problem?

# The Trust factor

Why do we trust community hosted services?

How do we retain that trust in the long run?

How do we verify that trust?

How to evaluate the trust repeatedly?

**A community** is only as strong as an individual and every individual's choices and actions affect the community.

**There was nothing new,**

that we couldn't have figured out ourselves.

We always knew it all along!



## Parting quote

"... But through **Khadi** we teach people the art of civil obedience to an institution which they have built up for themselves. Only when they have learnt that art can they successfully disobey something which they want to destroy in the non-violent way."

# Thank You

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