

# **Activities Report 2002-03**

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**Centre for Civil Society**

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## Educational Programs

- **Liberty & Society Seminars**

Our efforts to create new thinkers in India have gathered tremendous momentum in the last two years. In just 6 weeks (August 13-September 22, 2002), we aroused 765 minds all across India! Much of this outreach is made possible by the students of our earlier seminars inviting us, with expenses paid, to conduct programs on their campuses. We are now reaping benefits of previous years' efforts, particularly the Liberty & Society Seminars.

Careful selection of intelligent, extrovert, and public-spirited students for LSS has helped create powerful change agents in a very short period of time. Our efforts are now getting multiplied daily. We have standing invitation to train each incoming batch at some of the top management schools: the Indian Institute of Management at Lucknow, Symbiosis Centre for Management at Pune. Graduates of all these programs are now in all walks of life, including of course at the Centre.

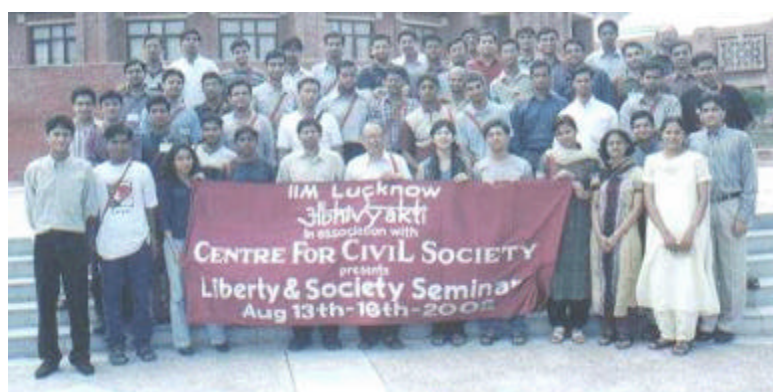
We have organised seven Liberty & Society Seminars in 2002-03.

	City	Dates	Numbers
1	Indian Institute of Management, Lucknow	August 13-16, 2002	35
2	Bangalore	August 22-25, 2002	40
3	Pune	Aug 29-Sept 1, 2002	43
4	New Delhi	September 19-22, 2002	41
5	Symbiosis Centre for Management & HRD, Pune	November 11-12, 2002	122
6	Symbiosis Centre for Management & HRD, Nashik	November 14-15, 2002	131
7	Centre for Environment Planning & Technology, Ahmedabad	January 18-19, 2003	41
<b>Total Outreach</b>			<b>453</b>

"My expectations were to get to know more about India, the economy and make friends. And yes, they were all met.

The LSS broadened my horizons towards my country and made me think globally. I'll surely apply this knowledge in my life and try to be a change agent in the society."

**Prit Shah, LSS Graduate: Pune 2002**



*LSS Graduates with Swaminathan Anklesaria Aiyar, Lucknow 2002*

### Some Achievements of LSS Graduates: Alumni Tracking

- **Sushanth Salian** has recently won the *VM Salgaoncar Memorial All India Moot Court Competition* held at VM Salgaoncar Law College, Goa. This is the first time that his college has won this award. Sixteen prestigious colleges across the country had participated in the competition. He is currently in his final year of LLB at the SDM Law College in Mangalore. Sushanth has been a *Research Intern* at the Centre during the summer 2002; a graduate of *LSS Chennai*, December 2001; and of *Advanced Liberty & Society Seminar*, New Delhi, June 2002.

"[A] major thank-you," said Sushanth on winning the prize, "should go to the CCS for making me believe in the free market ideas. The case I fought in the semis and finals was about genetic crops and terminator gene where I was appearing as counsel for respondent and had to defend the company's move of using the terminator gene. Believe me it was a constitutional dilemma and I interpreted the constitution on how it should be market friendly and how people should have a choice and how people should be allowed to protect their intellectual property rights. The judges were taken aback by such an interpretation of the constitution. Thank you very much for everything."

- **Sujatha Muthayya** is currently Lecturer, Department of Political Science at her alma mater, Madras Christian College, Chennai. Her publications and research papers include: "Privatising Education", *The New Sunday Express*, November 2002; "Lessons from the North-East: A Comparative Study of POTA and The Armed Forces Special Powers Act", *Journal of Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies*, May 2002. "Role of UN Peacekeeping forces in Post Cold-War era", Dissertation, *MCC*, April 2001. "The Kattunayakans in the Nilgiris", Magazine of *Rotary, Porur, Madras*, December 1999. "An Overview of the Indian Education Policy", *Social Ethics Papers, MCC*, March 1998. Sujatha has worked with the Centre as a Research Associate from October 2001 to July 2002, and is a graduate of the LSS Hyderabad, August 1999.
- **Yazad Jal** is currently the CEO of Praja, an NGO based in Mumbai. PRAJA is a non-partisan, voluntary organisation which was started in 1997 by a group of 8 individuals committed to the re-establishment of accountability and transparency in public governance through people's participation. Yazad continues to be an active faculty for our Liberty & Society Seminars. Yazad worked with the Centre as a Research Associate for two and half years (1999-2001) and is a graduate of LSS New Delhi, December 1998.
- **Naveen Mandava and Manali Shah** are currently working as Program Coordinators at the Centre. Naveen is a graduate of LSS Bangalore, August 2002 and Manali is a graduate of LSS New Delhi, August 2000.
- **HB Soumya** is currently pursuing her Masters in Economics from the Delhi School of Economics. She has edited *Research Internship Papers 2001* and also Sauvik Chakraverti's forthcoming publication, *Antidote 2*. Soumya has been a Research Intern at the Centre in summer 2001, and is a graduate of LSS New Delhi, August 2001 and Advanced LSS, June 2002.
- **Ashish Kochhar** is working as Executive (Finance and Banking) at ASSOCHAM, New Delhi since April 2002. He is involved in analysis and issuing recommendations to government policies relating to finance and banking. Ashish is a graduate of LSS New Delhi 2000.

### **Economics in One Lesson (EOL)**

The graduates of the LSS routinely invite us to their colleges to organise a one-day program for larger audiences (70-200 participants). This Seminar covers core issues like Population: The Ultimate Resource, New Public Management, Private & Political Markets, Environment: The Tragedy of the Commons, Role of Greed in Society, Economic Freedom & Prosperity. Most of the institutes where we have



*Economics in One Lesson, Sunbeam College, Varanasi*

organised the EOL Seminar have invited us to organise these on an annual basis. Both the EOL Seminar and LSSs have received immense coverage in english and local language newspapers.

*In 2002-03, we have been able to reach out to 801 students through this one-day seminar!*

	<b>College</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>Dates</b>	<b>Numbers</b>
1	SDM College of Business Management & SDM Law College	Mangalore	August 26, 2002	150
2	Symbiosis Centre for Management & HRD	Pune	September 4, 2002	200
3	Dept of Business Economics Guru Jambheshwar University	Hisar	September 8, 2002	70
4	St. Xaviers College	Ahmedabad	January 16, 2003	40
5	LD Arts College	Ahmedabad	January 17, 2003	36
6	MS University	Vadodara	January 21, 2003	58
7	Vasanta College for Women	Varanasi	January 27, 2003	85
8	Vasant Kanya Mahavidyalaya	Varanasi	January 29, 2003	94
9	Sunbeam College for Women	Varanasi	January 30, 2003	41
10	JSS Academy of Technical Education	Noida	April 24, 2003	27
<b>Total Outreach</b>				<b>801</b>

### **Advanced Liberty & Society Seminar**

This Seminar was organised on June 8-12, 2002 in New Delhi built on the basic understanding gained by students who had attended the Liberty & Society Seminars. It was a five-day seminar with an in-depth coverage of libertarian/ classical liberal/ civil society issues. Some of the issues discussed were Anarcho-Capitalism, Electoral Reform, Judicial Reform, Origin of Money & Working of Laissez Faire Banking.

### **Spontaneous Order Yahoo-group**

To take the interest sparked in the graduates of the Liberty & Society Seminar forward and have them interact with other individuals and former graduates, we operate a discussion forum on the net, Spontaneous\_Order@yahoo.com. It is also open to other interested individuals.

## Friends of Freedom

An action group to promote economic, political, and social freedoms in India. Members network to organise city, state, or country-wide campaigns, signature drives, support rallies, discussion forums, and host events to promote peace, prosperity, and freedom. We have also made an action forum on the net for this group, Friends\_of\_Freedom@yahoogroups.com.

### • Research Internship Program 2002-03

March-April 2003: Sapna Bajaj, an MBA student from Symbiosis Centre for Management & HRD, Pune, completed a project on cycle-rickshaw pullers of Sarahanpur (Uttar Pradesh), under the theme "License & Livelihood."

January-March 2003: Pallavi Agarwal, a B A Economics graduate from Delhi University is currently interning with us. Her research is focussed on "People and the Forests."

December-January 2003: Bhavna Ahooja, a law student from Bhopal, helped further our ongoing research on the "*Forest Encroachment Issue*" which details problems faced by the tribals living in the forests in India and alternatives possible than the approach already taken through the Supreme Court. She documented Supreme Court rulings on the use of forest land by tribals and forest dwellers.

November 2001-February 2002: Kunal Datt, a student of B.Com, Delhi University researched on the license-permit raj applicable to entry-level professionals like dhobis (who clean and iron clothes) and dhabawallahs (who sell food on the roadside).

October-December 2002: Michael Stamminger, a student from Austria, interned with us for three months. His research focussed on "*Privatisation of the Power Sector in Delhi*."

*"I could have been there much longer" Michael Stamminger about his Internship in CCS.  
Article published in Austrian Newspaper Kurier on APRIL 5, 2003*

**May-July 2002**: Eleven college students worked with us as research interns in Delhi and three in Bangalore and Kolkata during summer 2002. The projects they worked on are License & Livelihood, Bureaucracy, State in Religion, The Plastics Conundrum, CNG: Economics Vs Environmentalism, Poverty Alleviation Programs, Directed Credit, Big Industry Before Independence, New Public Management: Garbage and Public Transport.



*Summer Interns 2002*

If I were to describe my experience with CCS in one line I would say, 'Two months of education.' After all, I learned how to start a computer here! I learned how to use a photocopier and many other such small but useful things. For the first time I understood what responsibility really means. I learned how to work alone and, more importantly, how to work in a group. I learned that self-belief can take one places. I mean that literally: I went places for my projects! But most importantly, if LSS convinced me that liberalisation is a better way to redeem our economy, these two months have convinced me that it is the only way out.

**Neha Swetambari, CCS Intern Summer 2002**

## • School Lectures

Centre organised a lecture series, one per week, in April-May 2002 at Delhi Public School, R K Puram, New Delhi, for about 200 students in 12<sup>th</sup> grade. The issues covered were *Population: The Ultimate Resource*, *Why is India Poor?*, and *India's Liberalisation: Past, Present, and Future*. This is now an ongoing program at the Delhi Public School and several other schools have shown interest.

## • First Minoo Masani Inter-College Debate Competition

The Centre organised the first Minoo Masani Inter-College Debate Competition on "The State & the Market: Who Does More for the Society?" at Hindu College, New Delhi on November 28, 2002.

## Publications

*Economic Freedom & Development* by Wolfgang Kasper is an essay about property rights, economic freedom, and prosperity.

*Free Your Mind: A Beginners Guide to Political Economy* by Sauvik Chakraverti teaches libertarianism to the young.

*State Skeptic* is a compilation of articles researched and written by college students as part of the Research Internship Program 2002.

*Keepers of Forests: Foresters or Forest Dwellers?* CCS-ARCH Briefing Paper, March 2003. (ARCH, Action Research in Community Health & Development, Mangrol, Gujarat)

*Managing Water Resources: Communities & Markets* CCS Briefing Paper, March 2003.

### View Point Series:

*ViewPoint 4: Peter Bauer: A True Friend of the World's Poor* by Sauvik Chakraverti is a heartfelt tribute to the man who did more for the world's poor than any Nobel Laureate in economics.

### Reviews of our publications

- *Profiles in Courage: Dissent on Indian Socialism*

(1) Louella Lobo Prabhu in *Freedom First (A Liberal Quarterly)*, No:456, January-March 2003

(2) Detmar Doering in *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*, June 17, 2002 (German Newspaper)

(3) Atul Chatterjee in *Business Standard*, March 7, 2002

- *Free Your Mind: A Beginner's Guide to Political Economy*

(1) Binu S Thomas in *Education World*, April 2003

(2) Mahesh Bhatt in *Vishleshan*, Vol. 28, No. 1 January-March 2003

*Profiles in Courage: Dissent on Indian Socialism*, a collection of essays published by Parth Shah tells the history of many of those reformist intellectuals, leading industrialists and politicians. One of them is Minoo Masani, founder of the Swatantra-party, who still is the mental leader of all liberals in India. Others are Shenoy who introduced the liberal theories of FA Hayek in India, or A D Shroff who has founded one of the main associations for free entrepreneurship. Reading this volume can raise one's hopes for India again."

**Detmar Doering, *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*: June 17, 2002**



*Free Your Mind*



### Civil Society Shelf in College Libraries

Libraries of top colleges should have a separate shelf of liberal civil society works—books, monographs, journals, videos and CDs. We have been successful in selling two sets of our publications to libraries by giving 50% discount on the whole price. We would like to find sponsors to acquire and sell at a discount other important works to the college libraries.

No.	Name of College	City
1	Hansraj College	New Delhi
2	Hindu College	New Delhi
3	SDM Law College	Mangalore
4	Canara College	Mangalore
5	Symbiosis Centre for Management and HRD	Pune
6	Symbiosis Centre for Management and HRD	Nashik
7	Indian Institute of Management	Lucknow
8	JSS Academy of Technical Education	Noida
9	Dept of Business Economics, Guru Jambheshwar University	Hisar
10	LD Arts College	Ahmedabad
11	Sunbeam College for Women	Varanasi

### Dialogues and Panel Discussions

The Centre organised a Dialogue on CopyRight, CopyLeft, CopyConsent: IPR in the Information Age at New Delhi on March 15, 2003. Panellists were Ajay Shah, Advisor, Ministry of Finance & Parth J Shah, Centre for Civil Society.



Panel discussion at the Forestry Conference



March 24, 2003

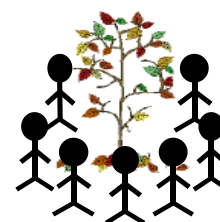
In both of these conferences the discussion centred on how to allocate property rights to users of water and forest resources for more equitable and efficient management of these resources.

The program, summary of proceedings, the press release, and the resulting action plan are available on our website.

### Conferences

The Centre successfully organised two national conferences under the theme of Economic Freedom, Property Rights, and Development in New Delhi.

- Keepers of Forests: Judiciary, Ministry, or Community? on March 28-29, 2003



- Water under Community Management on

## The CCS Team

- **Sauvik Chakraverti**

A founding trustee and now Editorial Director at the Centre, Sauvik has won the first Frederic Bastiat Award for Journalism from the International Policy Network in London, along with Amity Shales of *Financial Times*. He received the prize on October 4 in London at the hands of Lady Margaret Thatcher. Two of his three articles chosen by the judges are based on Centre's work.



Sauvik resigned from IPS and became a freelance writer. He was previously senior editor at the *Economic Times*. His publications include *Free Your Mind: A Beginner's Guide to Political Economy*, *Population Causes Prosperity*, and *Antidote: Essays Against the Socialist Indian State*. Two more sequels of *Antidote* are in the pipeline.

- **Parth J Shah**

In addition to speaking at several national and international conferences and our own seminars, Parth has been writing regularly in the *Economic Times*. IMA India (previously Economist's Intelligence Unit) has invited him to deliver lectures on a regular basis as part of its corporate knowledge program: *The Aware Professional*. His research in calculating the **Tax Freedom Day** for India formed the basis of a cover story for *Outlook* written and compiled by Assistant Editor Paromita Shastri.

He was the Convenor of a three-day *National Conference on Primary Education* in Delhi sponsored by the Indo-Dutch Program on Alternatives in Development. The *Education Times* (a supplement of *Times of India*) recently interviewed him to talk about "Education with a difference." His continued research and advocacy of private initiatives in education seem to have born fruits in Delhi government's announcement to contract out teaching in the worst performing government schools.

## Upcoming projects

- **Jeevika: National Livelihood Documentary Competition**

Each documentary will capture the struggles faced by people in earning an honest living in the vocation of their choice, from the cycle-rickshaw puller, the forest dweller, factory worker, to the man who runs his own factory.



- **Liberty, Art, & Culture Seminar**

It is a four-day residential seminar for the students of the creative arts (journalism, media and cultural studies, literature, and mass communication). It aims to broaden the understanding of the principles, policies, and programs that provide the foundation for civil society. This understanding may lead them to use their influence in ways that support and strengthen the values and attitudes essential for building a liberal civil society.



- **Internship 2003**

This year we received an overwhelming response to our program for 2003: 69 applications, the highest in three years from India and abroad. We have now expanded the program from summers in Delhi to non-summer months and even cities other than Delhi.

- **Publications**

- (a) *Morality in Markets*

A compilation of essays by economists, leaders of all major religions, and ethicists that delve on the role of morality in the working of the market system and also how properly functioning markets further create an environment for peaceful and moral human relations.

- (b) *Law, Liberty, and Livelihood in Urban India*

A compilation of research papers dealing with urban livelihood issues and concluding with detailed suggestions for policy changes.

- (c) *Terracotta Reader*

A book of readings on free market environmentalism dealing with all major environmental issues, from global warming to plastic bags. It will be an antidote to various fanatic Green readers.

- (d) *Shenoy-Bauer Reader* distils the wisdom of the two economists who foresaw and forewarned the harms of socialism in India, B R Shenoy and Lord Peter Bauer.

- (e) *Private Schools for the Poor: A Case Study of Hyderabad* by James Tooley.