

OUR WORK & IMPACT





Education

Foundational learning



bolo
English

Empowering Children
with Spoken English Skills

[Bolo English](#) is a pan-India initiative of the Centre, that equips children from low income families with much-aspired spoken English skills. It is the first of its kind project by CCS that utilises education technology. We work with students from Grade 3-12 from low cost private schools and provide them year-long free access to a mobile application that helps them develop and nurture spoken English skills. In its first year, Bolo English has had a reach of 30000 students and 500 teachers across 130 schools in 8 states. We work with teachers and parents through capacity building initiatives and leverage on this to keep the students engaged on the application. In a big win for us, the project has been featured by the United Nations in a film on gender equality initiatives during the pandemic.

K-12 education and budget private schools



In a big win for CCS ideas on K-12 education, the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 accurately diagnosed the need to separate functions of the government and recognised the need to revisit the existing regulatory framework. Since 2019, we have developed an extensive understanding of state education operations and a strong reputation in the sector for our regulatory expertise. One such example is our dominant presence in the State of the Sector Report in [2020](#). The chapter on regulations for private schools cited six CCS reports and the state profiles used the database we had created of all existing [regulations](#) governing K-12 education in India.



CCS has also been successfully collaborating with Niti Aayog on creating a Model State Education Act for school education based on the principles of choice, autonomy, and accountability and the recommendations of the NEP. This year, we will be taking our work to state governments to ensure implementation of the NEP stays true to its spirit.



Half of India's students go to private schools, and more than 85% of them go to low-fee or Budget Private Schools (BPS). CCS incubated National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) with 55,400 schools across 22 states acts as an united national voice for supportive policies and for improvement of quality of education in BPS. [Read more.](#)



In addition to several widely recognised research papers and policy briefs addressing key aspects of education policy in India, CCS has published two editions of its Report on [Budget Private Schools in India](#): a comprehensive research report that addresses the demand, supply, ecosystem, and regulations impacting budget private schools in India. In 2019, CCS' report on the Anatomy of K-12 Governance in India was also featured as one of the best policy reports worldwide in the [2019 Global Go To Think Tank Index Report](#), University of Pennsylvania.



Livelihoods & Poverty Alleviation

Street vendors livelihood



From viewing street vendors as a “public nuisance” to recognising them as “public service providers” and entrepreneurs, the Street Vendors Act 2014 has been an important benchmark for CCS outreach efforts. The Act gives the long overdue formal status to millions of vendors. [Read more.](#)

CCS prepared a draft amendment and submitted it to the Government committee set up for discussing amendments to the Street Vendors Act 2014 in October 2020. The amendment bill is likely to be tabled in the next session of the Parliament. CCS also presented the underlying reasons for non-implementation of the Act to the Parliamentary Standing committee set up to study the implementation of the street vendors Act.

Ease of doing business for micro, small, and medium enterprises



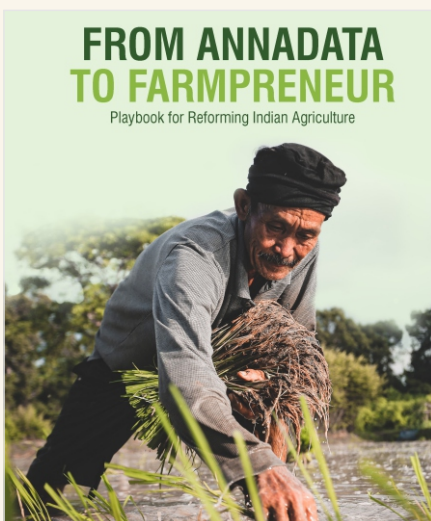
In 2020, CCS conceptualised a project to ease the regulatory environment for MSMEs at the state-level. We partnered with the Government of Punjab and Global Alliance for Mass Entrepreneurship and conducted a process audit of 26 services across five departments: Labour, Local Government, Industries and Commerce, Housing and Urban Development and Punjab Pollution Control Board. As a part of this audit, CCS analysed administrative logs and conducted interviews with departmental officers and applicants to determine the reasons for delays and prescribed recommendations.

Government of Punjab approved two of our recommendations:

1. Rationalising pre-commissioning licenses and creating an IT workflow for NOCs
2. Monthly self assessment led by the Chief Secretary where delay in government services are monitored and addressed

The minimum capital requirement to register a business was Rs 100,000, no matter the size of the business. CCS work on Ease of Doing Business helped abolish it altogether. A fewer enterprises now suffer from informality. [Watch video.](#)

Ease of doing business for farmers



Last year, CCS started working on agriculture sector reforms. We released a [primer](#), From Annadata to Farmpreneur, assessing the variety of problems facing the development of profitable agriculture markets in India. We analysed spot markets, futures markets, input controls, land controls, trade controls and public distribution systems. After identifying the problems in these areas, we recommended a series of reforms that would make agriculture a profitable profession. We also released a [policy brief](#), Unfree to Sell, that studied restrictions on domestic and international trade of farm produce. We assessed the impact these laws have on farmer income. These studies happened in the backdrop of the three new farm laws that liberalised agricultural trade and eased restrictions on storing farm produce.



Terracotta Environmentalism



CCS has recently restarted work on Terracotta Environmentalism where we focus on the role of communities, markets and incentives in achieving resilient and sustainable environmental action. CCS' Terracotta vision focuses on restructuring incentives and encouraging cooperation over conflict in environmental conservation. In the past, CCS efforts led to the amendment of the Indian Forests Act 1927, classifying bamboo not as a tree but as grass, improving bamboo based livelihood opportunities for tribal communities and reducing the need for timber. [Read more.](#)



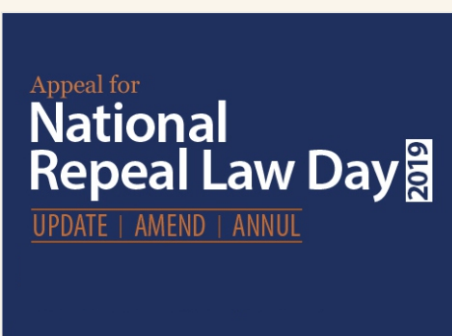
Governance

Quality of laws in India



Over the past two years, CCS has dived into the process of law-making in India. Our project aims to assess the quality of laws in India in two ways. First, through our ['Quality of Laws' toolkit/ scorecard](#). This toolkit, drawn from global indices on regulatory quality and review of international literature on administrative law, checks whether a law reflects public will, protects individual rights, and improves allocation of resources. Second, we quantify the burden that laws impose. For this, we worked in collaboration with Mercatus Center to calculate: volume of laws, restrictiveness of laws and its complexity. These metrics are associated with economic growth and productivity.

Repeal of Laws



While the rule of law remains central to the promotion and protection of individual freedom, obsolete and inconsistent laws continue to thwart both liberty and growth. A vibrant democracy necessitates the insertion of a sunset clause for laws; a tenet for removal upon expiry. The Judicial System has also struggled to wade through innumerable archaic laws. Recognising this, CCS launched the 'Repeal 100 Laws Project' in 2014 urging the Union government to repeal 100 laws identified as flawed, ineffective or redundant. Over the years, CCS has continued to campaign

for governmental action to repeal redundant and inconsistent laws that promote red tapism and encumber personal, social and economic freedoms. In [2019](#), we launched the Repeal Law Compendium at the Constitution Club of India, New Delhi. The 6th edition of the compendium identified 150 laws for repeal in the North-East region of India.



Policy-training and Outreach



CCS Academy, the policy training wing of the Centre has a vibrant alumni base of 11,000 students, young professionals and media personnel. Through both introductory and advanced courses and internships including e-policies, eBaithaks, ecolloquiums, Researching Reality, CCS Academy has trained participants in liberal ideas. During a year hit with the COVID-19 pandemic, CCS Academy has leveraged the online boom and expanded its reach across national borders, successfully engaging with 1000+ people through our online programs. [Read more.](#)



In 2018, CCS incubated the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP), aimed at developing leaders for policy action and democratising policy education. It is a one-year, post-graduate program in Policy, Design & Management. [Read more.](#)

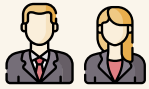


India has had a vibrant and intellectual history of liberalism in its social, economic and cultural manifestations. However, this tradition had been left unexplored. The Indian Liberals project, a joint initiative of CCS with the Friedrich Naumann Foundation (South Asia) is an online archive of Indian Liberal works which includes magazines, periodicals, lectures and booklets in English, Hindi, Marathi, Gujarati etc covering the liberal thought in Indian history. [Read more](#)

Science & Technology Policy Unit



Furthering over two decades of CCS' commitment to advance social change through public policy, the Science & Technology Policy Unit has been conceptualised as the latest initiative. This unit will function as the policy wing to advance policy solutions that foster scientific enquiry and research, and facilitate the creation and dissemination of new scientific knowledge. The Centre will work with all stakeholders to develop and strengthen the science ecosystem in India in order to advance scientific research and its translation into economic value and social good.



CCS Board

Founded in 1997, Centre for Civil Society is steered by eminent policy and industry experts including, who occupy key roles in the governing body.

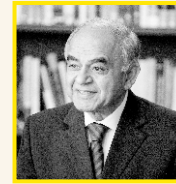
Our Board of Trustees and Advisors include:



Parth J Shah
President and
Founding Trustee,
CCS



Luis Miranda
Chairman of the Board;
Former Chairman,
IDFC Private Equity



Gurcharan Das
Author; Former CEO,
Procter & Gamble



Iris Madeira
COO, Madhavi Desai
Consulting



Premila Nazareth
Independent Consultant,
Governance and Research



Adit Jain
Chairman and
Editorial Director,
IMA India



Anirudha Dutta
Author and Analyst,
Capital Group



**Geeta Gandhi
Kingdon**
Professor, Institute of
Education, University
College London



**Jayaprakash
Narayan**
Founder,
Loksatta Party



Neeti Shikha
Head, Centre for
Insolvency &
Bankruptcy,
Indian Institute of
Corporate Affairs,
Ministry of
Corporate Affairs



**Niranjn
Rajadhyaksha**
Research Director and
Senior Fellow, IDFC Institute



**Reuben
Abraham**
CEO and Senior Fellow,
IDFC Institute



Shruti Rajagopalan
Senior Research Fellow,
Mercatus Center,
George Mason University

We are joined in our endeavour by our new CEO, Lakshmi Sampath Goyal in 2021.



Lakshmi Sampath Goyal
CEO, Centre for Civil Society