



SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY



Towards liberalization for the poor



FREEDOM91 CIRCLE

Towards liberalization for the poor

The Story of India's Reform:

1947

Political freedom, for all 

1947 ushered in India's political freedom heralding a new free India where democratic values took roots.

1991

Economic freedom, for some 

The opening up of Indian economy in 1991 marked the next level of freedom, unshackling large businesses from the license-quota raj, making them prosperous.

However, the informal sectors and poor communities, such as those in the agriculture sector, such as the small farmers, the informal manufacturing and services sector, the poorest of poor engaged in the natural resources sector such as mining, minor forest produce and fisheries to name a few, have not benefited much from the 1991 LPG (Liberalisation, Privatisation & Globalisation) movement.

CCS works towards making markets work for the poor, through evidence-based policy interventions



**Centre for
CIVIL
SOCIETY**

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ABOUT CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

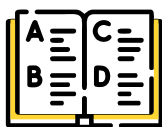
Founded in August 1997 on the 50th Anniversary of India's independence, Centre for Civil Society (CCS) is a leading public policy think tank today, ranked 5th in India and 83rd in the world by the TTCSP 2021 report.

CCS champions individual choice and institutional accountability by shaping India's public policy, using evidence-based research, outreach programs and policy training. Our areas of work include education, livelihoods, governance, environment, agriculture and science & technology policy.

Since its founding in 1997, CCS has stayed non-partisan and independent, providing objective analysis and inputs on public policy. We are sustained solely by donations and grants from individuals and organisations who share our vision of a free, prosperous, and peaceful world where the principles of individual liberty, property rights and competitive markets are secured by the rule of law.

AND MILES TO GO BEFORE WE SLEEP:

PRO-POOR REFORMS, A WORK IN PROGRESS



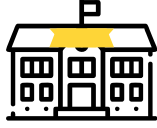
Foundational learning:

Bolo English is a pan-India edutech initiative of CCS, that equips children from low income families with much-aspired spoken English skills. 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 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.



K 12 Education reforms:

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



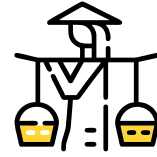
Low-fee Private Schools:

Nearly one in two school students go to Budget Private Schools (BPSs). CCS has incubated National Independent Schools Alliance (NISA) with 55,400 schools across 22 states. NISA acts as an united national voice for supportive policies and for improvement of quality of education in BPS.



Ease of Doing Business for small businesses:

The minimum capital requirement to register a business was ₹100,000, irrespective of the size of the business. The CCS work on ease of doing business helped abolish it altogether.



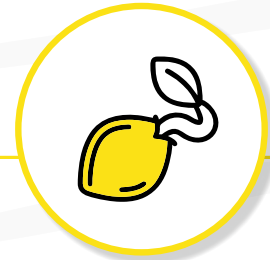
Street Vendors Act 2014:

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 our outreach efforts. The Act gives the long overdue formal status to millions of vendors. CCS has prepared a draft amendment to the Act and presents a progress report each year, to the Parliamentary Standing committee that has been set up to study the implementation of this Act. In June 2021, CCS has been awarded the prestigious Asia Liberty Award for our work on championing for the economic freedom and rights of Street Vendors.



Terracotta Environmentalism:

Here, we focus on the role of communities, markets and incentives in achieving resilient and sustainable environmental action. The CCS Terracotta vision focuses on restructuring incentives and encouraging cooperation over conflict in environmental conservation. In the past, efforts made by CCS led to the amendment of the Indian Forests Act 1927, classifying bamboo not as a tree but as a grass, improving bamboo based livelihood opportunities for tribal communities and reducing the need for timber. We will be looking at rights-based conservation for tribals and sustainable livelihoods in areas such as fisheries, minor forest produce, water and other commons.



Agriculture reforms:

CCS has been an active supporter of Farm law reforms and released a comprehensive primer in 2020, with recommendations on the path forward for the agriculture sector in India. Taking the work forward, CCS is analyzing the farm land laws to assess the property rights of farmers.

The other important piece of work is on study of the laws that restrict the use of GM seeds and certain new technologies in farming.



Science and Technology policy:

Despite having the Indian diaspora fuel innovation and growth the world over, India has very few innovations to her name. The reason is the policy framework that does not adequately foster scientific enquiry and research. 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.



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 which checks whether a law reflects public will, protects individual rights, and improves allocation of resources. Second, we quantify the burden that laws impose.

The other aspect is the push for repeal of obsolete, redundant and archaic laws which have formed the regulatory cholesterol in our judiciary. 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. CCS launched the 'Repeal 100 Laws Project' in 2014 urging the Union government to repeal 100 laws identified as flawed, ineffective or redundant. The Repeal Law Compendium identifies laws for repeal from time to time.



FREEDOM91 CIRCLE

Towards liberalization for the poor

Freedom91 Circle will empower CCS to continue supporting the reforms through corrections in public policy anomalies that are currently holding back the poor from enjoying economic freedom, dignity and the opportunity to exercise self-determination, marking a shift towards self-reliance and prosperity.

BECOME A MEMBER OF THE FREEDOM91 CIRCLE:

Support the cause of liberty and reforms in India by making a donation that will help us sustain ourselves. CCS is a registered charitable Trust and all donations to CCS are tax-deductible under **Section 80G** of the Indian Income Tax Act.

JOIN THE FREEDOM91 CIRCLE

₹ 91,000+

Donate ₹91,000+/per year for 3 consecutive years

₹ 1,99,100+

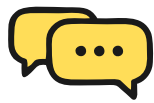
Give a gift of ₹1,99,100+

₹ 9,10,000+

Make a donation of ₹9,10,000+

WHAT WE WILL DO FOR YOU:

Under Freedom91 Circle, we will :



Talks that Matter

[Every 3 Months]

Organise exclusive **‘Talks that Matter’** every three months to discuss topical areas with domain experts, policy influencers, and thought leaders, among others.



Biannual Newsletter

Disseminate a biannual newsletter dedicated to members of the Freedom91 Circle to our vast database, highlighting key achievements and stories of impact.



Event & Networking

Host an **Annual Gratitude and Greetings event**, which will not only showcase an exclusive segment on the Freedom91 Circle but also double up as a networking event.



Platform for Liberal Thoughts

Create a platform for the members of Freedom91 Circle to develop new content expanding the reach of liberal thought, with their unique expertise for CCS's followers/community.



CCS TEAM & BOARD MEMBERS

OUR TEAM

Founded in 1997, Centre for Civil Society has a diverse team of talented and vibrant people led by an energetic CEO.



Lakshmi Sampath Goyal

CEO, Centre for Civil Society

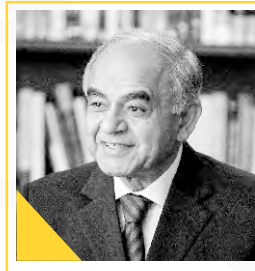
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Centre for Civil Society is steered by eminent policy and industry experts who occupy key roles in the governing body.



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Chairman of the Board;
Former Chairman,
IDFC Private Equity



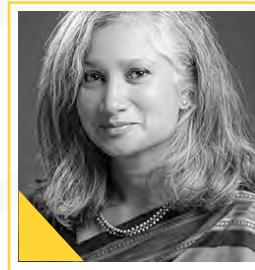
Gurcharan Das

Author; Former CEO,
Procter & Gamble



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Founding Trustee,
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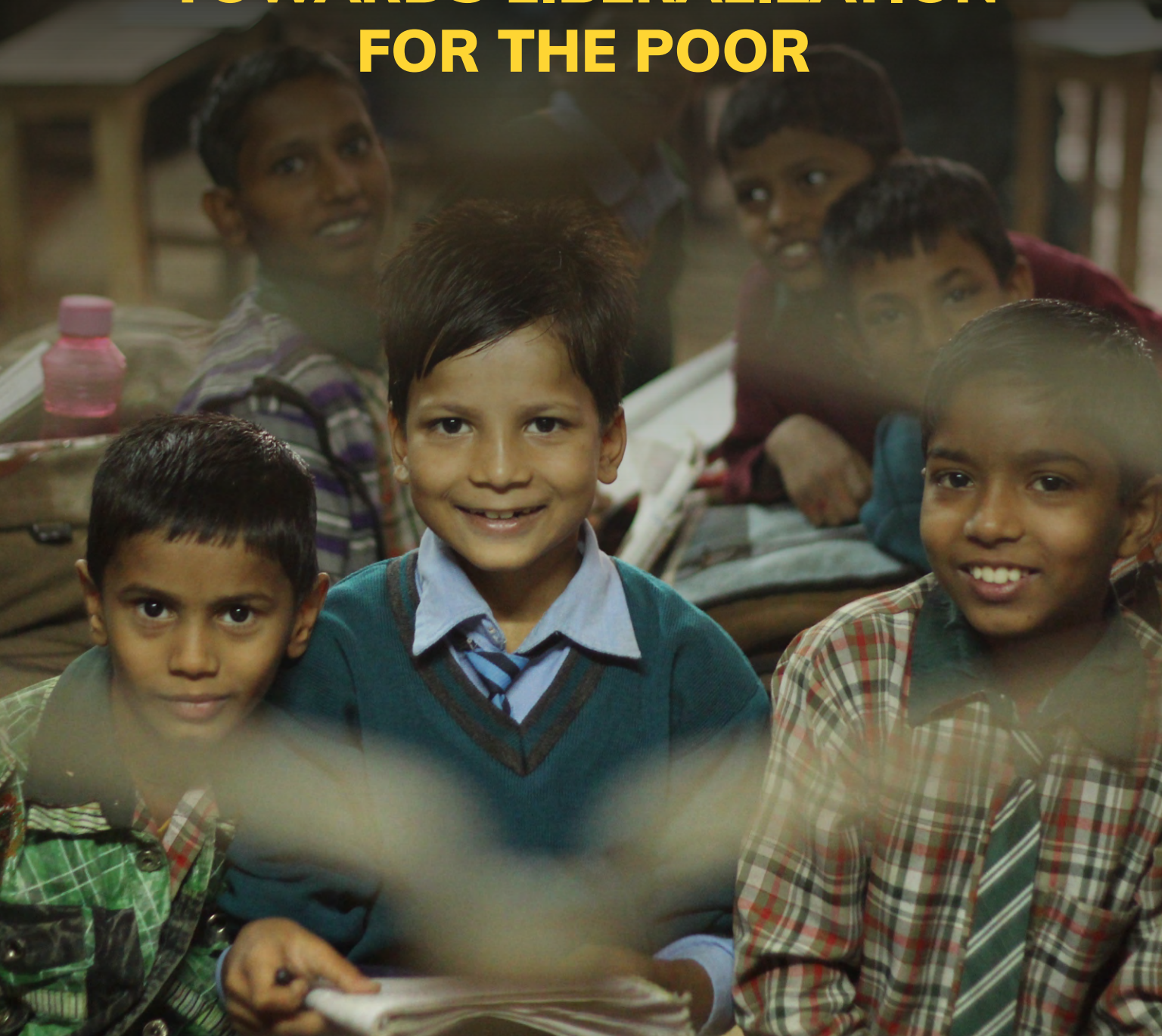
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Shruti Rajagopalan

Senior Research Fellow,
Mercatus Center,
George Mason University

TOWARDS LIBERALIZATION FOR THE POOR





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FOR YOUR SUPPORT

To know more about our work or to support us,
please do get in touch with us:



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