



ANNUAL REPORT **IMPACT**

2024-25



Centre for
**CIVIL
SOCIETY**

SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY



ABOUT CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

Centre for Civil Society (CCS), founded in 1997 in New Delhi, works to promote choice for individuals, competition in market and accountability of institutions through evidence-based research, outreach, and educational programs. CCS works in the area of school education, urban livelihoods, and governance.

For more details visit our website www.ccs.in or scan the QR code



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Chief Executive Officer

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CHAIRPERSON'S MESSAGE



**Anirudha
Dutta**

Chairperson,
Board of Advisors

The year gone by has been a year of tremendous achievements and hope for the Centre for Civil Society (CCS).

CCS was proud to co-host the Asia Liberty Forum (ALF) in September 2024 in the National Capital Region (NCR). ALF is an annual gathering that brings together leaders from think tanks and civil society organizations across Asia to exchange ideas and experiences on advancing freedom. It is hosted each year in a different Asian country by Atlas Network (USA), in partnership with a local co-host. ALF 2024 had over 200 participants, 25+ sessions and 50+ speakers. Our associates not only helped with the hosting of the forum but were also among featured speakers.

During the concluding session of the ALF it was announced that Dr. Parth J Shah, our founder, will be bestowed with the 2024 Sir Antony Fisher Achievement Award in recognition of his 25 years of pioneering grassroots work in advancing classical liberal ideas. The award was presented to Parth in November 2024 at the Liberty Forum and Freedom Dinner, New York — an annual gathering of advocates of freedom from around the world hosted by Atlas Network. My congratulations to Parth on behalf of the entire team at CCS.

Following the successful co-hosting of ALF, CCS hosted the General Meeting of the prestigious Mont Pelerin Society (MPS). It is the largest event ever hosted by CCS and is a testimony to the capabilities of the team to rise above the occasion to seamlessly execute an event, which needed planning for nearly a year and across countries. The theme of the event was “Freedom and Prosperity for the Next 6 Billion.” MPS had an attendance of 304 people, participating from 42 countries and 51 speakers. I would like to extend my congratulations and appreciation to the entire team of CCS for the successful hosting of the MPS. On behalf of the entire team of CCS, I would also like to record my sincere thanks for the generous support received from Rajesh Jain and Luis Miranda towards hosting the MPS.



“

What excites me most is when I hear from a CCS alum or former team member, 'CCS changed the way I see the world.' The power of ideas is so powerful...."

It has also been a year of change as after his strong and valued leadership for over 10 years, Luis Miranda has decided to step down from his role of the Chairperson of CCS. Luis will continue to be a member of the Board of Trustees of CCS. On behalf of the entire team of CCS, the board of advisors and the board of trustees, I would like to record our deep appreciation to Luis for his leadership, guidance and support through good and challenging times.

In his farewell letter to the board and the CCS team Luis recently wrote: ...what excites me the most is when I hear from a CCS alum or former team member, *"CCS changed the way I see the world"* The power of ideas is so powerful... The number of participants from India and its neighbouring countries that I encountered during ALF whose journey started in some way with CCS is nothing short of extraordinary. It is the "power of ideas" at work.

The CCS team under the leadership of Dr. Amit Chandra, our CEO, exhibited deep resilience throughout the year. During the year our FCRA application was renewed for 5 years and my thanks to everyone whose hard work and support made this possible. We look forward to the years to come with greater optimism. My thanks to you for your continued support to the work we do at CCS – bringing about social change through public policy by promoting classical liberal economic ideas. As I begin my journey as the Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, I do hope CCS will continue to enjoy the same support and guidance.

With my best wishes.

Mr Anirudha Dutta
Chairperson, Board of Advisors

CEO'S MESSAGE



**Dr Amit
Chandra**

CEO,
Centre for Civil Society

As we reflect on the past year, I am filled with gratitude for the progress we've achieved, made possible by your unwavering support. This year was nothing short of extraordinary. We had the immense honour of hosting the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS) General Meeting in India for the first time ever, and welcomed change-makers from across the world at the Asia Liberty Forum (ALF) for the fourth time. A particular proud moment was seeing our Founding Trustee, Dr. Parth J Shah, receive the Sir Antony Fisher Achievement Award – a recognition that affirms not just his vision, but the collective impact of all of us working toward a freer society.

This year, CCS Academy deepened its impact through new partnerships: from iPolicy with Ashoka University, to the Faculty Development Program with Manipal Academy of Higher Education, and the Political Economy of Development with PoleKon. These efforts were complemented by the introduction of new educational programs, including seminars on Austrian Economics and Liberty & Society, featuring global thought leaders. We also revived our flagship events, such as Colloquiums, Policy Hackathon, and Alumni Meets in multiple cities, rebuilding vibrant communities of practice committed to the ideas of a free society. Our commitment to thought leadership was reaffirmed through the relaunch of The Spontaneous Order blog and the successful organization of the B. R. Shenoy Annual Lecture, where Dr. Pravin Krishna delivered a compelling address on 'Trade Policy and Structural Transformation.' To further democratize access to such knowledge, we also expanded our digital presence by producing and sharing educational content on YouTube and other platforms.

In education, our Bolo English initiative with its pilot Language Learning Labs in schools, has empowered over 2,400 students with encouraging improvement in their spoken English skills. This success has presented a strong case for scaling and replication. The pilot of the Blue Curriculum for Life in Delhi schools has exemplified our focus on building knowledge, and shifting attitudes and behaviour of children towards the importance of water and climate sustainability. Our Betiyan Scholarship program has enabled 431 girls to pursue STEM education, combining financial support with mentorship through boot camps, webinars, and tele-coaching, while the Betiyan Breaking Barriers video series has brought their stories to life. Through our Education Regulatory Profiles for Delhi and Assam, we have furthered systemic change, informing and advancing reforms recommended under the National Education Policy.

CEO'S MESSAGE

“

**Looking ahead,
we remain
committed to
fostering
policies and
programs that
promote
individual
freedom and
societal
progress**

In the livelihood space, our Jeevika Mobile App continues to gain momentum—winning the Data for Good Exchange Challenge hosted by Dasra and Bloomberg, and receiving recognition from the NASSCOM Foundation and CSR Box. After successful pilots in Delhi and Jaipur, we're gearing up to scale the initiative, aiming to support millions of street entrepreneurs with tools to grow, formalize, and secure their livelihoods.

Our work on strengthening the Rule of Law advanced significantly this year, with focused efforts on repealing outdated laws and driving legal reform. We contributed to the policymaking process by participating in the National Workshop on Repealing Laws and partnered with the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade, putting forward proposals on decriminalization, sunset clauses, and comprehensive legislative clean-up.

We've placed a strong emphasis on expanding CCS's digital presence, using it as a powerful tool to amplify our mission and engage a wider, more diverse audience across platforms.

Looking ahead, we remain committed to fostering policies and programs that promote individual freedom and societal progress. I want to thank our dedicated team, partners, and supporters for their commitment and collaboration.

Together, let's continue to shape a freer and more prosperous India!

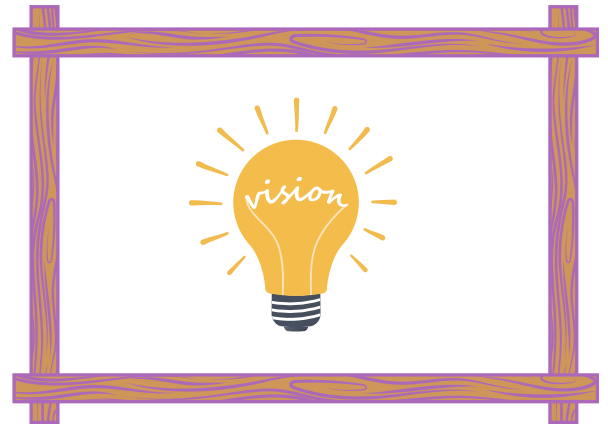
For Prosperity,

Dr Amit Chandra
CEO, Centre for Civil Society



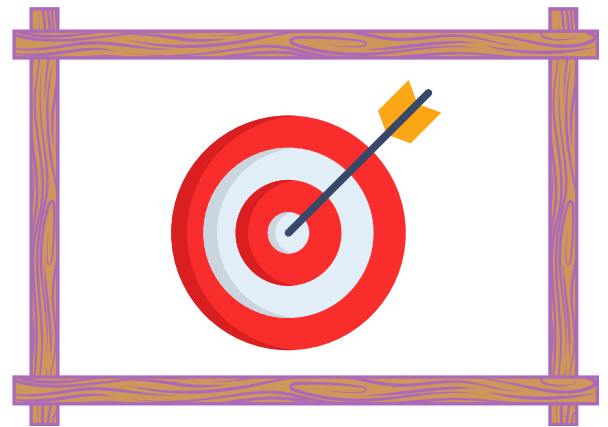
VISION

Envision a world where every institution is accountable and each individual leads a life of choice in personal, economic and political spheres.



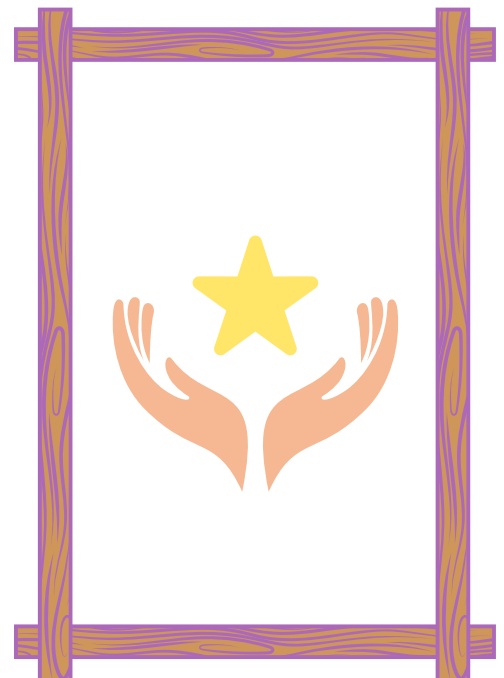
MISSION

Our work in education, livelihoods, governance and policy training promotes choice and accountability across private and public sectors. To translate policy into practice, we engage with policy and opinion leaders through research, projects and policy training.



VALUES

- 01** Passion for Work & Making a Difference
- 02** Intellectual Curiosity & Learning
- 03** Personal Responsibility & Effectiveness
- 04** Excellence in Execution
- 05** Honest & Open Communication
- 06** Respect for Individual Identity & Voice



FOCUS AREAS



Education



Livelihood



Governance



Academy

EDUCATION



The Language Learning Lab (LLL)

Building English Proficiency Through Tech-Integrated Classroom

The Language Learning Lab (LLL) incubated under our Bolo English Project is a technology-enabled, school-integrated program designed to improve spoken English proficiency among students in Budget Private Schools (BPS). In a country as linguistically diverse as India, English has long been a language of aspiration closely tied to social mobility, economic access, and academic advancement. Yet, many BPS lack the necessary infrastructure, trained teachers, and contextual learning tools to deliver effective spoken English education.

Launched in April 2024 as a pilot across six BPS in the Delhi NCR region, the program combines structured app-based learning, regular teacher training, and community engagement to create a scalable environment where English is not just taught as a subject, but lived as a skill. Students interact with English through hearing, speaking, and practising the language in ways that are practice-oriented, gamified, and grounded in real-life scenarios.



At the core of LLL is an adaptive, gamified mobile app that tailors content to each student's proficiency level. Students engage with the app during school hours, guided by teachers who receive monthly training on language facilitation strategies and classroom techniques that promote conversational English.

The program includes regular assessments and progress monitoring, enabling data-driven adjustments. It also engages parents—many of whom are non-English speakers—through simple orientation sessions and take-home tools, empowering them to support their children's learning at home.

In 2024, LLL reached over 3,000 students. Early feedback from the pilot has been positive, with noticeable improvements in student confidence and classroom participation. The initiative offers a scalable blueprint for improving English proficiency in underserved education systems across India.

Bringing Together Stakeholders to Find an Innovative Solution

The success of the Language Learning Lab rests not just on the strength of its design but on the collective will and collaboration of the ecosystem surrounding the child. From the outset, the program has intentionally involved students, parents, teachers, and school leaders, recognising that no single stakeholder can improve learning outcomes in isolation. Each group plays a vital role in ensuring that English learning is not a disconnected academic goal, but a shared journey embedded in the child's daily life.

Teachers have been engaged as key facilitators, not passive implementers. In most BPS, teachers themselves are navigating their own English language challenges. The teacher training sessions have been designed not only to build technical familiarity with the app, but also to strengthen teacher confidence in guiding spoken English instruction. Teachers are encouraged to integrate English conversations into routine classroom interactions, creating more immersive and authentic language exposure for students.

School leaders have been pivotal in championing the program within their institutions. Their commitment has translated into dedicated time blocks for app usage, support for the teachers' participation in trainings, and openness to experimentation and feedback. Given the entrepreneurial nature of many BPS founders, school leaders have been quick to recognize the competitive advantage that improved English outcomes can bring, not just for student development, but for the school's reputation and parent satisfaction.





Parents, though often not English speakers themselves, are included through simple orientation sessions. These sessions equip them with tools to support their children at home, such as picture-based tracking sheets or conversation prompts in their native language. By positioning parents as allies rather than outsiders to the learning process, LLL bridges the often overlooked home-school gap in language learning.

This holistic, ecosystem-based approach ensures that students, regardless of their baseline proficiency, receive layered and consistent support. For those needing minimal intervention, the LLL strengthens existing skills and boosts confidence. For those needing more intensive support, the app acts as a remedial and responsive tutor, while trained teachers and engaged parents provide the human scaffolding necessary for success.

By investing in the capacity of each stakeholder, the Language Learning Lab is creating a shared ecosystem of responsibility where English is not just a subject to be taught, but a language to be lived, supported, and sustained by the entire school community.

We hosted the Savitribai Phule Speaking Bee Competition on 12-13 November under the Language Learning Lab. This monthly event brought together 60 students from six schools to compete within their grades (Grade 1-5), with activities tailored to age-appropriate language abilities. The competition is designed to foster spoken English skills in a fun, competitive environment.



Key Highlights



6
Budget Private
Schools in Delhi NCR



1 to 5
Grades
were covered



3,000+
students engaged



30+
teachers
trained



200+
parents
oriented



2 **learning Apps**
used (Freedom,
Duolingo)



3 **assessments conducted**
(Baseline, Endline, Impact)



3 **Speaking Bees Competition**
held (1 virtual, 2 offline)

325 students, **105** parents,
36 teachers, **6** leaders interviewed

150+ 
students
participated in
Speaking Bee



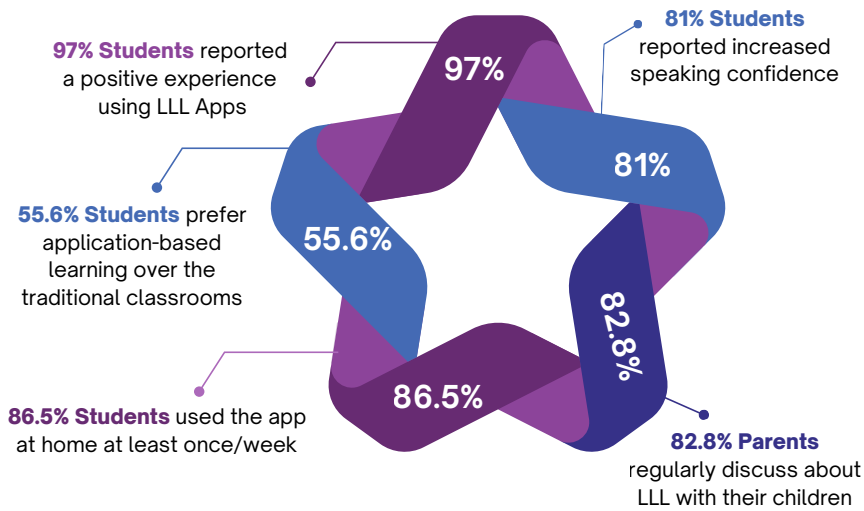
+72% 
improvement in
Reading Fluency

 **+24%**
improvement in
Pronunciation
Accuracy

 **+27%**
improvement in
Speech Rate



Assessment Results



Impact Assessment Sample and Methodology:

Students: Surveyed 20% of the student population using Finite-Population Formula (325 across 6 schools) | **Parents:** 20-30 parents per school | **Teachers and SLs:** All involved in LLL implementation

Focus areas: student engagement, confidence, usage patterns, parental involvement, teacher insights, and school leadership perspectives.

Stakeholder Stories

★ Student ★

“

In the classroom, we see only boards, chalk, the same teacher, same books, but in the Language Learning Lab, we use tabs for learning English, and that is very exciting! We are motivated to learn so much more than just restrict ourselves to textbooks.

”



Akshita,
Grade 4,
Sunshine School

★ Teacher ★

“

Being a teacher to young students, I have always looked out for ways to make language learning more interesting for them, and the introduction to the Language Learning Lab has helped me a lot in doing so. Since they earn points on learning, they are also very eager to go to the lab and compete against each other - this keeps them engaged. In the lab, they get to practice what they learn in the classrooms, and this approach has shown drastic improvement in what they say and how they say it.

”



Vanshika
English Teacher, Grade 4,
Hari Vidya Bhawan



Betiyan Scholarship Program

Launched in collaboration with P&G in 2021–22, the Betiyan Scholarship Program addresses the gender gap in STEM education by empowering young girls through comprehensive financial assistance and structured mentorship. The program supports access, retention, and success for young women pursuing careers in Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics.

In the 2024–25 academic year, we awarded 431 scholarships across 27 institutes in seven states, marking a 20.05% increase from the previous year's 359 scholarships. The scholars were selected based on state-specific eligibility criteria, ensuring fairness and inclusivity across diverse geographies and institutions, including ITIs, polytechnics, management institutes, and engineering colleges.



Holistic Support and Evolved Mentorship Model:

The Betiyan Scholarship Program goes beyond financial aid by offering a structured framework of comprehensive support designed to ensure long-term success. It provides full tuition coverage, effectively removing economic barriers for scholars from underserved communities. In addition to financial assistance, scholars benefit from one-on-one tele-coaching, career readiness bootcamps, and the Breaking Barriers Webinar Series, which features industry leaders and STEM role models.

This year, the mentorship component of the program was significantly strengthened. We engaged inspiring alumni as mentors and brought in CCS's Learning & Development and Finance teams to design and deliver relevant modules. Technology was integrated to enhance exposure and interactivity, particularly through webinars, while P&G's local team actively contributed by conducting sessions and volunteering. This integrated approach aims to promote academic and professional growth, cultivates leadership and confidence, and nurtures the next generation of female leaders in STEM.



In the words of Mahatma Gandhi, "If you educate a man, you educate an individual, but if you educate a woman, you educate an entire family". By supporting girls in pursuing education of their choice, we don't just expect to educate a girl but hope to spark a movement of change.

Key Highlights

Empowering Women in STEM



1355

students nomination received for the scholarship



431

students awarded scholarship



89.6%

Scholarship provided in ITI programs
(386 scholars)

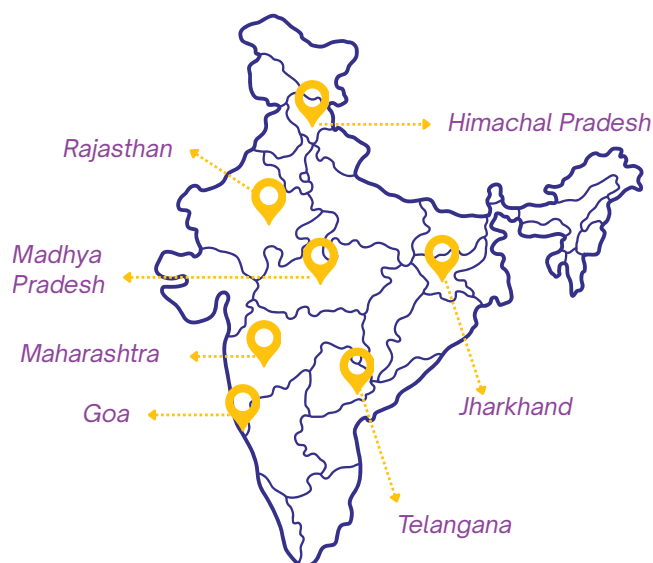
5x



growth since program launch
(2021 to 2025)



27 institutes across
7 states



Program Highlights



Conducted **11 in-person bootcamp** in 11 different institutes across **5 states**



356
scholars attended in-person bootcamps



Onboarded **15 tele-coaches** for the tele-coaching



245
scholars mentored via tele-coaching



Conducted **4 Breaking Barriers webinars** to inspire scholars to pursue careers in STEM

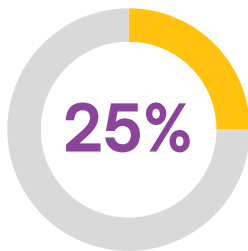


850+
unique attendance in the Breaking Barriers webinars

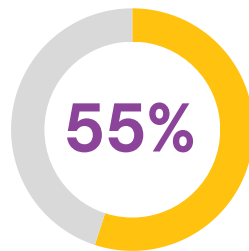


21K+
views of Betiyan YouTube success stories

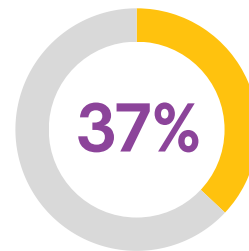
Boot Camp Key Insights



25% of scholars **gained clarity** on five-year career planning



55% improved **understanding** of resume building



37% explored **STEM career** options more confidently

Stakeholder Stories



“He didn’t win, but he spoke in front of a crowd. That was a win for me.”

Parent, Sunshine School (on their children’s participation at Savitri Bai Phule Speaking Bee Competition)

Sharavya (Hari Vidya Bhawan) overcame extreme shyness and gained confidence to speak publicly.

Sanvika (Grade 1, KPS Convent)
initiated English conversations with relatives and in church.

Harshita (Hari Vidya Bhawan)
expressed her desire to participate in the Speaking Bee competition and win for her family and her school (and she did win actually)

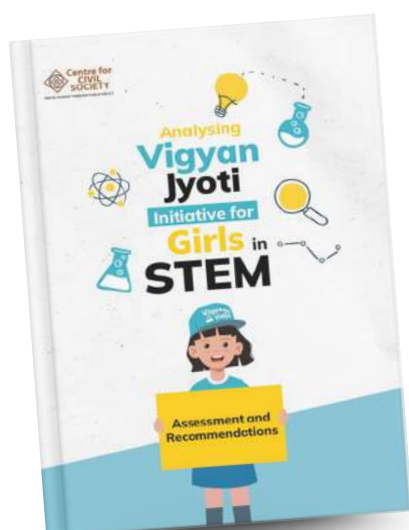
Ojaswi (Grade 2, Hari Vidya Bhawan)
became an independent learner despite having a very busy working mother.

Yug (Grade 3, Oxford Angel Public School)
started correcting his parents' pronunciation.





Analysing Vigyan Jyoti Initiative for Girls in STEM

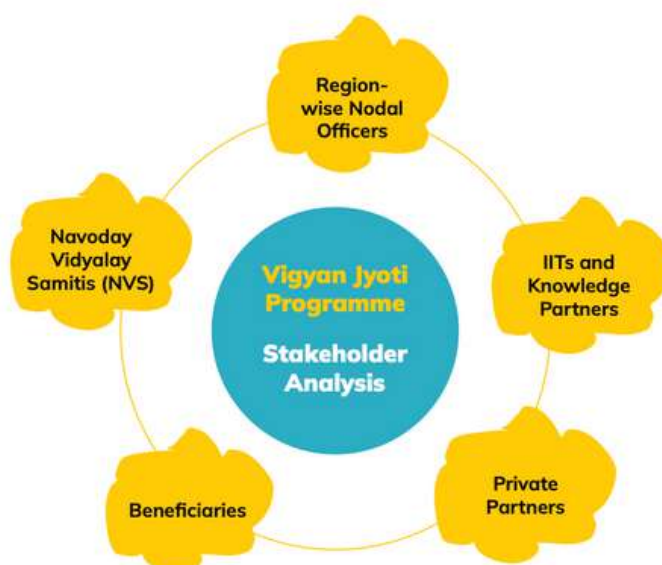


**Read the
Full Publication**
click here or scan QR



In India, women's representation across various domains of the Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) remains disproportionately low compared to men. To address this disparity, the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, announced the Vigyan Jyoti initiative in 2019. This initiative aims to bolster female participation in STEM fields by offering comprehensive support to girl students from class 9 through post-doctorate across 550 districts from 2020-2025. It aims to maintain and grow the talent pool in Science and Technology by motivating more girls to pursue careers in these domains.

In this report, we conducted an in-depth analysis of the Vigyan Jyoti scheme, employing both primary and secondary research methods. Our analysis covers the initiative's scale, scope, stakeholder experiences, funding mechanisms, feasibility, effectiveness, acceptability, and future potential. Based on our findings, we propose policy recommendations designed to strengthen and expand the initiative's impact.





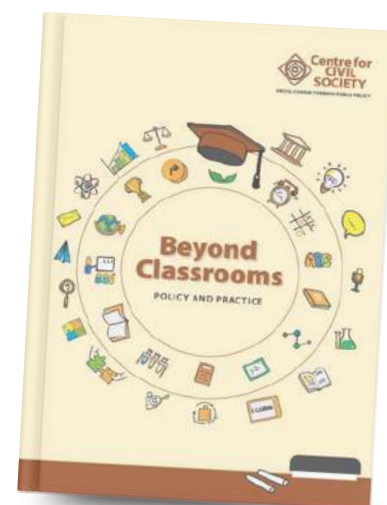
Beyond Classrooms: Policy and Practice

CCS Researching Reality Training Programme, stands as a premier research initiative with a legacy of over two decades. This program is designed to equip students with essential skills in policy research and analysis, making it one of the most respected training platforms for budding researchers across India. Guided by a commitment to fostering innovative and impactful research, the programme has successfully attracted participants from a diverse range of academic and professional backgrounds, each contributing their unique perspectives and problem-solving abilities.

The 2024 edition of the programme focused on the theme of Policy Challenges in School Education, highlighting the issues of Equity, Governance, and Innovation. This theme was chosen in response to India's urgent need to address stagnating learning outcomes in the school education system. While student enrollment has been on the rise, these numerical gains have not consistently translated into meaningful improvements in learning achievements. This stagnation poses significant risks, not only to the emotional and economic well-being of young learners but also to the country's long-term development.

Given these challenges, the programme engaged participants in examining critical barriers within India's education sector. Participants analyzed factors affecting equitable access, effective governance, and the need for innovative approaches to education delivery. With an eye towards creating lasting change, they were encouraged to develop solutions that could drive both immediate and long-term improvements in educational outcomes

Beyond Classrooms: Policy and Practice compendium was launched, showcasing insights from Researching Reality 2024 that highlight challenges in education equity, governance, and innovation.



[Read the Full Publication](#)
[click here or scan QR](#)





Blue Curriculum for Life: Reimagining Education for Ethical and Environmental Citizenship

The Blue Curriculum for Life is a transformative educational initiative that redefines how students and educators engage with the world around them. Developed by Shriji Kurup (Centre for Environment Education), and supported by CCS, the curriculum is designed for both formal and non-formal learning spaces. It nurtures ethical, informed, and environmentally conscious citizens through an experiential, values-based approach to education.

Rooted in the metaphor of ‘Blue’- symbolising both planet Earth and water, the curriculum reflects ideas of fluidity, interconnectedness, and shared responsibility. It moves beyond conventional textbooks and classrooms to promote participatory, co-created learning models that foster deep reflection, critical thinking, and dialogue around sustainability and social impact.

Pilot and Impact

The program was piloted across six schools in Delhi with remarkable results. Both teachers and students reported significant improvements in awareness, attitudes, and behaviour related to environmental and social issues. Further, the participating schools stepped forward to support and sustain the program themselves for developing a second module—an extraordinary testament to the curriculum’s value and CCS’s credibility as a partner in education reform.

What’s Next

The year 2025–26 will see the launch of Module 2 of the Educator’s Lab—a milestone moment, as it will be entirely funded by participating schools. This marks a significant shift from grant-based support to true community ownership, demonstrating not only the program’s success but also the strength of collaborative, impact-driven education.

This living model continues to show how education can spark action, foster agency, and drive sustained change from within the system.



Watch the Video

[click here or scan QR](#)



CCS Honoured as Finalist at Asia Liberty Forum 2024

We were honoured to be a finalist for the Asia Liberty Award at the Asia Liberty Forum 2024 in New Delhi! Our work in K-12 education reform and expanding school choice was recognised for advancing economic freedom and opportunity in India.

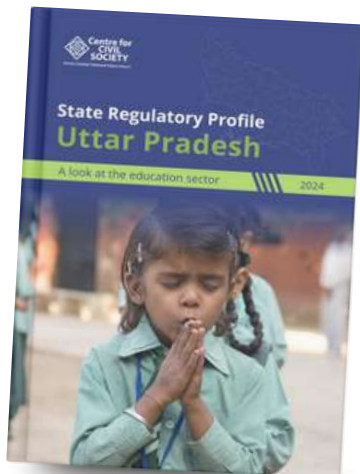


Fireside Chat on Early Childhood Education with Nobel Laureate Professor James J Heckman

On 24 September 2024, CCS partnered with Central Square Foundation (CSF) and UChicago Center in Delhi to host a conversation with Nobel laureate Professor James J Heckman, focusing on Early Childhood Education (ECE). Professor Heckman highlighted the transformative impact of early investments in human capital, based on his Heckman Curve. He emphasised the long-term societal benefits of ECE, stressing the need for early interventions, parental engagement, and quality home learning.

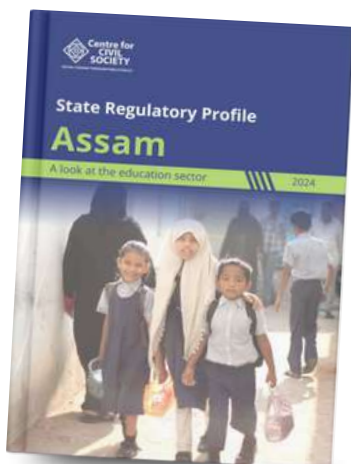


State Regulatory Profile



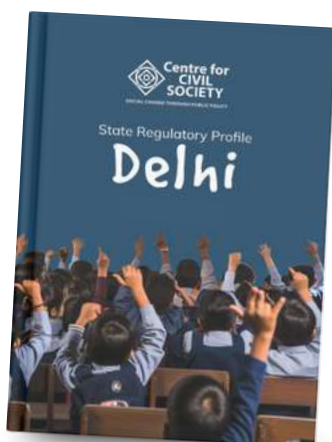
State Regulatory Profile for the state of Uttar Pradesh:
A look at the Education Sector

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State Regulatory Profile for the state of Assam:
A look at the Education Sector

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State Regulatory Profile for the state of Delhi:
A look at the Education Sector

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LIVELIHOOD



JEEVIKA: An app for street vendors of India

Harassment of street vendors across India is widespread, ranging from arbitrary fines and bribery to illegal eviction and seizure of goods. Despite the protections under the Street Vendors Act, 2014, enforcement remains weak, and legal awareness among vendors is low.

To address this, CCS launched the **Jeevika Mobile App**—an aggregator platform offering vendors simplified legal information and access to voluntary legal aid. The app empowers vendors to defe

This year marked a series of milestones and legal victories for the Jeevika initiative:

Jeevika legal wins:

On October 3, 2024, Bhupender Lochan, a street vendor in Karol Bagh, won his case with the support of our legal aid team, reducing an unfair Rs. 5,000 fine from the MCD to just Rs. 300.

Hanuman and Virendra, street vendors from Bhikaji Cama Place, were unfairly fined an amount of ₹5000 under Sections 357 and 397 of the Delhi Municipality Act. With proceedings that lasted for two years, our team ensured the successful closing of the case at the Saket District Court with decreased fines of ₹100 each.

So far, we've successfully resolved 92% of the cases, delivering justice to many street vendors in need.

This year was also notable for the honours, recognition and appreciation that our Jeevika initiative received in various forums and from diverse stakeholders:



Download the Jeevika App

click here or scan QR





Conducted **20+ Jeevika App installation camps** in Jaipur and onboarded **663 street vendors**



Data for Good Exchange 2024 India

Winner 2024

under Livelihoods Category

Our Jeevika Mobile App was recognised as one of the **winners under the "Data to Enable Learning and Livelihood"** category at the Data for Good Exchange (D4GX) 2024 India Empowerment Challenge. This recognition highlights our dedication to harnessing data-driven solutions to improve access to legal aid and awareness, empowering street vendors to overcome challenges to live a life with dignity.



Powered by **CGI**

Finalist

Our Jeevika Mobile App has been recognised as a **finalist at the prestigious Tech for Good Awards, organised by the NASSCOM Foundation**. This recognition celebrates our commitment to leveraging technology to improve access to legal aid and awareness for the street vending community.



Finalist

Our Jeevika Mobile App was recognised as a **finalist under the "Doing Good Through Grassroots Actions (NPOs)"** category at the Doing Good for Bharat Awards organised by CSRBOX.

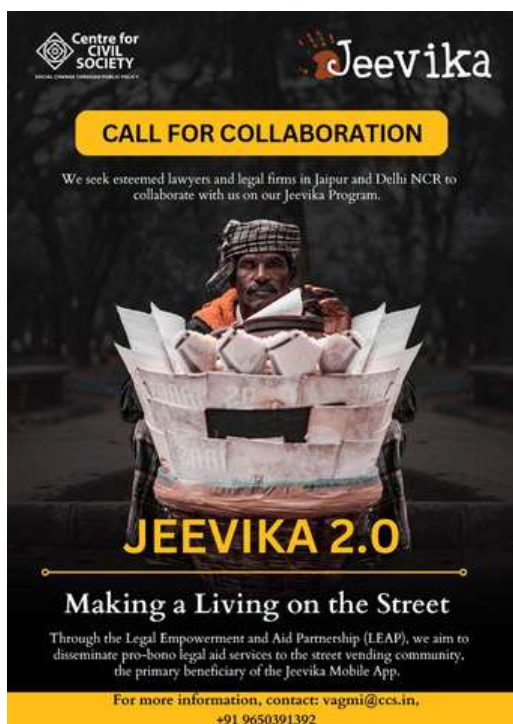
Jeevika Mobile App launch in Jaipur

CCS launched the Jeevika Mobile App in Jaipur on 7 September 2024 at an event held at the Jaipur Press Club. The launch was attended by over 300 street vendors, marking a significant step in providing legal support and resources for the street vending community of Jaipur.

Another significant achievement this year has been drafting a dedicated strategic plan for Jeevika 2.0:

The Jeevika App was launched as a Minimum Viable Product (MVP), recognising that a tech-based solution for legal empowerment was a relatively new concept in the street vendor ecosystem. Launching as an MVP allowed us to test the feasibility, assess real-world challenges, and understand vendor needs and engagement patterns before scaling. With strong on-ground traction and early user validation, we are now moving toward feature enhancement—transforming the app into a one-stop platform that will offer trainings on financial management, WASH, business/entrepreneurship, etc, access to scheme information, and more.





Jeevika LEAP Internship: Empowering Jaipur's Street Vendors

In September 2004, we launched the Jeevika LEAP internship at **Jaipur Engineering College and Research Centre (JECRC University), Jaipur**. The Legal Empowerment and Aid Partnership (LEAP) is an initiative where the Jeevika Mobile App partners with leading law, communication, management and social work institutes and universities from our target areas. Six legal and communication interns joined us to support street vendors through the Jeevika App, driving accountability and positive change.

Article on “Legalize Street Buskers” published in Telangana Today

Authored by Dr. Ghanshyam Sharma, Senior Fellow, Research at CCS, the article builds the case for legalisation of street busking in India. Dr. Sharma argues that legitimising street buskers can improve their livelihood, promote tourism, and preserve local art forms.

Legalise street busking

Recognising the rights of street buskers will help them earn livelihood, preserve local art forms, promote tourism



GHANSHYAM SHARMA

As more Indians migrate to urban areas, policymakers face the challenge of finding cost-effective ways to improve the urban experience for people. The government can improve the city experience by encouraging street buskers. Such a policy change will protect the livelihood of local artists, promote traditional art forms and make the city more lively.



nated public spaces. In Hong Kong, the Basic Law Article 24 protects street performers. The cities of Barcelona, Melbourne and Toronto have a similar

In the absence of any legal framework for street buskers, public authorities square busking with begging and

the city experience and contribute to the economy by promoting domestic and international tourism. They can also boost India's soft power and global recognition.

Alternative Platforms
Street busking can contribute to the diversity and democratisation in the art and entertainment forums. The entertainment industry in India is relatively homogeneous and does not appreciably reflect its diversity. The entertainment space is also dominated by a few leaders and restricted to some regions like Mumbai, Hyderabad and Chennai. Street busking spots in cities will create alternative platforms for artists while legal recognition will give space to new artists to showcase their talent.

Buskers also contribute to inclusiveness in the city by providing cost-effective live entertainment to people in open public spaces. Such spaces in the city can create an environment where people from different socioeconomic backgrounds can connect while appreciating local artists. Such an environment will provide a more equitable environment compared with expensive

Read the Full Article
click here or scan QR





GOVERNANCE

Repeal of Laws

As part of our Repeal of Laws initiative, we organised a high-impact **National Repeal Laws Day event on 26 November 2024**, the Constitution Day of India, at the UChicago Centre in New Delhi. The event brought together policymakers, researchers, and civil society actors to spotlight the urgent need to eliminate outdated and redundant laws that hinder governance and economic freedom.



Building on the success and networks created through this initiative, CCS was invited to present its work to the Ease of Doing Business (EoDB) division at the Department for Promotion of Industry and Internal Trade (DPIIT), under the Ministry of Commerce and Industry. The Additional Secretary appreciated our rigorous methodology, evidence-backed findings, and practical approach to legislative reform.



Further cementing its role as a trusted policy voice, CCS was the only NGO invited to present at the National Workshop organised by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCI), attended by secretaries from all Indian states. Here, we showcased our research and recommendations on legal clean-up and repealing obsolete laws.



CCS was also honoured to participate as one of the select speaker-observers at the Union Budget Webinar on Trust-Based Governance, keynoted by the Prime Minister and chaired by the Finance Minister. In this high-level policy forum, we contributed three forward-looking proposals: (a) introducing Sunset Clauses as a standard feature in legislation, (b) promoting decriminalisation by default with compounding as a remedy, and (c) fostering multi-stakeholder collaboration.

As part of the public consultation on the DPDP Draft Rules 2025, CCS engaged with a diverse range of stakeholders including school leaders, college students, civil society organizations, and street vendors. Across these discussions, participants shared how the new regulations might impact them, the challenges of compliance, and the support needed for effective implementation.

These insights are crucial in shaping a data protection framework that is practical, inclusive, and responsive to diverse needs.





POLICY TRAINING

iPolicy/ePolicy

iPolicy for Young Leaders

CCS Academy conducted iPolicy on 27-28 July 2024 with 20 enthusiastic participants, introducing them to the fundamentals of public policy from a liberal lens. Sessions covered topics like Economic Growth by Rahul Ahluwalia (Director, FED) and Public Choice, Importance of Cities, and Principles of Sound Public Policy by the CCS team.



Successful completion of Niti Samvad - iPolicy at Ashoka University

On 9-10 November 2024, we engaged with 30 bright minds over eight insightful sessions on topics such as education, public choice, urbanisation, law, and agriculture, delivered by experienced faculty members. Students also gained from dialogues with their peers.



ePolicy for Young Leaders

The CCS team hosted a total of 7 iPolicy and ePolicy and engaged with a diverse cohort of over 145 participants from across the country. The program covered pertinent sessions such as Economic Freedom for the Poor, Kinds of Order in Society, Policy & Environmentalism, Public Choice Theory, Principles of Sound Public Policy and more.

Faculty Development Program

This year marked a period of revival and expansion for CCS Academy, with new partnerships, pioneering programs, and a renewed focus on building intellectual communities. In November 2024, we launched a new partnership with Ashoka University by organising an iPolicy program, opening up new avenues for student engagement with liberal ideas. In February 2025, we conducted our first-ever Faculty Development Program (FDP) for the Department of Public Policy at Manipal Academy of Higher Education (MAHE), Bengaluru, a significant milestone in deepening our footprint in academic institutions. In March 2025, we brought back the PRISM Policy Hackathon, a hands-on platform for students to apply policy thinking to real-world challenges. Our regular in-person Colloquiums resumed, fostering open dialogue on diverse themes such as corporate social responsibility, inflation, corruption, and governing the commons.



Campus Talks

Campus Talk for High School Students

Sri Venkateswara International School, Dwarka, invited CCS to engage with high school students on careers and opportunities in public policy. The panel included a former IAS officer, a psychologist, and an entrepreneur, apart from our team member Aakriti Parashar.



Campus Talk at Hindu College by Barun Mitra

We collaborated with Caucus, the discussion forum of Hindu College, to organise a talk with Barun Mitra, Founder and Director of the Liberty Institute. He addressed more than fifty young students on how to put philosophy to practice and helped them appreciate the art of thinking clearly.



Campus Talks at Ashoka and Shiv Nadar University

We organised campus talks at Ashoka University and Shiv Nadar University with over 20 attendees. Dr. Amit Chandra, our CEO, and Kumar Anand, Senior Fellow, Policy Training & Academy, delivered insightful talks, encouraging attendees to think of pressing issues that plague the nation today and the avenues to bring about meaningful change.



Colloquiums

On 7 September 2024, we hosted a **colloquium on 'Economics of Corruption'** with 15 enthusiastic participants. The colloquium centered on the works of leading economists like BR Shenoy, Pranab Bardhan, and Lant Pritchett, which gave us some answers and left us with important questions about the nature and causes of corruption.



Colloquium on The Dilemma of an Indian Liberal

On 26 May 2024, we organised a **colloquium on the book 'The Dilemma of an Indian Liberal' by Gurcharan Das**. The event was attended by individuals from varying academic and professional backgrounds, with conversations focused on liberalism and its practical implications

Colloquium on 'Decentralising Governance' CCS hosted a **colloquium on 'Decentralising Governance'** for Researching Reality Scholars at the Indian School of Public Policy on 17 June 2024. Using the Socratic method, the participants analysed texts by Matt Ridley, a British science writer, journalist, and author known for his libertarian views and optimistic outlook on human progress, and Shruti Rajagopalan, a scholar, economist, and columnist with a focus on institutions, law, and development to explore the evolution of governments and the restricted autonomy of Indian local governments.



Alumni Meet

Reconnect and Relive – CCS Alumni Meet

Our monthly CCS Alumni Meet was a wonderful opportunity for alumni to reconnect, relive memories, and rediscover bonds. With engaging conversations and lively interactions both in-person and online, it was a fantastic time filled with nostalgia, networking, and the energy of like-minded individuals coming together.



New Course Launched - Political Economy of Development

An 8-module workshop about economic development and the practical challenges that make good policies difficult to implement.

Designed for those seeking deep understanding rather than quick answers, this workshop combines theoretical frameworks with historical evidence to build robust analytical judgment about economic development.

Spontaneous Order

Our ideas platform, the Spontaneous Order blog, was relaunched with 36 original publications across the year, offering fresh perspectives from faculty, students, and alumni alike.

Visit our website

click here or scan QR



Curated Conversations



Baithak on “Deciphering Gandhi”

Celebrating Gandhi’s birthday week on 7 October 2024, Barun Mitra and Gurcharan Das reflected on his approach to social change. The conversation was moderated by our CEO, Dr. Amit Chandra. The speakers engaged in how the practice of politics can be a force for good. They revisited instances from Gandhi’s times, his stance on political issues, and his experiments throughout his life. An important takeaway from the dialogue was the need to place people at the centre of public policy.



Watch Full Video

click here or scan QR

Baithak with Barun Mitra & Amit Chandra

In conversation with Kumar Anand, Senior Fellow, CCS Academy on **‘Reconciling Experiential and Intellectual Learning’**, Barun Mitra, Founder and Director of the Liberty Institute, and Amit Chandra, CEO of CCS, reflected on their rich experiences running campaigns on the ground. They discussed the perils of maximising state intervention, the rights and wrongs of choosing the policy path to address societal problems, the rule of law, and the importance of community.



Watch Full Video

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Baithak on Economic State of the Union

We conducted a Baithak with **Mohit Satyanand, entrepreneur, consultant, investor and policy wonk** and **Dhiraj Nayyar, chief economist at Vedanta** on "Economic State of the Union" on 24 May 2024. The speakers engaged in a discussion with Kumar Anand on the current state of the Indian economy, as well as the intended and unintended consequences of India's economic policies. The focus was on issues of unemployment, the interlinkages between the manufacturing and services sectors, and the urgent need for reforms in land and labour markets. The speakers concluded the discussion by each listing their three wishes for economic reform that the incoming government in New Delhi should take up.



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B.R. Shenoy Memorial Lecture 2024

On 21 November 2024, **Dr. Pravin Krishna, Professor at Johns Hopkins University**, delivered the 2024 BR Shenoy Memorial Lecture. He shared insights on India's trade policy and workforce productivity in the context of the ongoing national and global debates on economic policy. Our alumni network also saw renewed energy with alumni meets hosted in Mumbai and Bengaluru, further building a sense of community and shared purpose.



Watch Full Video
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Watch Full Video
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Discussion on the Freedom Movement of India with Tom G. Palmer

As part of Atlas Network's Freedom World Wide series, Dr. Amit Chandra, our CEO, and Dr. Parth J Shah, our President and Founding Trustee, participated in a live conversation with Dr Tom G. Palmer, where they discussed India's future in free enterprise and individual rights. Dr. Tom Palmer holds the George M. Yeager Chair for Advancing Liberty at Atlas Network where he also serves as the Executive Vice President of International Programs. He is a celebrated thought leader championing free enterprise and individual liberty, and a widely published author. Watch this insightful discussion on shaping India's prosperity!

CCS in partnership with Ashoka University

Public Policy in Action for the Young Scholars Programme

As part of Ashoka University's Young Scholars Programme, our team delivered workshops for two cohorts of 150 students on 27 May and 10 June 2024. We discussed rules, incentives, and principles of sound policy making and engaged students through interactive group activities.



Samaj, Sarkar, or Bazar for Lodha Genius Programme

On 5 June 2024, our team engaged with 35 bright minds as part of the Lodha Genius Programme at Ashoka University on the topic "Samaj, Sarkar, or Bazar". We introduced participants to public policy and discussed the importance of policy action.

Impact Numbers

2-day public policy workshops (iPolicy/ePolicy)

07

Programs

145

Participants

58

sessions

1-day Colloquiums

07

Programs

108

Participants

Political Economy of Development Course

01

Events

17

Participants

08

Sessions

PRISM Policy Hackathon
on Urban Challenges

Stage 1: Poster Presentation

30

Participants

Stage 2: Mock Policy Roundtable

11

Participants

02

Sessions

Statistics in Public Policy

01

Event

10

Participants

04

Sessions

4-day residential workshops
(Advanced Liberty and Society Seminar)

01

Event

34

Participants

16

Sessions

Alumni Meetups

05

Event

79

Participants

Credit Course

01

Event

120

Participants

10

Sessions

Campus Talks

07

Event

490

Participants

KEY EVENTS

Mont Pelerin Society General Meeting

CCS Brings the Mont Pelerin Society General Meeting to India for the First Time, Sparking Global Conversations on Freedom and Prosperity

Hosted by CCS in New Delhi, the Mont Pelerin Society (MPS) General Meeting 2024 tackled critical global challenges to freedom and prosperity under the overarching theme of '**Freedom & Prosperity for the Next 6 Billion**'. The conference featured over 40+ thought-provoking sessions, and 15+ interactive book cafés, and brought together 250+ attendees from 45+ countries. The conference opened with a highly anticipated Keynote Conversation between Nobel Laureate James Heckman, CCS Board Member Luis Miranda, and Atlas Network's Tom Palmer, setting the tone for an inspiring five days of dialogue. Special sessions such as Remembering David Boaz, Hayek's Nobel at 50, Life & Learnings of Nomadic Libertarians, Education in the 21st Century, and an Unconference, created space for deep reflection on both contemporary and historical issues.

MPS was founded by Friedrich Hayek in 1947, and is an international organisation composed of economists, philosophers, historians, intellectuals and business leaders who champion the ideas of liberty, freedom and prosperity across the world.

CCS was honoured to host the General Meeting of this landmark society in India, bringing together a global community deeply committed to the principles of a free society. This gathering served as an important forum for rigorous dialogue, cross-disciplinary learning, and building networks across regions and generations.

A rich array of keynote sessions, panel discussions, and community-driven formats gave shape to this year's meeting. From high-level plenaries to intimate conversations, each component aimed to deepen understanding of liberty and its practical pathways to human flourishing, and allowed participants to examine the deep link between liberty and human flourishing through a wealth of academic insight and lived experience.

Freedom & Prosperity for the Next 6 Billion

As some parts of the world have advanced rapidly—enjoying both freedom and prosperity—a significant portion of the global population, particularly in Asia, Africa, Eastern Europe, and Latin America, continues to grapple with restricted economic freedom and limited opportunities. The question before us is urgent and complex: How can freedom and prosperity be meaningfully extended to the next 6 billion people?

This central theme guided the Mont Pelerin Society's 2024 General Meeting. Against the backdrop of global transitions—from technological disruption to climate change, and shifting geopolitical power—the conference offered a vital platform to rethink the architecture of prosperity in today's world.





The conference opened with a keynote conversation between **Nobel Laureate James Heckman**, Luis Miranda, and Tom Palmer, focusing on Human Flourishing and Early Childhood Education. This kickstarted a week of reflective, high-impact discussions around how economic freedom, education, innovation, and institutional reform can work together to unlock opportunity for the Next 6 billion.

Before diving into the highlights, it's worth noting that the conference featured 40+ insightful plenary and breakout sessions, each one offering a unique perspective on our shared vision.

Below are some highlights from the programme that captured the spirit and depth of the conference:

Unconference

The Unconference was a highly interactive experience, designed to encourage participant-driven conversations. Unlike traditional formats, the speaker acted as a facilitator rather than a presenter. Multiple stations were set up simultaneously, allowing parallel discussions to take place.

True to its choice-based nature, hosts proposed topics they were most passionate about, and participants chose which discussions they wanted to join. They were also free to move between stations during a session while hosts stayed at their designated stations.

Twenty discussions were hosted around the central theme of **'Freedom & Flourishing for the Next 6 Billion'**, enabling a free-flowing exchange of ideas among attendees. The topics spanned a wide range, including Open Borders, the Energy Crisis, Agriculture, Socialism vs Market Capitalism, Education, and the relevance of Mises in China, among others.





Book Café

Fifteen new books launched over the past two years were showcased at the Book Café. Authors presented the key ideas from their books and engaged directly with the audience. The featured titles covered a wide range of themes—from Bitcoin and voter behaviour to personal memoirs on freedom.

Remembering David Boaz

A special evening session was organised in memory of David Boaz, a pioneering voice in the modern libertarian movement and long-time Executive Vice President of the Cato Institute. His work shaped generations of classical liberal thinkers and advocates around the world.

The session featured heartfelt reflections and conversations with Ian Vásquez and Walter Olson (Cato Institute), Dr. Tom G Palmer (Atlas Network), and Aaron Ross Powell (Reimagining Liberty), celebrating David's legacy and enduring impact on the liberty movement.



Hayek's Nobel at 50

Another special evening session celebrated the 50th anniversary of Friedrich Hayek's Nobel Prize, featuring Eamonn Butler (Adam Smith Institute), Lawrence H. White (George Mason University), Peter Klein (Baylor University), and Thomas Easton (The Economist).

Punctuation talks by Judy Shelton & Jayanta Bhattacharya

Judy Shelton (Independent Institute) delivered an insightful talk on **‘Good as Gold: Back to the Future,’** and Jayanta Bhattacharya (Stanford University) explored the critical question, **‘Is There Such a Thing as Non-Authoritarian Public Health? Lessons from the COVID Pandemic.’**



Deirdre Nansen McCloskey Appointed as the President of Mont Pelerin Society

Deirdre Nansen McCloskey, renowned economist and scholar of economic history and philosophy, assumed the presidency of the Mont Pelerin Society, succeeding Gabriel Calzada. Randall Holcombe, Professor of Economics at Florida State University and a leading voice in public finance and political economy, has been appointed as the Vice President.

Wealth of Some Nations

The plenary session on 'Wealth of Some Nations' featured esteemed speakers Arvind Panagariya (Finance Commission, Government of India), Stephen Brien (Artha Global), Deirdre Nansen McCloskey (Cato Institute), and Robert Lawson (Southern Methodist University).

This session explored why some developing countries achieve rapid growth while others lag behind. Drawing from global case studies, Brien highlighted the role of strong institutions, governance reforms, and economic freedom in enabling sustainable development, offering key takeaways for India's growth path.





Freedom & Flourishing: New Avenues and Old Challenges

The plenary session on 'Freedom & Flourishing: New Avenues and Old Challenges' featured distinguished speakers Prof. James J Heckman (The University of Chicago), Douglas J. Den Uyl (Liberty Fund, Inc.), and Gonzalo Schwarz (Archbridge Institute).

This session examined the relationship between freedom and human flourishing, drawing from classical liberal ideas and modern policy insights. The discussion highlighted themes like social mobility, skills development and human capital. Gonzalo Schwarz framed the panel through his work on the economics of human flourishing and Prof. James J Heckman focused on the role of early skills formation. The session reflected both timeless principles and emerging challenges in fostering individual well-being.

State & the Citizen

The plenary session on 'State & the Citizen' brought together influential thinkers Anantha Nageswaran (Economic Advisor, Government of India), Lant Pritchett (London School of Economics), Bryan Caplan (George Mason University), Shruti Rajagopalan (Mercatus Center at George Mason University), and Sanjeev Sanyal (Prime Minister's Advisory Council, India).



This session explored the evolving relationship between governments and individuals, examining the balance of state intervention, citizen responsibility, and democratic accountability. Through diverse perspectives, it raised critical questions about the role of the state in emerging versus advanced economies, the need for a renewed social contract, and the implications of both elected and unelected powers on individual liberty.

250+ Attendee
from **45+ Countries**

40+ Sessions

80+ Speakers



Attendees such as...



Roger Partridge,
Chairman and Co-founder of
The New Zealand Initiative



Ron Manners,
Founder and Director, Mannkal
Economic Education Foundation



Barbara Oakley,
McGraw Prize Winner (the
colloquial Nobel Prize in
Education)



Javier Fernández-Lasquetty
Former Member of the Assembly
of Madrid, Spain



Elena Merino Alonso,
Director of the Institute of Political
Studies and International Relations,
Universidad Francisco Marroquín



Jan Brzeski,
Arixa Capital Advisors



Jamie Borwick,
Member of the House of
Lords, United Kingdom,
British businessman



Pío Cabanillas Alonso
Spanish politician who served as
Spokesperson Minister of the
Government, Madrid, Spain



Mont Pelerin Society General Meeting 2024

Prominent Speakers

SUPPORTERS

Sarah Scaife
Foundation

Rajesh Jain

Fairbridge Capital

Girish Kulkarni

Basant Agarwal



Asia Liberty Forum 2024, New Delhi



40+ Participants | **25+ Sessions** | **50+ Speakers**

The Asia Liberty Forum (ALF) brings together thought leaders and practitioners from across Asia and the world to exchange ideas and experiences, build friendships and collaboration, and learn from each other for a shared mission of advancing freedom and prosperity in the region. ALF is hosted annually by Atlas Network—a US-based non-profit organisation that promotes individual liberty and enterprise—in collaboration with a local organisation in Asia.

CCS was privileged to co-host the 2024 Asia Liberty Forum. Held on 20–21 September in New Delhi, India, the event brought together think tank leaders, policymakers, activists, and scholars from across Asia to engage in dynamic discussions on promoting liberty and prosperity.

With the theme “Empower”, the forum introduced an innovative format: in addition to plenary sessions attended by all participants, the event featured a range of parallel sessions on diverse topics, allowing attendees to tailor their experience based on their interests. Interactive facilitation methods encouraged active participation, while the forum retained its signature hospitality and networking opportunities that foster deeper connections.

The event made space for a diverse range of discussions and case studies, from renewable energy advocacy in the Philippines to innovative regional investment strategies. Sessions on leadership, gender and sexual minority rights, and strategic collaboration offered participants both inspiration and actionable insights. Timely concurrent sessions delved into challenges like defending democracy in illiberal contexts and turning training into tangible policy impact. A standout luncheon session explored fresh approaches to engaging Asia’s youth to advance the ideas of classical liberalism.

A key highlight of the event was the Cornerstone Talk by **Kumar Anand, Senior Fellow at CCS**, titled “**CCS Academy: 27 Years & 12,000 Alumni Later**”. Kumar reflected on CCS’s enduring impact on advancing liberty in the region. Another featured session, “**Markets: Of the Poor, By the Poor, For the Poor,**” facilitated by **Nitesh Anand, Senior Fellow at CCS**, explored how free markets empower underserved communities.

ALF 2024 concluded with the Liberty Dinner, honouring champions of the liberty movement across Asia. Dr. Parth J. Shah, founder of the Centre for Civil Society, was recognised as the recipient of the 2024 Sir Antony Fisher Achievement Award honouring his 25 years of pioneering grassroots work in advancing classical liberal ideas. The evening also featured the "Think Tank Shark Tank" competition, spotlighting innovative policy pitches from emerging leaders. Namini Panditha from The Liberal Youth Movement, Sri Lanka, was announced as the winner. The 2024 Asia Liberty Award was presented to the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs (IDEAS), Malaysia. CCS was named among the finalists for the Asia Liberty Award, in recognition for our work in K-12 education reform and expanding school choice across India.



Advanced Liberty & Society Seminar

ADVANCED
Liberty & Society
Seminar

The Advanced Liberty & Society Seminar is a four-day certificate program designed to offer participants a deep dive into public policy and classical liberal ideas. This year's seminar featured a comprehensive curriculum covering Austrian economics, the political philosophy of liberalism, and the evolving roles of the state, market, and society. Across sixteen thoughtfully curated sessions, participants engaged in rigorous discussions, peer learning, and meaningful networking, fostering both critical inquiry and personal growth.

The seminar created an open, engaging, and respectful environment where participants were encouraged to critically examine complex social, economic, and political issues. Active dialogue and reflection helped them refine their perspectives and deepen their understanding. Beyond academic exploration, the seminar encouraged participants to reflect deeply on their personal values and the role of individual responsibility in building a good society. By grounding them in the fundamentals of liberal political philosophy, political economy, and public policy, the program equipped participants to better understand contemporary challenges and explore principle-based solutions within their own areas of work and influence.

Most importantly, the seminar connected participants to a wider global network. Through peer interactions and direct engagement with facilitators, they built lasting personal and professional relationships and gained access to resources that will support their ongoing contribution to the cause of a free and open society.

30+
Participants

15+
Sessions

10
Global Expert
Speakers

4/4
Overall Rating





Aaron Ross Powell
Podcast Host at
Reimagining Liberty



Barun Mitra
Independent
Researcher



Bryan Caplan
Economist and
Author



Christopher Lingle
Research, Political
Economy and
International
Economics



Mohit Satyanand
Entrepreneur



Parth J Shah
Founder &
Managing Trustee,
CCS;
Dean at ISPP



**Mrs. Shruti
Rajagopalan**
Senior Fellow,
Mercatus ; Author &
Podcast Host



Tom G Palmer
Senior Fellow,
CATO Institute;
Author & Theorist



Vipin P Veetil
Chair Assistant
Professor of
Economics
IIM Kozhikode

Samanvita 2025



On March 23, 2025, CCS hosted Samanvita 2025 at the Dr. Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi, celebrating women's voices, achievements, and journeys of transformation. The event was dedicated to honoring the contributions of women leaders who have been part of CCS's ecosystem through various initiatives. It felicitated the achievements of street vendors, educators, Betiyan Scholars, and CCS alumni, recognizing their resilience, impact, and role in driving social change.

Samanvita 2025 brought together over 120 participants from across India, including grassroots leaders, teachers, scholars, policymakers, and civil society representatives. Attendees came from diverse regions including Andhra Pradesh, Himachal Pradesh, Goa, Telangana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Mumbai, and Jaipur - making it a truly national gathering of changemakers and supporters of women-led development. The event opened with a vibrant musical performance that set the context and mood, weaving together themes of resilience, empowerment, and unity.

Among the most moving segments of the event was the tribute to women street vendors empowered through CCS's Jeevika initiative. A compelling video documented their journeys, followed by deeply personal stories from them. Renu Ji, Kiran Ji, and Kavita Ji, spoke about their battles against discrimination and the critical legal support provided by the Jeevika App. Their courage and determination received heartfelt applause from the audience.



A moment of great pride for us at CCS, the event also felicitated the Betiyan Scholars, young women who have excelled in academics despite significant socio-economic hurdles. **Veena, Palak Thakur, Ankita Sharma, Kanika Thakur, Karen Mitzi Mendes, and Pooja Thakur** shared stories of grit and ambition, highlighting the transformative impact of the Betiyan Scholarship program in building their confidence and enabling their dreams.

The celebration also honoured educators who have played a key role in improving students' spoken English skills, recognizing their efforts in creating meaningful classroom impact through CCS's Language Learning Lab Initiative under the Bolo English Project. Teachers such as Sheela Gogoi from Cardinal Gracious School, Sandhya Goswami from Hari Vidya Bhawan, Preeti Sharma from SD Vidya School, along with Prachi Dixit, Neetu Garg, Uma Rani, Shilpa Sharma, and Babita Pundir, shared how the intervention has helped students communicate with confidence and improved classroom outcomes.

Ms. Delina Khongdup, Member of the National Commission for Women, graced the occasion as Chief Guest and congratulated the honorees. She emphasized the critical role of education and skill-building in women-led development reflecting India's vision for 2047, and commended CCS's efforts in catalyzing grassroots change.

In the concluding segment, **CCS alumni - Rajul Jain, Daphne Vallado, Deepti Mishra, and Swati Aggarwal** reflected on how CCS shaped their journeys in public policy and leadership, reinforcing the long-term value of nurturing young changemakers.

Through stories, recognition, and community, Samanvita 2025 exemplified the spirit of collective action and empowerment. It reinforced CCS's mission to build an ecosystem that supports women in achieving their full potential, whether through education, legal empowerment, or leadership development.



120
Participants

Watch
the Event



See the
Photos



Media
Coverage



Savitribai Phule Speaking Bee - Spoken English Competition



The **Savitribai Phule Speaking Bee Competition** is a flagship event under our Language Learning Lab initiative, designed to promote spoken English skills among young learners through a structured and engaging format. Students from Grades 1 to 5 took part in the competition, with two students per grade nominated by each participating school. Each student had 1.5 to 2 minutes to speak on a given topic in English. Topics were carefully selected to be age-appropriate and relatable—such as "The Funniest Day in My Life" for Grade 1 and "A Freedom Fighter Who Inspired Me" for Grade 4. These topics were selected to encourage creativity and imagination, connect with students' lived experiences, and help them articulate thoughts in English. By speaking on familiar yet expressive themes, children practised forming structured responses, using relevant vocabulary, and improving their pronunciation and confidence, all key goals of the intervention.



Competition Objectives:

Enhance spoken English fluency and confidence in public speaking

Provide a platform for expression and healthy peer competition

Allow teachers and schools to evaluate students' progress in English speaking in a real-world setting



The evaluation was based on:

- Fluency and Pronunciation (30%)
- Confidence and Expression (30%)
- Content Relevance and Creativity (20%)
- Engagement and Impact (20%)

The competition directly supported the intervention's core objective of improving spoken English by:

- Encouraging active speaking practice beyond the classroom
- Building self-confidence and stage presence in English
- Reinforcing classroom learning through applied language use

Participation:

- 150+ students from multiple schools participated
- All speeches were in English, as per the competition rules
- Every participant received a certificate, and the top 3 per grade were awarded prizes

In 2024–2025, the Centre for Civil Society successfully conducted three editions of the competition—one virtual and two offline—with participation from over 150 students across partner schools.



Celebrated 27 Years of Transforming Lives



On August 15, we celebrated our 27th foundation day with a [Baithak featuring Sanjeev Sanyal \(Member, PM-EAC\) and Gurcharan Das \(Author & Public Intellectual, CCS Board Member\)](#).

In 1997, we embarked on a journey with a vision to expand choice for individuals and ensure accountability of institutions through education, livelihood, governance, and policy training. As we look back on this milestone, we are filled with gratitude for the unwavering support that has driven our mission. As we move forward, we are excited about the future and the many milestones yet to come.

Scan to Watch



Learning and Development Workshop for the CCS Team

Thinking Environment Workshop



Everything we do begins with thinking. If our thinking is good, our decisions are good, our actions are good, our outcomes are good.

So, what does it take for us to think for ourselves – with rigour, imagination, courage and grace?
After years of observation we have noticed that the single most important factor in whether people can think for themselves well is how they are being treated by the people with them while they are thinking.

Ten behaviours (Attention, Equality, Ease, Appreciation, Encouragement, Feelings, Information, Difference, Incisive Questions and Place) seem to help the most. Developed by Nancy Kline, they are called the **Ten Components of a Thinking Environment**.

To embody them is to be a Thinking Environment for people around you. To apply them to the structures of work with people in pairs and groups is to improve the quality of everyone's thinking and of the outcome of every interaction.

A Thinking Environment not only produces the best practical results of people's time together, it also dignifies, lifts, and allows the human mind and spirit to soar. This method has consistently demonstrated positive results in group settings while also fostering stronger relationships. It is a very valuable leadership skill to master, one that offers a tested in - to give people a framework within which people can to think for themselves.

The CCS leadership team has embraced the practice of The Thinking Environment...

“
One of the most
valuable things
we can offer
each other is the
framework in
which to think
for ourselves

”

CCS Story at IAF, Germany

On August 15, 2024, **Nitesh Anand, Senior Fellow, Policy Impact & Outreach**, shared the CCS story with global leaders from 21 countries at the Theodor-Heuss-Akademie in Gummersbach, Germany as part of the International Academy for Leadership (IAF), a forum and venue for international political dialogue and training. The conversation focused on the CCS method of converting ideas to impact and generated positive curiosity to convert classical liberal ideas into action and policy impact.



Learning Lounge - A New Series of Learning Sessions for Office Staff

We introduced "**Learning Lounge**," a series of interactive sessions for the CCS team aimed at developing critical conceptual and technical knowledge as well as soft skills among our team members. The first session, "The Things You (Really) Need to Know about Liberalism," was facilitated by Nitesh Anand, Senior Fellow, Policy Impact & Outreach.





SPOTLIGHT

Collaborations/Partnerships

Dr. Amit Chandra on Disruptive Talks:

Dr Amit Chandra discussed the urgent need to transform education to improve literacy on Disruptive Talks, a podcast hosted by Devi Sansthan.

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Building on the success and networking from our Repeal Laws Day event, we got invited to present our work to **DPIIT (Department for Promotion of Industries and Internal Trade)** at the EoDB (Ease of Doing Business) division at the Ministry of Commerce and Industries. The Additional Secretary (A.S) appreciated our approach, methodology and findings of the **Repeal of 100 Laws' Report**.

CCS was invited as the only NGO to present at the National Workshop organised by **Ministry of Commerce and Industry (MCI)** with secretaries from all the Indian states, where we presented our work on the Repealing of Laws.

CCS was invited as one of the select few active speaker observers at the Budget Webinar (keynoted by the Prime Minister and chaired by the Finance Minister) on **Trust-based governance - Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0**. We presented three ideas: the Sunset Clause as a mandatory part of legislation, Decriminalisation to compounding, and Collaboration for cleaning up.

Cambodia's Education Ministry Delegation visits CCS:

We hosted an 11-member delegation of the **Ministry of Education, Youth & Sports (MoEYS), Cambodia**, on 8 April 2024. The delegation visited two budget private schools, namely Muni International School and Oxford Angels Public School in New Delhi. A roundtable was subsequently organized on the Blue Curriculum for Life developed in partnership with Friedrich Naumann Foundation South Asia. An understanding was reached to introduce this curriculum in select schools in Cambodia to promote the idea of Blue Economy education. The delegation also called for closer association on many other education policy interventions given the cultural similarities between the two nations and the exemplary work of CCS.



Dr. Amit Chandra at Jagran Tech4Good: As a panelist at **Jagran Josh Education Summit 2024**, Dr. Amit Chandra discussed NEP 2020's progress and future prospects. He also highlighted Generative AI's role in societal betterment, offering insights into the intersections of education policy and technology for social advancement.



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FINANCIALS

CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY
Balance Sheet as at 31-03-25

Amount in Rs.

Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
I EQUITY AND LIABILITIES			
1 Owners' Funds			
(a) Capital Fund	3	6,42,61,341.20	5,55,54,244.51
(b) Reserves and surplus	4	95,98,000.00	30,00,000.00
		7,38,59,341.20	5,85,54,244.51
2 Non-current liabilities			
(a) Long-term borrowings	5	-	-
(b) Deferred tax liabilities (Net)	6	-	-
(c) Other long-term liabilities	7	-	-
(d) Long-term provisions	8	-	-
		-	-
3 Current liabilities			
(a) Short-term borrowings	5	-	-
(b) Trade payables	9	-	-
(c) Other current liabilities	10	5,117.00	2,70,348.00
(d) Short-term provisions	8	-	-
		5,117.00	2,70,348.00
Total		7,38,64,458.20	5,88,24,592.51
II ASSETS			
1 Non-current assets			
(a) Property, Plant and Equipment and Intangible assets	11		
(i) Property, Plant and Equipment (at WDV)		13,86,094.22	17,81,008.97
(ii) Intangible assets		-	-
(iii) Capital work in progress		-	-
(iv) Intangible asset under development		-	-
(b) Non-current investments	12	3,55,00,000.00	3,55,00,000.00
(c) Deferred tax assets (Net)	6	-	-
(d) Long Term Loans and Advances	13	-	-
(e) Other non-current assets	14	-	-
		3,68,86,094.22	3,72,81,008.97
2 Current assets			
(a) Current investments	12	-	-
(b) Inventories	15	-	-
(c) Trade receivables	16	-	-
(d) Cash and bank balances	17	3,56,74,149.78	1,94,39,824.27
(e) Short Term Loans and Advances	13	-	-
(f) Other current assets	18	13,04,214.20	21,03,759.27
		3,69,78,363.98	2,15,43,583.54
Total		7,38,64,458.20	5,88,24,592.51
Brief about the Entity	1		
Summary of significant accounting policies	2		
The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements			

As per our Report of even date
For M.Thomas & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No: 0044085

R. MURALI (Partner)
Membership No. 080972
UDIN: 25080972BMOXKR4646



For CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

(PARTH SHAH)
PRESIDENT



CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY
Statement of Profit and Loss for the year ended 31-03-2025

Amount in Rs.

	Particulars	Note	31 March 2025	31 March 2024
I	Revenue from operations	19	5,72,28,812.00	5,93,16,736.00
II	Other Income	20	34,54,957.40	40,38,693.00
III	Total Income (I+II)		6,06,83,769.40	6,33,55,429.00
IV	Expenses:			
(a)	Cost of goods sold	21	-	-
(b)	Employee benefits expense	22	65,48,220.00	1,27,29,143.00
(c)	Finance costs	23	-	-
(d)	Depreciation and amortization expense	24	3,21,818.66	4,50,192.45
(e)	Other expenses	25	3,84,35,537.96	7,93,13,082.27
	Total expenses		4,53,05,576.62	9,24,92,417.72
V	Profit/(loss) before exceptional and extraordinary items, partners' remuneration and tax (III- IV)		1,53,78,192.78	(2,91,36,988.72)
VI	Exceptional items	26	-	-
VII	Profit/(loss) before extraordinary items, partners' remuneration and tax (V-VI)		1,53,78,192.78	(2,91,36,988.72)
VIII	Extraordinary Items		-	-
IX	Profit/(loss) before, partners' remuneration and tax (VII-VIII)		1,53,78,192.78	(2,91,36,988.72)
X	Partners' remuneration (wherever applicable)		-	-
XI	Profit/(loss) before tax (IX- X)		1,53,78,192.78	-2,91,36,988.72
XII	Tax expense:			
(a)	Current tax		-	-
(b)	Excess/ Short provision of tax relating to earlier years		-	-
(c)	Deferred tax charge/ (benefit)	6	-	-
			-	-
XIII	Profit/(Loss) for the period from continuing operations (IX-XII)		1,53,78,192.78	(2,91,36,988.72)
XIV	Profit/(Loss) from discontinuing operations		-	-
XV	Tax expense of discontinuing operations		-	-
XVI	Profit/(Loss) from discontinuing operations after tax		-	-
XVII	Profit/(Loss) for the year		1,53,78,192.78	-2,91,36,988.72

The accompanying notes are an integral part of the financial statements

As per our Report of even date
For M.Thomas & Co.
Chartered Accountants
Firm Registration No: 0044085

R. MURALI (Partner)
Membership No. 080972
UDIN: 25080972BMOXKR4646
New Delhi, 28th August 2025



For CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY

(PARTH SHAH)
PRESIDENT
New Delhi, 28th August 2025



Acknowledgement Number:765239790220925

FORM NO. 10B

[See rule 16CC and 17B]

Audit report under clause (b) of the tenth proviso to clause (23C) of section 10 and sub-clause (ii) of clause (b) of subsection (1) of section 12A of the Income-tax Act, 1961, in the case of a fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution.

We have examined the balance sheet of CENTRE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY [name of the fund or trust or institution or any university or other educational institution or any hospital or other medical institution] as at 31-Mar-2025 and the Income and Expenditure account or Profit and Loss account for the year ended on that date are in agreement with the books of account maintained by the said fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution.

We have obtained all the information and explanations to the best of our knowledge and belief which are necessary for the purposes of the audit.

In our opinion, proper books of account have been maintained at the registered office of the above named fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution at the address mentioned at serial number 14 of the Annexure:

In our opinion and to the best of our information and according to explanations given to us, the particulars given in the Annexure are true and correct subject to following observations or qualifications-

(a) NIL

In our opinion and to the best of our information, and according to information given to us, the said accounts give a true and fair view-

- (i) in the case of the balance sheet, of the state of affairs of the above named fund or trust or institution or university or other educational institution or hospital or other medical institution as on 31-Mar-2025; and
- (ii) in the case of the Income and Expenditure account or Profit and Loss account, of the income and application or profit or loss of its accounting year ending on 31-Mar-2025.

Subject to the following observations/qualifications-

(a) NIL

The prescribed particulars are annexed hereto.

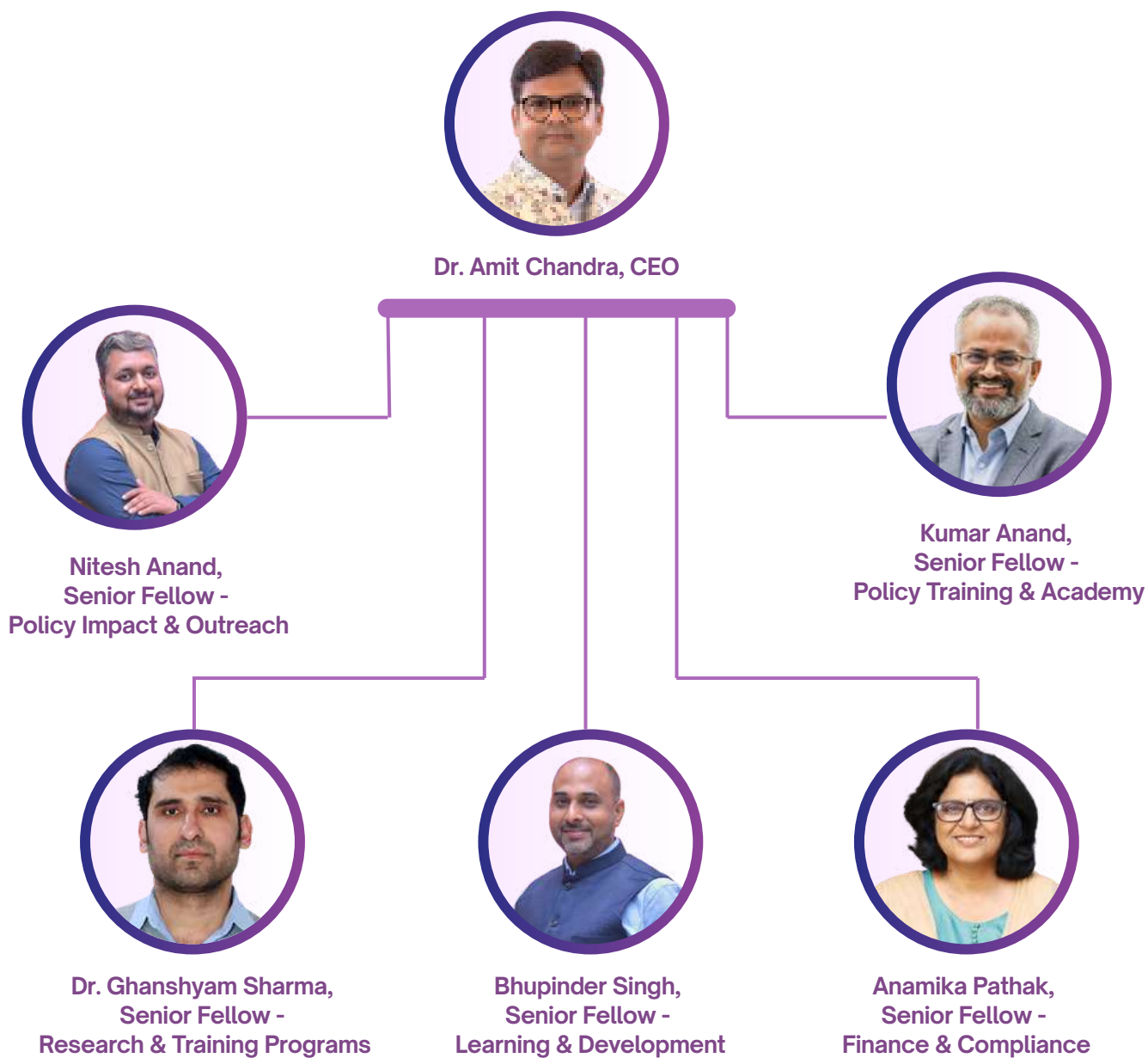
Name of Chartered Accountant
Membership Number
Firm Registration Number
Address
IP Address
Place
Date

RAMANAN MURALI
ARCA080972
0004408S
M. THOMAS AND CO., CAs, B1/2, 2ND FLOOR, HAUZ KHAS, NEW DELHI-110016
223.228.215.160
NEW DELHI
28-Aug-2025

PEOPLE

Meet the Team

CCS Leadership



Fundraising



Dr. Amit Chandra, CEO



Bhavya Mehta,
Senior Manager



Riya Vig,
Associate

Finance & Compliance



Anamika Pathak,
Senior Fellow - Finance & Compliance



Shubham Prajapati,
Associate



Rajesh Kumar
Associate

Research & Policy Training



Dr. Ghanshyam Sharma,
Senior Fellow -
Research & Training Programs



Jayana Bedi,
Consultant



Arjun Krishnan,
Senior Associate



Vagmi Sharma,
Associate



Heena Chaudhary,
Senior Associate



Snehal Thakre,
Associate

Policy Impact & Outreach



Nitesh Anand,
Senior Fellow -
Policy Impact & Outreach



Shashikant Rai,
Consultant



Deepak Kumar,
Associate - Jeevika App



Harshita Rana,
Associate



Bhupender Singh,
Associate



Kunal,
Video Editor

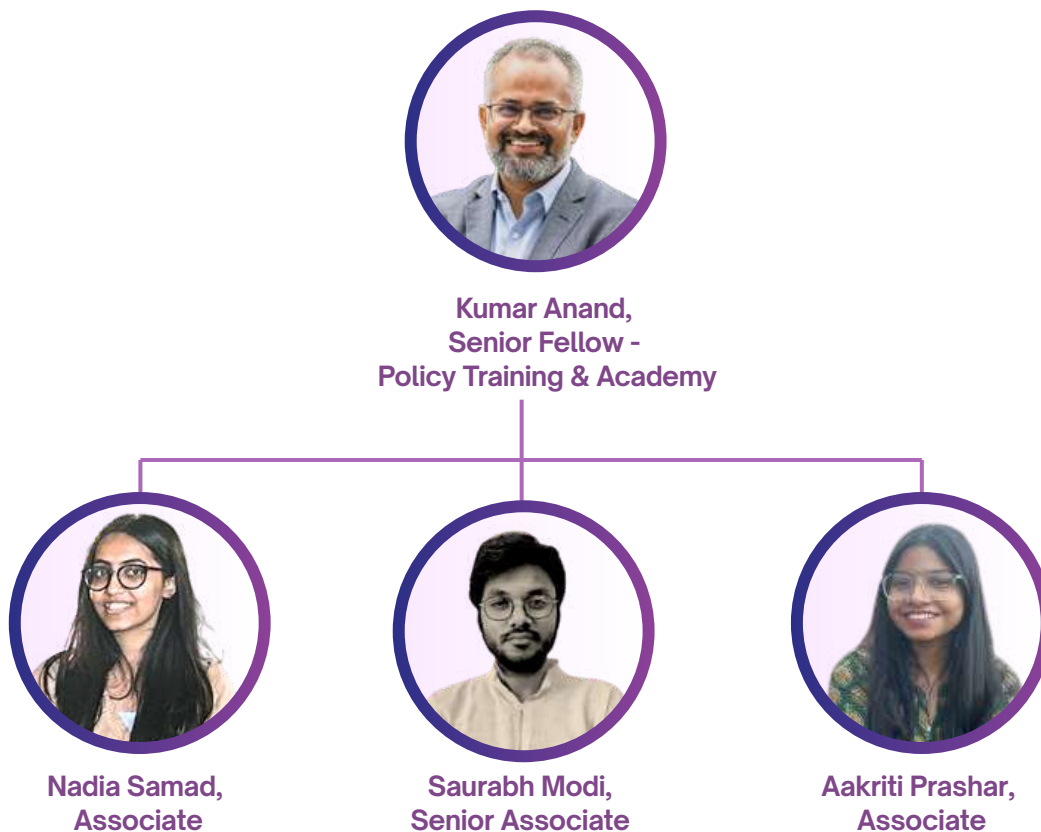


Ravi Kumar Yadav,
Senior Associate -
Graphics Designer



Varsha Chaturvedi,
Associate -
Digital Marketing

Policy Training & Academy



Learning & Development





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**Centre for
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SOCIAL CHANGE THROUGH PUBLIC POLICY

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