



# ANNUAL REPORT

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# 2025



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## About CDPP

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) is an independent, non-partisan research organisation dedicated to influencing public policy, particularly focusing on vulnerable populations. Our work spans research and outreach, aimed at disseminating valuable research insights. We conduct rigorous internal and partnership-centric research, emphasising empirical evidence to bridge knowledge gaps and offer innovative solutions to societal issues.

A primary focus of our institution is to narrow the knowledge divide between the government and the public regarding inclusive policies. We aim to inform and raise public awareness about existing policy frameworks, engaging people, and valuing their input in the policy formulation. We achieve this through working with a team of research professionals and expert consultants, under the guidance of eminent public intellectuals, and conduct various events like seminars, workshops, roundtables, talks, and regular publications. These platforms bring together experts, government officials, and the public for multifaceted discussions and debates on crucial societal concerns.

## Governing Council

**G. Sudhir** is a former IAS officer. He was Chairman of the Commission of Inquiry to study the socioeconomic and educational conditions of Muslims in Telangana.

**Amitabh Kundu** is Professor Emeritus at L. J. University, Visiting Professor at MANUU, and Trustee of Development Alternatives. A former Professor and Dean at JNU, he has chaired major committees including the Post-Sachar Evaluation, Diversity Index, Housing Shortage Estimation, and Housing Start-Up.

**Aalok Wadhwa** is a management professional with over three decades of experience working in FMCG, online and social media content, publishing, and retail businesses.

**Dr. Saleema Razvi** is the Director at CDPP. She is a Research Economist at the Copenhagen Consensus Center. She has previously served in organisations like the Indian Council for Research on International Economic Relations, the Population Foundation of India, and UNICEF.

**Abdul Shaban** is a Professor at the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai. He has been a member of the Post-Sachar Evaluation Committee, the Chief Minister's High-Powered Committee on Muslims, Government of Maharashtra, and Sudhir Commission, Telangana.

**Dr. Amir Ullah Khan** is the Founder-Research Director of CDPP and a Member of the Telangana Public Service Commission (TGSPC). He is a development economist and a Visiting Professor at the Indian School of Business (ISB).

**Syed Adeeluddin** serves as the Director of CDPP. In addition to his leadership role, he is a philanthropist and social worker, balancing his professional commitments with the responsibilities of his family's construction business. An engineering graduate from Osmania University, he also holds an MBA in Finance.

**Neelima Khetan** is the Managing Partner at Nous Consulting. A seasoned social sector advisor, she brings extensive experience in non-profits, CSR, sustainable development, and rural development. She has previously led the CSR divisions at Coca-Cola, Vedanta Group, and Hindustan Zinc.

**Jeemol Unni** is a Professor at Ahmedabad University and a former Director and RBI Chair Professor of Economics at the Institute of Rural Management, Anand. A specialist in labour economics, she serves on the editorial boards of the *Indian Journal of Labour Economics* and the *Journal of Development Policy and Practice*.

**Rathin Roy** is a Visiting Senior Fellow at ODI Global, where he previously served as Managing Director. His research focuses on fiscal and macroeconomic issues in developing economies. He was the Director and CEO of NIPFP in New Delhi and has held key roles at the UNDP and the Thirteenth Finance Commission. Dr. Roy holds a PhD and MPhil in Economics from the University of Cambridge. He has also taught at the Universities of Manchester and London.

**Sumaira Naser** is a philanthropist, educationist, and environmentalist. She is a patron of the Telangana Science Fair Academy, which fosters scientific temperament among youth, and serves as an advisor at the International Women's Startup Corridor (IWSC), with a focus on promoting women's health.

## Research Team

**Amitabh Kundu** is a Professor Emeritus at L. J. University, Ahmedabad, a Visiting Professor at MANUU, Hyderabad, and a Trustee of Development Alternatives, Delhi. Formerly a Professor and Dean at JNU, he chaired key committees, including the Post-Sachar Evaluation, Diversity Index (Ministry of Minority Affairs), Housing Shortage Estimation (Urban Development), and Housing Start-Up (RBI).

**Soma Wadhwa** is a development studies researcher, with extensive experience as a media professional. Currently she is a Research Scholar at the School of Liberal Studies and Media at UPES, Dehradun, India.

**Nahia Hussain** is Vice President (Policy Affairs) at CDPP with a Master's degree from National Law School of India, Bangalore.

**Anjana Divakar** is the Executive Director of Public Policy Research and Operations at the CDPP. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy from the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy.

**Laldinmoi Pangamte** is the Copy Editor, Publications, at CDPP. She has a PhD degree from the School of International Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

**Moumita Barman** is a Senior Research Associate at CDPP. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy and Governance from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Hyderabad, and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science (Hons) from Loreto College, University of Calcutta.

**Sejal Gupta** is a Senior Research Fellow at CDPP, working on the Regulation Project across Emerging, Infrastructure, and Consumer sectors. She holds a Master's in Urban Planning (SPA, New Delhi) and a Bachelor's in Architecture (RV College, Bengaluru).

**Manisha Dhulipala** is a Senior Research Fellow at CDPP. She holds an MSc in Science and Technology for Sustainability (SPRU, University of Sussex), an MSc in Environmental Sciences (Marathwada University), and a BSc in Microbiology (Osmania University).

**Lubna Ludheen** is a Research Associate at CDPP. She has a Master's degree in Public Policy from Mount Carmel College, Bengaluru.

**Mohammed Ahmed** is a Graphic and UI Designer at CDPP. He has a Bachelor's degree in Commerce from Dr. B. R. Ambedkar Open University, Telangana.

**Mohammed Rahmath Ali** is the Manager, Operations & Finance at CDPP. He has a degree in Commerce from Osmania University, Hyderabad, Telangana.

**Iqra Ahmed** is a Communications and Copyediting Associate at CDPP. She has a Master's degree in Journalism and Mass Communication from Dibrugarh University, Dibrugarh, Assam.

**Arnav Panwar** is a Research Fellow at CDPP. He has an undergraduate degree from FLAME University in Public Policy. He has previously worked as a research intern at TIDE, Bangalore.

## Research Interns

- **Aatrishnu Halder** is pursuing a Master's in Public Policy and Governance at TISS, Hyderabad.
- **Abdul Basit Baig Mirza** is a B.A. LL.B. student at Symbiosis Law School Hyderabad.
- **Abhik Sen** studied Public Policy and Governance at TISS, Hyderabad.
- **Ananya Kotwal** is a BA Economics and Political Science student at Ahmedabad University.
- **Anish Sukumar** is a BA Environmental Studies student at FLAME University.
- **Areeb Barr Abdullah** holds a Bachelor's degree from Jamia Millia Islamia and a Master's degree in Geography from Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia Avadh University.
- **Chirag Begwani** is a student at NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad.
- **Emaan Chimote** is studying Biology and Entrepreneurship at Ashoka University.
- **Ganesh Penumajji** is pursuing a Master's in Public Policy and Governance at TISS, Hyderabad.
- **Gayathri A** is a Master's student in Political Science at Osmania University.
- **Kavin Pillai** studies Public Management and International Relations at the University of Tokyo.
- **Meet Vithlani** is an Economics student at Ahmedabad University.
- **Mohammad Shahbaz Khan** is pursuing Public Policy and Governance at TISS, Hyderabad.
- **Rahul Preman** is an Economics student at Ahmedabad University.
- **Ratna Sahithi Gadepalli** has completed a PG Diploma in Public Policy and Governance at TISS, Hyderabad.
- **Rishit Raghavan** is a first-year undergraduate student at OP Jindal Global Law School.
- **Sahiba Meher** is a B.A. LL.B. (Hons.) student at RGNUL, Punjab.
- **Sai Priya Dubbaka** has studied History and English Literature at Miranda House, University of Delhi.
- **Shambhavi Sharma** is pursuing her Master's in International Relations from Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia.
- **Shraddha Pratapa** is studying International Relations and Psychology at FLAME University.
- **Srika Devarakonda** is a third-year law student at OP Jindal Global Law School.
- **Swecha Salluri** is pursuing a Master's in Water Policy and Governance at TISS, Mumbai.

## CDPP at Six: Growth, Learning, and the Road Ahead

As the Centre for Development Policy and Practice turned six, 2025 stood out as an important year. CDPP has grown from a single-programme research group into a policy institution working on multiple themes. We now focus on law and justice, digital governance, education, regulation, gender, livelihoods, and minority development. Setting up and strengthening the Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES), along with our ongoing partnerships and long-term projects, clearly shows our shift from project-based work to programme-led research.

Our growth is about more than just getting bigger. 2025 was also a year of learning for us. We learned to go deeper in our work while taking on new research areas and reaching more policy audiences without compromising our academic standards. We improved our internal systems and became more visible externally. This year's publications, conferences, impact evaluations, and public discussions show our dedicated effort to connect research with practice. They also helped place evidence within wider social and institutional settings.

Looking forward, CDPP will focus on three main areas. First, we will deepen our research programmes in law and justice, digital accountability, and regulatory governance. Second, we will build more interdisciplinary work in education, gender, and livelihoods, paying close attention to how institutions shape these fields. Third, we will invest in impact evaluations, data-driven policy analysis, and joint knowledge-building with civil society groups, educational institutions, and practitioners.

Our work would not be possible without our stakeholders. I am grateful to our Governing Council and advisory members for their guidance. I thank our research team and associates for their dedication. I also appreciate our partners' trust and support. I want to thank the authors, reviewers, speakers, and participants who have brought different viewpoints to our platforms. Their continuing involvement makes CDPP not just a research centre, but a place for open policy discussion.

As we prepare to enter our seventh year, CDPP stands with a clear sense of purpose and responsibility. This annual report highlights what we have done and where we are headed. We look forward to the next stage of CDPP's journey with humility, curiosity, and a renewed commitment to research that shapes practice and public debate.

**Anjana Divakar**  
Executive Director  
Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP)

## CLES: Initiative Overview and 2025 Progress Summary

*(Centre for Law, Economics and Society—A CDPP Initiative)*

### About CLES

The Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) is an initiative of the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) that aims to understand and improve India's legal landscape from the standpoint of individuals who enter the system as accused persons, especially those from socially and economically marginalised communities. CLES focuses on access to justice, legal aid, patterns of incarceration, and the intersection of poverty, discrimination, and criminalisation.

Access to justice in India remains uneven. High legal costs, limited representation, entrenched backlogs, and weak implementation of legal aid measures shape the experiences of millions. Marginalised groups—such as Muslims, Dalits, Adivasis, OBCs, women, and the urban poor—face additional social and institutional barriers. Although the Constitution mandates free legal aid to ensure equality before the law, gaps in infrastructure, staffing, and delivery have created persistent challenges.

CLES was established to undertake systematic, evidence-based research on these issues, document lived experiences, and propose practical reforms. Its work combines legal analysis, field research, case tracking, quantitative data study, policy reviews, and public engagement.

### About CLES Advisory Board

CLES is guided by a distinguished advisory board composed of senior jurists, lawyers, scholars, and practitioners whose experience spans constitutional law, criminal justice, public policy, and rights-based advocacy.

Advisory Board Members include:

- Justice M. N. Rao, Former Chief Justice (Himachal High Court)
- Prof. Faizan Mustafa, Former Vice Chancellor, NALSAR
- Shafeeq Mahajir, Senior Counsel
- Sanjay Chadha, Senior Counsel, Supreme Court of India
- Aman Wadud, Lawyer, Guwahati High Court
- Qudisia Tabassum, Advocate
- Afsar Jahan, Government Pleader, Telangana High Court
- Mohammed Faud Mirza, Philanthropist
- Dushyant, Lawyer, Andha Kanoon, Andha Samaaj
- Sumaira R. Khan, Advocate and Educationist
- Mani Chander, Lawyer
- Aleem Khan, Trustee, GBKT
- Azam Khan, Director, SDIF
- Hyder Khan, Board President and Trustee, USIPI

Their collective guidance strengthens CLES's research orientation, ethical standards, and engagement with the justice system.

## Progress in 2025

In 2025, CLES under CDPP, expanded its study of India's legal system by examining how individuals experience the justice process as accused persons. The team closely tracked 10 cases in Hyderabad involving low-income individuals to understand how limited financial resources, evidentiary gaps, and procedural delays influence custody outcomes and access to legal representation.

To build a wider empirical base, CLES analysed 220 cases from Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana, identifying state-level differences in offence patterns, the application of IPC and BNS provisions, and significant inconsistencies in available legal documentation.

CLES also reviewed the national Prison Statistics India 2023 report, released in 2025, which revealed continuing overcrowding, the predominance of undertrial prisoners, and the disproportionate presence of communities such as SCs, STs, OBCs, and Muslims in prisons. The analysis highlighted the limited use of Section 436A (this section allows undertrial prisoners the right to seek bail on serving more than one half of the maximum possible sentence on their personal bond), uneven legal aid delivery, and gaps in infrastructure and staffing.

Alongside this research, CLES continued its “Law and Society” podcast series, featuring scholars and practitioners who discussed themes such as anti-terror legislation, juvenile justice, homelessness, prison conditions, and structural delays in the judiciary. Together, these studies and public conversations contributed to a clearer empirical picture of India's legal processes and informed CLES's forthcoming work on state-level case analysis, legal aid effectiveness, and representation within the judiciary.

## Other Engagements

CLES participated in several key events in 2025 that deepened its engagement with questions of justice and the functioning of legal systems.

On February 9, 2025, CDPP organised a talk with Civil Judge and Judicial Magistrate Mohammad Asadulla Shareef on access to justice for marginalised and vulnerable groups. The discussion centred on the functioning of lower courts, procedural hurdles that shape case progress, and limitations of legal aid systems.

The principal event was the Development Policy and Practice Conference 2025: Law, Economics and Society—Ensuring Equity, Access, and Justice, held on 28th March in Hyderabad and organised by CDPP in collaboration with DEF, Goonj, TEG, MANUU, and CESS. The panel on Law, Access to Justice, and Bail Reforms brought together scholars and practitioners to examine how India's legal processes affect different social groups and the ways procedural delays, policing practices, and economic vulnerability shape legal outcomes.

The discussion focused on systemic barriers in the district judiciary, challenges of pre-trial detention, and the role of legal aid in shaping access to justice. Speakers analysed how bail conditions, preventive detention laws, and structural delays often result in extended incarceration for those with limited financial means. They also highlighted constraints under which district courts operate, including limited independence and administrative pressures that restrict judicial discretion.

Later in the year, on June 15, 2025, CDPP hosted a discussion on the judiciary and the rule of law at Abidi's Virsa-e-Deccan in Hyderabad. Chaired by Mr. G. Sudhir and presided over by Prof. Suleman Siddiqi, the event felicitated Ramsha Farhan, All India First Ranker in the National Law School entrance examination, and Arisha Nusrat, selected for the judicial services. The session reflected on legal education, pathways into judicial careers, and expectations placed on young professionals entering the justice system.

In the same month, CLES also began a collaborative research partnership with the All-India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPF). This collaboration aims to jointly study the legal, educational, and socioeconomic conditions of marginalised communities, focusing on access to justice, incarceration, rehabilitation, reintegration, and broader socioeconomic challenges. Both organisations aim to contribute expertise, facilitate fieldwork, and co-design research outputs with shared authorship and mutual learning at the core of the partnership.

Events

The events hosted by CDPP serve as a dynamic platform for exploring crucial social, economic, and cultural issues shaping contemporary India and the world. Through lectures, book discussions, conferences, and workshops, these events bring together experts, academicians, policymakers, and the public to foster dialogue, share insights, and inspire actionable change. From addressing themes like gender inclusion, minority rights, and population dynamics to exploring literary works and fiscal policies, the events aim to deepen understanding, encourage critical engagement, and promote inclusivity in public discourse. Each gathering reflects CDPP's commitment to bridging the gap between policy and practice.

The CDPP convened multiple events in 2025, addressing social justice, digital governance, and equitable development. Key gatherings included the Development Policy and Practice Conference and the Digital Citizen Summit, fostering interdisciplinary dialogue among scholars, policymakers, and civil society to advance evidence-based policy, inclusion, and accountability.

**Report Launch: Rethinking Affirmative Action for Muslims in Contemporary India**

The report “Rethinking Affirmative Action for Muslims in Contemporary India” was launched by the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with the US–India Policy Institute (USIPI). The programme included a screening of a short video and presentations by the report's authors: Hilal Ahmed (Co-Convenor of the Lokniti programme of the CSDS), Nazima Parveen (Associate Professor at the Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Liberal Arts, SGT University, India), and Sanjeer Alam (Associate Professor at CSDS, New Delhi).

A panel discussion followed, featuring contributions from Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Mr. Manoj Jha, Poonam Muttreja, Yogendra Yadav, and Ghazal Wahab. The session was chaired by Prof. Amir Ullah Khan, Member of the Telangana State Planning Board (TGpsc), and commenced with a welcome address by Mr. Ataullah Khan, Trustee of USIPI.



Date: February 5, 2025

**Discussing the Union Budget 2025–26  
Dr. Rathin Roy with Anant Maringanti**

Dr. Rathin Roy, economist and policy analyst, engaged in a conversation with Anant Maringanti, Director, Hyderabad Urban Lab, to examine the Union Budget 2025–26. The session offered a critical assessment of the budget's implications for economic policy, governance, and sectoral priorities. Held on February 9, 2025, at Lamakaan, the discussion explored key provisions of the budget and their broader developmental impact.



Date: February 9, 2025



### ***Development Policy and Practice Conference, March 2025***

The Development Policy and Practice Conference 2025 was held on 28th March in Hyderabad, in collaboration with the Digital Empowerment Foundation, Goonj, The Education Group (London), Centre for Women Studies at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, Presidency University, and the Centre for Economics and Social Studies, Hyderabad.

Under the theme of “Sharing, Development, People, and the Question of Redistribution,” the conference examined economic, social, and structural inequalities. Discussions addressed taxation, trade, governance, education, healthcare, legal aid, and digital access, with a focus on marginalised communities. Panels explored cooperative federalism, regulatory frameworks, global trade, climate change, and social justice. Experts from academia, policymaking, and civil society offered insights on bridging digital and economic divides and promoting inclusive development, generating policy recommendations to foster equity, sustainability, and systemic change.

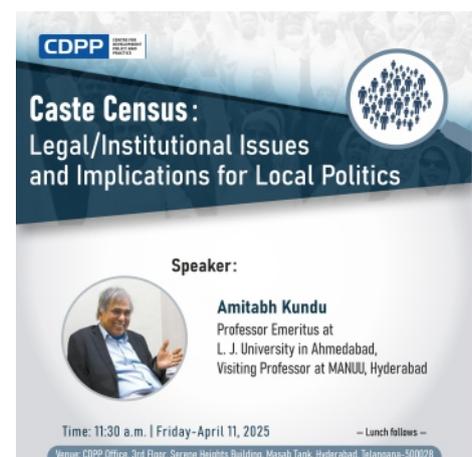


Date: March 28, 2025

### ***Caste Census: Legal/Institutional Issues and Implications for Local Politics***

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice hosted a discussion on “Caste Census: Legal/Institutional Issues and Implications for Local Politics” on 11th April in Hyderabad.

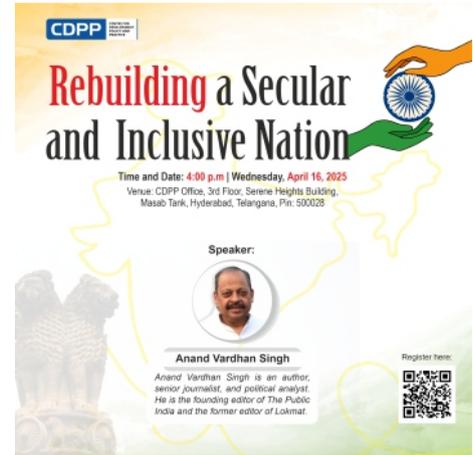
The session featured Prof. Amitabh Kundu, Professor Emeritus at L. J. University, Ahmedabad, and Visiting Professor at MANUU, Hyderabad. The discussion examined the legal and institutional dimensions of caste data collection and its implications for local governance, providing insights relevant to researchers, policymakers, academics, students, and activists engaged in social justice and policy analysis.



Date: April 11, 2025

### Rebuilding a Secular and Inclusive Nation

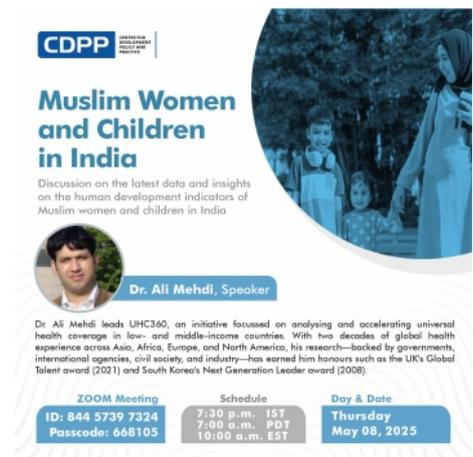
Anand Vardhan Singh, author, senior journalist, and political analyst, and founding Editor of *The Public India*, delivered a talk on “Rebuilding a Secular and Inclusive Nation” on 16th April at the CDPP office. Formerly an editor of *Lokmat*, he drew on decades of experience in media and political commentary to provide insights into Indian politics, governance, social concerns, policy matters, and public discourse.



Date: April 16, 2025

### Muslim Women and Children in India

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice hosted a special talk on “Muslim Women and Children in India” on May 8th, featuring Dr. Ali Mehdi, global health expert and head of UHC360, an initiative advancing universal health coverage in low- and middle-income countries. Drawing on two decades of experience across Asia, Africa, Europe, and North America, Dr. Mehdi discussed public health, equity, and the lived realities of Muslim women and children in India.



Date: May 8, 2025

### Roundtable Discussion on Rethinking Regulation

A roundtable on India's evolving food landscape was held on 17th June, focusing on regulatory challenges amid innovation and changing consumer habits. Industry leaders discussed bottlenecks, alignment gaps, and collaborative pathways for progress.

Participants included Aalok Wadhwa, author and Strategic Advisor at Gurgaon Foodie; Anirudha Chhonkar, Lead of Regulatory Affairs at FICCI; and Ashish Gupta, Director of Kaizzen Insights.



Date: June 17, 2025

### Evolving Contours of the Right to Development

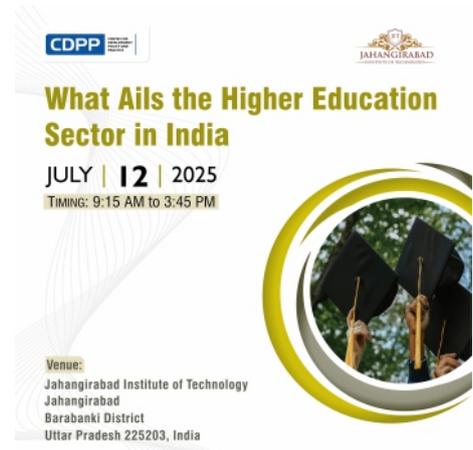
Prof. Archana Negi, Professor of Diplomacy and Disarmament at the School of International Studies, JNU, hosted a discussion on 10th July at the CDPP Office in Hyderabad. Drawing on her extensive scholarship, including works on sustainability standards, global governance, and the right to development, Prof. Negi explored how the concept has transformed over time and why it remains crucial in today's shifting global landscape.



Date: July 10, 2025

***Scope of Higher Education in India: What Ails the Higher Education Sector in India***

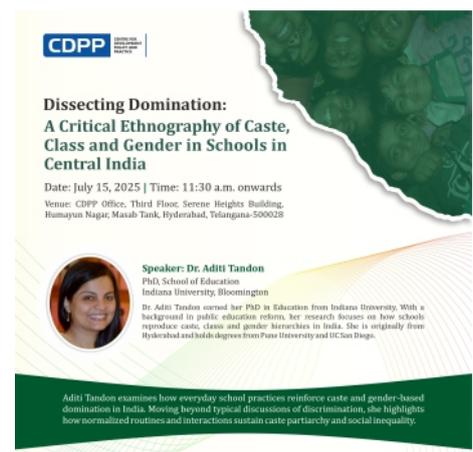
The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) organised a full-day seminar on a critical theme in contemporary policy discourse: “Scope of Higher Education in India: What Ails the Higher Education Sector in India,” held at Jahangirabad Institute of Technology, Jahangirabad, Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh. This timely dialogue delved into the institutional, economic, and policy challenges facing higher education in India today. It was especially relevant for educators, policymakers, researchers, students, and civil society actors committed to strengthening India's educational landscape.



Date: July 12, 2025

***Dissecting Domination: A Critical Ethnography of Caste, Class, and Gender in Schools in Central India***

Dr. Aditi Tandon delivered a talk titled, “A Critical Ethnography of Caste, Class, and Gender in Schools in Central India” on July 15th at the CDPP office. Drawing on extensive fieldwork, Dr. Tandon examined how everyday school routines and interactions reproduce caste, class, and gender hierarchies, highlighting the subtle mechanisms through which systemic inequalities persist. A researcher in public education reform, she offered insights into the structural forces shaping educational environments.



Date: July 15, 2025

## Gender and Inclusion Conference, 2025

The Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025 was held on August 8th and 9th in collaboration with the Kautilya School of Public Policy, the Centre for Women Studies at Maulana Azad National Urdu University, The Education Group (London), Digital Empowerment Foundation, and the International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad. The conference examined how digital transformation shapes gendered inclusion and exclusion, highlighting that technological progress can deepen inequalities while also creating pathways for empowerment when supported by inclusive policy frameworks.

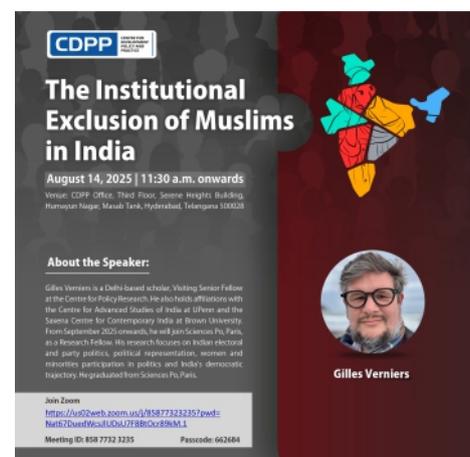
Discussions explored digital gaps affecting women, gender-diverse persons, and persons with disabilities, emphasising that access must be accompanied by agency, safety, and representation. Themes included digital entrepreneurship, online safety, algorithmic bias, and digital health equity, with case studies illustrating inclusive innovation across livelihoods, education, and governance. The conference concluded that technology must be shaped to address intersecting vulnerabilities, and that equitable digital progress requires collaborative and systemic action.



Date: August 8–9, 2025

## The Institutional Exclusion of Muslims in India

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice hosted a lecture by Gilles Verniers (Researcher at Sciences Po, Paris) titled, “The Institutional Exclusion of Muslims in India,” on August 14th. He showed a noticeable trend since 2014: Although the number of Muslims contesting elections has increased, their success rates have declined due to parties increasingly withholding nominations. Barriers to political entry, limited institutional support, and short political tenures further constrain representation, with Muslim women facing the greatest exclusion. Mr. Verniers argued that the institutional exclusion of Muslims is not new but has intensified in recent years, compounding socioeconomic marginalisation. Without descriptive representation in institutions of power, communities remain invisible to the state, excluded from resources, and denied equal citizenship in practice.

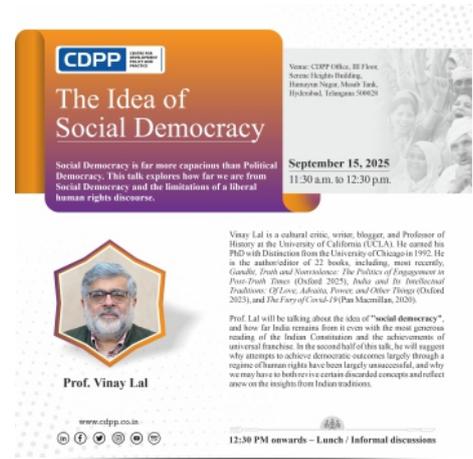


Date: August 14, 2025

***The Idea of Social Democracy***

A lecture on “The Idea of Social Democracy” was held on September 15th, at the Centre for Development Policy and Practice office in Hyderabad, delivered by Prof. Vinay Lal, cultural critic and Professor of History at University of California Los Angeles (UCLA). Drawing on his extensive scholarship, he discussed India's distance from the ideals of social democracy and the relevance of Indian intellectual traditions for revitalising democratic practice.

The session examined why efforts to advance democratic outcomes have been constrained and highlighted the need to rethink established concepts in light of historical insights.



Date: September 15, 2025

***Genocide and Hope: Lessons from Robben Island and Book Launch—The Hindi Heartland***

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice hosted an evening discussion and book launch at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, on September 16th. Prof. Vinay Lal, Professor of History at UCLA, delivered a talk titled, “Genocide and Hope: Lessons from Robben Island,” reflecting on the transformation of a site of repression into a space of resilience.

The programme also featured the release of *The Hindi Heartland* by Ghazala Wahab, a noted journalist and author whose work focuses on security, social justice, and the lived realities of marginalised communities in India.



Date: September 16, 2025

### ***Book Discussion: The Hindi Heartland***

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice hosted a thought-provoking book discussion on “The Hindi Heartland,” by eminent journalist and author Ghazala Wahab. Ms. Wahab's work focuses on security, social justice, and the lived realities of marginalised communities in India. Her book examines the sociopolitical landscape of northern India, tracing how history, identity, and power shape contemporary public life. Wahab discussed the themes of the book, highlighting the questions about belonging, citizenship, and the shifting dynamics of cultural and political assertion in the region.



Date: September 16, 2025

### ***Weekly Webinar Series: Digital Citizen Summit 2025***

The Digital Citizen Summit (DCS) 2025 Webinar Series, organised by CDPP and DEF, ran from October to November 2025 under the theme, “Road to People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability.” The series comprised six thematic sessions:

1. Governing Data, Governing Rights
2. Digital Justice and Citizenship
3. Truth in the Age of Disinformation
4. Technology for Local Futures
5. Digital Artisans and Cultural Innovation
6. Ethical AI for Social Good

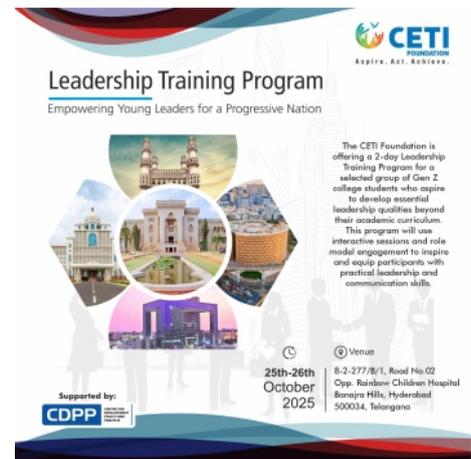
Each theme addressed dimensions of accountability, rights, and inclusion in the digital ecosystem, drawing on expertise from researchers, practitioners, and community leaders.



Date: Every Wednesday  
October 8–November 12, 2025

### CETI Leadership Training Program

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice supported CETI Foundation's two-day leadership programme designed for selected college students to cultivate leadership qualities beyond academic learning. Through interactive sessions and role model engagement, the training focused on building practical skills in leadership, communication, and civic-minded professional development.



Date: October 25–26, 2025

### DCS Day-0 Event: Book Discussion by Dr. Rajiv Kumar

A session to discuss the book “Everything All At Once,” authored by Rajiv Kumar and Ishan Joshi, which examines six simultaneous global transitions that are reshaping international order, was organised at the CDPP office as part of the countdown to DCS. The book argues that India must shift beyond business-as-usual policymaking, embrace innovation, and advance a “Coalition of the Willing” among Global South nations to achieve Viksit Bharat. The discussion was led by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, ex-Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog (2017–2022).



Date: November 13, 2025

**DCS Day-0 Event: Talk by Prof. Ran Greenstein**

This talk, organised at the CDPP office as part of the countdown to the DCS, examined the interconnections between policy design, institutional reforms, and collective memory in divided societies. Prof. Ran Greenstein, Research Associate at the School of Social Sciences, University of the Witwatersrand, Johannesburg, discussed how tensions between political reconciliation, economic development, and structural justice shape governance outcomes. Adopting a critical comparative perspective, he analysed conditions under which societies can transition from managed coexistence to genuinely inclusive and participatory forms of citizenship.



Date: November 13, 2025

**Digital Citizen Summit**

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) announced the 7th Digital Citizen Summit (DCS), which was held on November 14–15, 2025, at T-Hub, Hyderabad.

The summit convened scholars, practitioners, technologists, civil society leaders, and policymakers to examine critical questions concerning digital governance, inclusion, and rights. Framed by the theme “People & Platforms: Let’s Talk Accountability,” the 2025 edition underscored the urgency of recognising digital infrastructures as public goods. It centred on issues of power, participation, and justice in digital spaces, and facilitated rigorous dialogue on how platforms shaped collective digital futures.



Date: November 14–15, 2025

## Working Papers

The working papers series explores critical socioeconomic and cultural issues shaping contemporary India. These papers aim to foster dialogue, provide in-depth analysis, and propose actionable strategies for inclusive development. Each contribution reflects rigorous research, exploring themes like education, gender equity, public health, labour participation, and communal harmony. By blending empirical data, policy reviews, and intersectional insights, the series offers a nuanced understanding of challenges and opportunities in India's evolving landscape. Designed for academics, policymakers, and practitioners, the working papers serve as a resource to inspire informed debates and drive meaningful change.

*January 2025*

**Title:** Understanding the Regulatory Landscape of Emerging and Infrastructure Sectors

**Author:** Sejal Gupta

**Abstract:** This working paper examines the evolving regulatory landscape governing emerging and infrastructure sectors, emphasising the dynamic interplay between policy frameworks, market forces, and economic growth. It explores historical trends, identifies key challenges, and analyses contemporary regulatory practices impacting sectoral performance. Drawing on extensive research and expert insights, the paper evaluates the effectiveness of existing policies and proposes recommendations for enhanced governance and operational efficiency. In acknowledging contributions from academic and policy experts, the study underlines the importance of adaptive regulatory measures to foster sustainable development and competitiveness in rapidly transforming economic environments. The analysis provides novel insights for policy reform.



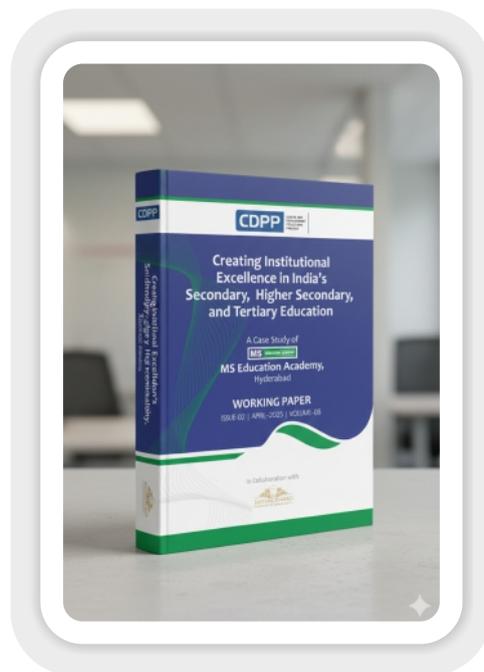
**Link:** <https://zenodo.org/records/15463078>

**April 2025**

**Title:** Creating Institutional Excellence in India's Secondary, Higher Secondary, and Tertiary Education

**Author:** Rashad Ullah Khan

**Abstract:** This study investigates the role of MS Education Academy, Hyderabad, in promoting institutional excellence across secondary, higher secondary, and tertiary education in India. Using a mixed-methods approach, the study integrates quantitative data on enrolment trends, public and private expenditure, and institutional finances with qualitative insights drawn from surveys and interviews conducted among students and faculty at MS Education Academy branches. The findings reveal that the MS Education Academy demonstrates considerable strengths in teaching quality, infrastructural adequacy, and the integration of Islamic values in the curriculum. Students report high levels of satisfaction with faculty support and pedagogical practices. However, the research identifies critical gaps in extracurricular engagement, placement readiness, administrative efficiency in fee collection, and hygiene maintenance in certain campuses. The financial analysis shows a substantial gap between ideal and actual fee recovery due to widespread fee concessions, raising sustainability concerns. The recommendations emphasise the need for a formalised concession policy, greater investment in faculty development, and improved administrative processes. The report positions MS Education Academy as a potential model for bridging the divide between quality and affordability in Indian private education.



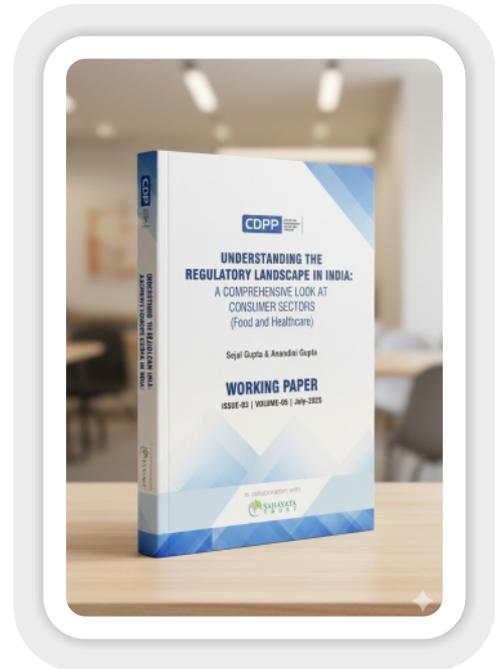
**Link:** <https://zenodo.org/records/15463042>

*July 2025*

**Title:** Understanding the Regulatory Landscape in India: A Comprehensive Look at Consumer Sectors (Food Safety and Healthcare)

**Author:** Sejal Gupta and Anandini Gupta

**Abstract:** This study examines how India's regulatory system is adapting to rapid transformations in two core consumer sectors—food and healthcare. It evaluates laws, regulatory bodies, enforcement mechanisms, and key gaps, comparing India's approach with global best practices. In the food and beverage sector, which contributes 3% to GDP and employs over 7.3 million people, the paper highlights fast growth but persistent challenges such as fragmented regulation, weak enforcement, and supply chain inefficiencies. A more consumer-centric and harmonised framework is recommended to improve food safety and support innovation. The healthcare analysis reviews public and private systems across hospitals, pharmaceuticals, diagnostics, insurance, and digital health. Despite reforms like Ayushman Bharat and the National Digital Health Mission, further regulatory coherence, sustainable financing, and attention to mental health, drug pricing, and research are needed. The paper concludes that strengthening regulation and institutional capacity in both sectors is essential to advance equity, public trust, and sustainable national development.



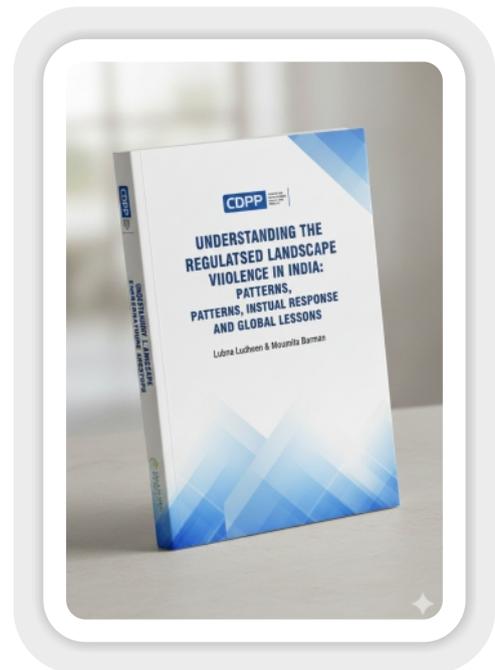
**Link:** <https://zenodo.org/records/17432863>

*October 2025*

**Title:** Understanding Gender-Based Violence in India: Patterns, Institutional Response, and Global Lessons

**Author:** Lubna Ludheen and Moumita Barman

**Abstract:** Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in India spans intersections of caste, class, religion, gender identity, and geography, making it a critical human rights concern. This paper synthesises existing data, legal frameworks, and scholarships on GBV, to understand its forms, impacts, and institutional responses through both national and global lenses. It situates GBV within India's sociocultural and historical contexts, from patriarchal and colonial legacies to present-day inequities, and expands its scope beyond intimate and sexual violence to include digital, caste- and religion-based, and state or community-inflicted harms. Drawing on NCRB, NFHS, media, and legal data, the study highlights underreported violence and systemic barriers to justice. Incorporating insights from Sweden, Argentina, Rwanda, South Africa, and Bangladesh, it outlines effective practices such as preventive education, survivor-centered policing, and community justice. The paper concludes that eliminating GBV demands intersectional, systemic, and rights-based reforms for inclusive and sustainable change.



**Link:** <https://zenodo.org/records/17490929>

## Journal Publications



Link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/home/jdp>

The Journal of Development Policy and Practice (JDPP) is a flagship journal of the Centre for Development Policy and Practice. It aims to document and discuss the process of development policy formulation, its practice and outcomes, bridging the gap between scholarship and practice, and reflecting on the relationship between theory and application of public policy.

JDPP is committed to publishing relevant articles selected through a fair and rigorous peer review process, with the understanding that knowledge and experiences are best improved when shared and debated. The journal is currently published tri-annually by SAGE, features academic papers, book reviews, and special essays.

In 2025, the first issue was a special issue named “Technology and Society.” This explored how rapid technological advancements are reshaping key aspects of society, from democracy and justice to identity and individual rights. It examines emerging debates on data ownership, the dilemmas created by technology-enabled justice systems, and the limitations of relying on a single digital identifier for marginalised communities such as transgender persons. The issue also discusses the global implications of EU AI regulations, the risks of biased facial recognition systems, and the growing concern around AI-driven manipulation and dark patterns. Across these themes, the articles highlight the need for stronger safeguards, inclusive design, and thoughtful regulatory frameworks. Overall, the issue underscores the urgent need to balance innovation with ethical, democratic, and social considerations in the digital age.

The second issue brings together research examining major development challenges across governance, poverty, taxation, sustainability, and technology. It highlights the need for better tools to assess policy advice, a more equitable GST structure, and targeted strategies to reduce multidimensional poverty in rural India. The papers also explore youth disengagement from agriculture in Namibia, barriers to private sector participation in Ghana’s local development, and the uneven economics of electric two-wheelers across Indian states. Additionally, the issue reviews how e-governance can strengthen budget transparency and citizen participation. Overall, it emphasises interdisciplinary, evidence-based approaches to building more equitable and sustainable development outcomes.

The third issue, “Livelihood Research and Training,” examines how livelihoods across rural and urban India are being reshaped by economic, technological, environmental, and social change. Through seven empirical studies, it explores themes such as rural and urban waste management, agricultural dynamics, tribal livelihood strengthening, challenges in mountain economies, urban sanitation-linked livelihoods, citywide transformation efforts, and youth–labour market mismatches in logistics. The articles show that livelihood transformation is deeply context-specific, influenced by factors ranging from climate vulnerability and market access to local skills, governance systems, and community institutions like SHGs and Gram Panchayats. Together, they argue that resilient and inclusive livelihoods require integrated approaches that combine grassroots agency with supportive policy, climate-sensitive planning, and sustainable economic models. Overall, the issue highlights pathways for reimagining livelihoods as central to equitable development in a rapidly changing India.

## Bazm-e-Sukhan



Bazm-e-Sukhan is a celebration of Urdu poetry and literature, conducted by CDPP in collaboration with the Digital Empowerment Foundation and its initiative A-CODE. Since 2018, it is held at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, where people come together to listen, recite, and engage with the living tradition of Urdu literature.

While a global community meets every Tuesday on Zoom, the in-person sessions at Lamakaan remain the primary anchor of the initiative. Held on the second Wednesday of every month, these sessions provide a structured physical forum for readings, discussions, and collective engagement with Urdu poetry and prose. Participants include regular contributors as well as newcomers, and the format allows for planned recitations, thematic explorations, and open conversation in a shared space.

In 2025, the in-person events revolved around the following themes:

### Bazm 6th Anniversary Special Session



**Date:** Wednesday, January 8, 2025.

This session was a special anniversary gathering featuring guest readings and the release of *Alfaaz ki Mehfil 2025*.

## Zikr-e-Shora-e-Deccan



**Date:** Wednesday, February 12, 2025.

This session was dedicated to poets of the Deccan and their literary contributions.

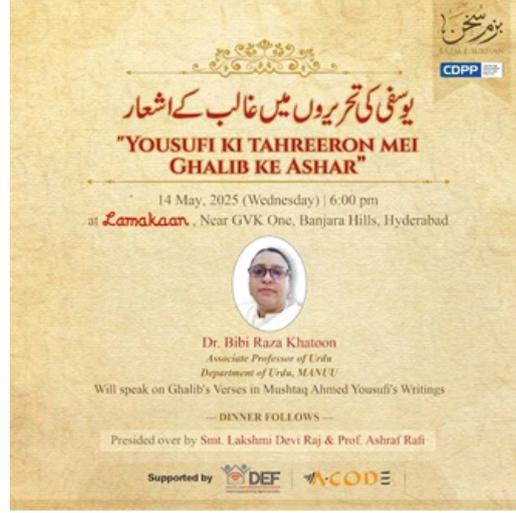
## Be Zubani se Zuban tak: Urdu Shayerat ka Fikri Safar



**Date:** Wednesday, April 9, 2025.

This discussion was on the intellectual journey and evolving voice of women in Urdu poetry.

## Yousufi ki Tahreeron mein Ghalib ke Ashaar



**Date:** Wednesday, May 14, 2025.

This Bazm featured an analysis of Ghalib's poetic influence on the works of Mushtaq Ahmed Yousufi.

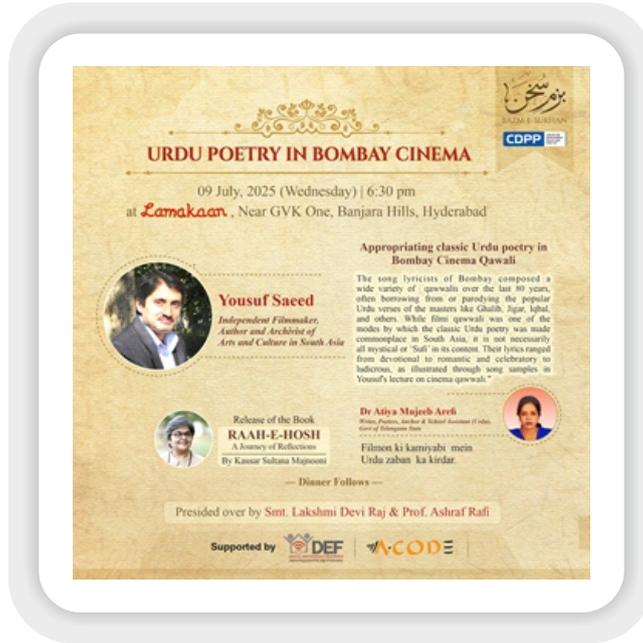
## Ek Shaam Mizah ke Naam



**Date:** Wednesday, June 11, 2025.

This version of the Bazm focused on Urdu humour, including presentations, talks, and a humorous poetry session.

## Urdu Poetry in Bombay Cinema



**Date:** Wednesday, July 9, 2025.

This Bazm session examined the role of Urdu poetry in shaping the language and aesthetics of Bombay cinema. The book named “Raah-e-Hosh” was also released by the author, Ms. Kausar Sultana.

## Elegance of Quranic Metaphor and Its Impact on Urdu & Persian Literature



**Date:** Wednesday, August 13, 2025.

This evening of the Bazm presented a lecture by Prof. Muzaffar Ali Shahmiri on Quranic metaphor as a literary influence, featuring a book release.

## “Whose Urdu Is It Anyway?”

**WHOSE URDU IS IT ANYWAY?**

September 12, 2025 (Friday) | 6:30 p.m.  
at **Lamakaan**, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

**Qamar Jamali**  
Urdu Writer, Translator & Critic.  
She has published 13 books.

1. Shabce (Stories)
2. Sahasra (Stories)
3. Sahab (Stories)
4. Zuhad (Stories)
5. Sahara-ko-Kaf (Stories)
6. Dard ka roshan (Stories)
7. Fikar (Stories)
8. Novel, Nafisatara
9. Collection of Radio Plays: Saagron
10. Indira Criticism
11. Navab-e-Adab (Criticism)
12. Aashiq (Children Literature)
13. Highway (Short Stories in English)

**Rakshanda Jalil**  
Writer, Translator & Literary Historian

Dr. Rakshanda Jalil is a translator, writer, and literary historian. She has published over 25 books and written over 30 academic papers and essays. Some of her books include *Daring Progress*, *Leaving Change: A Literary History of the Progressive Women Movement in India*, a biography of Urdu feminist writer Dr. Rashid Jahan, *A Rebel and Her Cause*, a translation of The Star Line about Simone de Beauvoir's seminal novel on Sartre and Richard Chatter's partition novel *Chandkher*, *Love in the Time of Hate* among others. She runs an organization called Hindustani Awaz, devoted to the popularisation of Urdu-Urdu Literature and culture.

A Conversation between Qamar Jamali & Rakshanda Jalil on the book  
“Whose URDU is it anyway?”

Presided over by Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj & Prof. Ashraf Rafi

— TEA & SNACKS —

PLEASE CARRY YOUR UMBRELLA

Supported by **DEF** **A-CODE**

**Date:** Friday, September 12, 2025.

This evening featured a conversation with Qamar Jamali and Dr. Rakshanda Jalil on Urdu's ownership, evolution, and contemporary identity.

## Ek Shaam "Gilli" aur "Danda" ke Naam

**EK SHAAM "GILLI" AUR "DANDA" KE NAAM**

08 October, 2025 (Wednesday) | 6:30 pm  
at **Lamakaan**, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

**Gilli Nalgondavi**  
Gilli Nalgondavi is a humorous Deccani Urdu poet known for his wit and satirical verses, often reflecting his personal struggles with humour.

**Sarwar Danda**  
Sarwar Danda was a poet, specifically mentioned for producing "Exquisite Social Commentaries through humorous poetry"

Join us for a humorous evening, with participations from  
Syed Javed Mohiuddin, Syed Wajid Mohiuddin,  
Atiya Mujeeb Arefi, Gul-e-Rana

Presided over by Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj & Prof. Ashraf Rafi

— TEA & SNACKS —

Supported by **DEF** **A-CODE**

**Date:** Wednesday, October 8, 2025.

This evening at the Bazm was a humour-focused session featuring the distinctive poetic styles of Sarwar Danda and Gilli Nalgondavi.

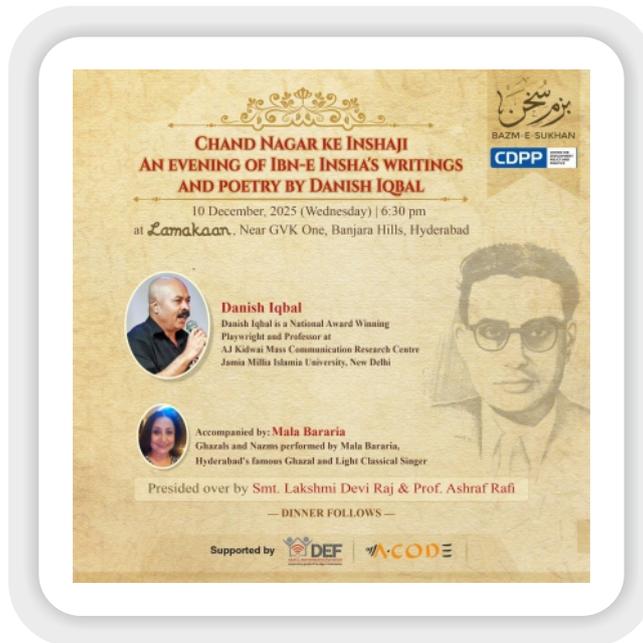
**Vidya Shah: In Tribute to Akhtari Bai**



**Date:** Wednesday, November 12, 2025.

This enchanting evening of the Bazm featured a musical and narrative tribute by Vidya Shah to Begum Akhtar, highlighting her artistic journey.

**Chand Nagar ke Inshaji—  
An Evening of Ibn-e-Insha's Writings and Poetry by Danish Iqbal**



**Date:** Wednesday, December 10, 2025.

The final Bazm-e-Sukhan of the year was a literary evening featuring celebrated playwright Danish Iqbal, accompanied by ghazals and nazms performed by Mala Bararia.

## Articles

CDPP regularly writes and publishes op-eds on diverse development and public policy issues, offering critical insights, grounded research, and policy-relevant perspectives aimed at enriching public debate and decision-making.

### Articles

1. Shedding light on gender barriers in India's night-time economy
2. Focus on National Highway tolls: Unveiling trends and policies
3. Enrolment of children in pre-primary education is improving; Telangana achieves near-universal enrolment
4. India's job crisis: Will Budget 2025-26 bring relief?
5. Restoring Telanganas lifelines: A critical look at Mission Kakatiya
6. Medical tourism-New life with the healthcare budget 2025-26
7. The other side of digital India: Exclusion, inequality and politics of access
8. Development or prosperity? Hyderabad's forests ask a bigger question
9. Beyond GDP: Building an inclusive India
10. The invisible subjects of justice
11. Regulatory maze: Reform or redesign?
12. Trade, geopolitics and climate change–Balancing global commitments with domestic equity
13. Degrees without direction: Reforming education to empower and employ
14. India's healthcare scenario–Challenges, innovations and journey ahead
15. Caste data: Gateway to identity politics?
16. Behind bars, beyond help: India's prison mental health crisis
17. Pads, pride, and policy: Building equity “one period” at a time
18. Sin taxes, sacred duties: Redirecting Indias tobacco revenue
19. Flexible for whom? The hidden inequalities behind women's work in gig economy
20. Rethinking regulation: A call for respect, coordination, and transparency
21. Feeding India's future: Regulating school meals, street food, and the digital kitchen
22. Shrinking public spaces: Re-imagining libraries
23. One nation, many kitchens: A decentralised approach to safe food
24. New law, old mindsets: Whom does Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita really protect?
25. Women trolled, threatened, and silenced: Need for bridging the legal gaps
26. Between hope and hardship: Why are millions of youth chasing government jobs?
27. Exploring tech and equity: The Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025
28. The silent domestic labour force in Telangana is mostly invisible
29. Digital inclusion or digital illusion? Gendered realities in a connected world
30. Bridging the gender divide in emerging technologies
31. Techquity: Gendered governance in the digital era
32. Marginalised stakeholders with technological barriers across sectors should be in focus
33. Beyond the third degree: Why India must break cycle of normalised police torture
34. India's breast cancer awareness must go beyond symbolism
35. Undertrial disparities of caste and religion in PSI 2023 India
36. Marginalised stakeholders with technological barriers across sectors should be in focus
37. Hyderabad hosts Ethical AI and Governance at DCS 2025

Link: <https://www.cdpp.co.in/opinions>

## Blogs Series

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) invites article submissions from undergraduate, postgraduate, PhD scholars, and working professionals, encouraging diverse perspectives on critical development and policy issues. We welcome contributions across academic levels that address topics of community significance, such as poverty alleviation, gender and development, human rights, and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This year, our blog series focused on the following themes.

### Themes

- I. Health Equity for Women and Gender Minorities
- II. Analysing the Socioeconomic and Environmental Impact of Maha Kumbh 2025
- III. Women in Agriculture and Rural Livelihoods: Challenges, Contributions, and Policy Pathways
- IV. Gender Diversity and Inclusion in the Tech Industry
- V. Climate and Society—Building the Future We Choose

Link: <https://www.cdpp.co.in/blog>

## Projects at CDPP 2025

In 2025, CDPP's projects exemplified its commitment to addressing critical socioeconomic challenges through collaborative research, impactful evaluations, and knowledge dissemination. The Centre undertook a diverse range of initiatives in partnership with esteemed organisations such as the Access Foundation, The London Story, Goonj, DEF, IMRC, and others. These projects spanned themes including digital health, legal challenges for marginalised communities, hate speech, regulatory frameworks, and the socioeconomic conditions of minorities. With a focus on inclusivity, innovation, and policy relevance, the projects blended theoretical insights with field-based evidence to explore pressing issues of socioeconomic development. By fostering collaborations and producing actionable insights, CDPP's work continues to bridge gaps between policy, practice, and societal impact.

### Working Papers

We produce quarterly working papers on research topics assigned in-house, with this year's focus spanning collaborations with partners like Jahangirabad Institute of Technology (JIT) and Sahayata Trust. Together, the four papers examine evolving regulatory systems in emerging, consumer, and infrastructure sectors, institutional quality in private education, and the systemic, intersectional nature of gender-based violence, offering evidence-based insights for policy reform across India's social and economic landscape.

### ***MS Education Impact Evaluation***

Partner Organisation: MS Education

The CDPP team conducted an impact evaluation of MS Education Academy's school, junior college, and degree programmes at branches including MS Muradnagar School, Mehdiapatnam Junior College, Masab Tank Junior College, and Asif Nagar Degree College. The study assessed academic performance, personality development, readiness for professional courses, non-academic activities, and spiritual growth. It used a mixed-methods approach, combining qualitative methods (surveys, interviews, thematic analysis) to explore perceptions and behaviours, and quantitative methods (cost analysis, fee comparisons, and market research) to assess financial sustainability and competitiveness. The findings aim to improve the overall effectiveness and fee structure of the programmes.

### ***UWS PhD Proposal Review and Selection Programme***

Partner Organisation: The Education Group, London (TEG)

Since 2022, the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in partnership with The Education Group London, has been conducting a rigorous review and selection process for the University of West Scotland (UWS) PhD programme. Candidates undergo a thorough evaluation of their proposals, receiving detailed feedback and guidance to help rework and strengthen their submissions as needed. Each applicant is attended to with specific attention and care. The vetting process includes submission of the proposal, plagiarism checks, evaluation interviews, grading against selected metrics, and a final decision of acceptance, rejection, or request for revision. Since November 2023, CDPP has screened multiple candidates, primarily from the UK, Nigeria, India, Pakistan, and Bangladesh. The programme spans a diverse range of domains, including Accounting and Finance, Marketing and Digital Marketing, Management, Entrepreneurship and Enterprises, Educational Leadership, Pedagogy and Curriculum, Public Policy and Governance, and Global Public Health and Social Policy.

### ***Regulation and Re-regulation in India***

Partner Organisation: Sahayata Trust

The CDPP Regulation project is focused on evaluating sector-specific regulatory frameworks across Infrastructure Sectors (Power and Transportation), Emerging Sectors (Gig Economy and Artificial Intelligence), and Consumer Sectors (Food and Healthcare). The initiative aims to analyse and map regulations adopted in India and globally, assessing their relevance, effectiveness, and impact on industry dynamics, market competitiveness, and economic development. By identifying regulatory gaps and unregulated areas, the project seeks to provide actionable insights and recommendations for re-regulation or de-regulation where necessary, in a phased approach. The findings will inform policy frameworks, fostering a balanced regulatory environment that supports sectoral growth and sustainable economic development.

### ***Continuing Collaboration and Dr. Omar Khalidi Memorial Lecture***

Partner Organisation: Political Science Department, Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, Hyderabad

In 2025, CDPP continued its collaboration with the Political Science Department of the Government Degree College for Women, Hussaini Alam, building on the partnership established last year.

Last year, the partnership was formally launched, creating a framework for joint research, publications, and academic support initiatives. The inaugural Dr. Omar Khalidi Memorial Lecture was also held, setting the stage for sustained academic engagement.

## ***Understanding the Legal Landscape in India from the Perspective of the Accused***

Partners: Mr. Syed Habeed Ashruf and Mr. Faud Mirza

The Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) undertakes research on how the Indian legal system functions for individuals who enter it as accused persons, particularly those from marginalised and vulnerable backgrounds. The project aims to understand everyday legal challenges, procedural hurdles, and systemic disadvantages that shape the experiences of people navigating the criminal justice process.

This year, the study examined 10 cases in Hyderabad to document the lived realities of accused individuals, including barriers to legal representation, delays, and socioeconomic vulnerabilities. To develop a broader understanding, the project further analysed 220 cases from Assam, Uttar Pradesh, and Telangana, offering insights into how geography, social identity, and local institutional practices influence the trajectory of cases and the lives of the accused. By focusing on real case histories and court data, the project seeks to map patterns, identify systemic gaps, and contribute evidence that can inform reforms aimed at making the justice system more accessible, fair, and humane.

## ***CDPP-Goonj Handbook***

Partner Organisations: Goonj

This book looks into the norms of rural development in India, focusing on themes like education, sanitation, health, hygiene, and livelihoods to analyse the challenges, interventions, and evolving landscape of development. It emphasises Goonj's philosophy that advocates dignity as a central element of development. Over its 26 years, Goonj has reshaped the development narrative, highlighting overlooked issues like clothing and integrating them into the broader agenda. The book bridges policy and practice through insights into theoretical frameworks, policy landscapes, international case studies, and lessons from Goonj's sustainable development model. Serving as a comprehensive guide, it offers fresh perspectives on tackling persistent challenges and redefining development in today's context.

## ***Menstruation Dialogue: Event and Call for Paper***

Partner Organisations: Goonj and National Foundation for India (NFI)

Organised by Goonj in collaboration with the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and the National Foundation for India (NFI), the Menstruation Dialogue 2025 brought together grassroots voices, researchers, and practitioners to reframe menstrual Well-Being as an issue of agency, equity, and systemic change. The dialogue highlighted how climate impacts, disasters, social inequalities, and infrastructure gaps shape menstrual experiences and public health outcomes. As part of the initiative, a Call for Submissions was launched for a 2026 Special Issue on Menstrual Well-Being, inviting abstracts and full papers, including academic research, field case studies, interviews, visual essays, and policy notes on themes such as caste and disability, policy frameworks, WASH challenges, workplace well-being, climate justice, community innovation, and technology.

## ***Digital Health in India***

Partner Organisation: The London Story, UK

The pandemic has led to a rapid adoption of technology and technology apps in healthcare systems across the world. This has globally given an impetus to digital healthcare systems involving the use of artificial intelligence to come to the fore. Through this baseline study, we seek to map and understand the impact of technology on healthcare access in India. We look at digital health from the lens of inclusivity to map out how technology has led to bringing those at the margins of society—the vast Indian minority and marginalised sections—into healthcare systems and from the lenses of exclusion where we seek to understand the negative impact of technology in surveillance and negative stereotyping of certain communities and its impact in excluding them from healthcare systems and services.

## ***Muslims in Bihar***

Partner Organisation: Majlis Charities Education and Relief Trust

The G. Sudhir Commission's research team conducted a comprehensive analysis of the socioeconomic and educational conditions of Muslims in Telangana. Their edited volume, published by Springer, examined questions of development, equity, and security within the state. Building on this foundation, subsequent studies explored the situation of Muslims in Uttar Pradesh, focusing on socioeconomic challenges and policy recommendations, and in Rajasthan, emphasising issues of insecurity, diversity, and poverty. The most recent volume, "Muslims in Bihar: With a Special Focus on Seemanchal," investigates livelihoods, education, health, economic opportunities, and the structural factors that reinforce inequality.

## ***Mapping Hate: Exploring the Themes, Platforms, and Propagators of Hate Speech***

Partner Organisation: Harsh Mander and Team; IMRC

Mapping Hate: Exploring the Themes, Platforms, and Propagators of Hate Speech is an in-depth study of hate speech in India, analysing its themes, agents, forums, and formats. In collaboration with Harsh Mander's team and IMRC, this project examines the exponential rise in divisive rhetoric, amplified by social media, traditional media, and political narratives. It highlights ground realities such as cow-related vigilantism targeting Muslims and the pervasive role of TV channels in propagating Islamophobia aligned with majoritarian agendas. By juxtaposing prejudices with facts, the study aims to challenge stereotypes and foster inclusivity, providing actionable insights to combat hate speech effectively.

### ***Development Policy and Practice Conference 2025***

Partner Organisations: Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), Goonj, The Education Group (TEG) London, Centre for Women Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU) Presidency University, and the Centre for Economics and Social Studies (CESS), Hyderabad

The Development Policy and Practice Conference was held on March 28, 2025, at the Centre for Economics and Social Studies, Hyderabad. The event focused on the theme “Sharing, Development, People, and the Question of Redistribution,” which examined economic, social, and structural inequalities shaping India's development trajectory. Discussions explored taxation, trade, governance, education, healthcare, legal aid, and digital access, with particular attention to marginalised communities. Panels also addressed cooperative federalism, regulatory frameworks, global trade dynamics, climate change, and social justice. The conference generated evidence-based insights and actionable policy recommendations aimed at promoting equitable access to public goods, inclusive development, and long-term systemic reform.

### ***Higher Education in India: What Ails the Sector***

Partner Organisations: Jahangirabad Institute of Technology and The Education Group, London (TEG)

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with the Jahangirabad Institute of Technology (JIT), Jahangirabad, Uttar Pradesh, organised a day-long conference on the topic “Higher Education in India: What Ails the Sector.” Along with TEG London, JIT, and CDPP brought together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and thought leaders to address the issue. The faculty members of JIT and researchers at CDPP shared their original research findings surrounding higher education in India. Brought together by JIT's values of transmission of knowledge, pursuit of truth, maintenance of the highest standards of teaching, and enhancing the intellectual, cultural, economic, and social well-being of the minority community, the conference was concluded by keynote speeches from eminent academics, former bureaucrats, and policy experts.

### ***Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025***

Partner Organisations: Kautilya School of Public Policy; Centre for Women Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University; The Education Group (London); Digital Empowerment Foundation; International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad

As part of our annual research initiatives, we organised the Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025 on August 8th and 9th in collaboration with leading academic and policy institutions. The project was anchored in a Call for Papers announcement, inviting research on gender and digital transformation; shortlisted submissions were reviewed during the conference, resulting in the final selection of papers for publication.

The conference examined how digital transformation shapes gendered inclusion and exclusion, highlighting both the risks of deepening inequalities and the potential for empowerment through inclusive policy frameworks. Discussions addressed digital gaps affecting women, gender-diverse persons, and persons with disabilities, covering themes such as digital entrepreneurship, online safety, algorithmic bias, and digital health equity. The project strengthened national discourse on equitable digital futures.

## ***Muslims in Gujarat***

Partner Organisation: Majlis Charities Education and Relief Trust

The first volume in this series, *Muslims in Telangana*, was authored by the G. Sudhir Commission's research team and published by Springer, providing an in-depth examination of development, equity, and security concerns. Building on this foundational work, subsequent state studies such as *Muslims in Uttar Pradesh*, *Muslims in Rajasthan*, and *Muslims in Bihar (with a special focus on Seemanchal)* extended the analysis to livelihoods, education, health, economic opportunities, and structural inequalities.

The forthcoming volume, *Muslims in Gujarat*, will study key socioeconomic indicators, possible development gaps, and the historical and structural factors shaping the lived experiences of Muslims in Gujarat. This volume aims to contribute rigorous evidence in order to inform policy and public discourse.

## ***Collaborative Research on Legal and Socioeconomic Conditions of Marginalised Communities***

Partner Organisation: All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPIF)

The Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES), an initiative under the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), has entered into a partnership with the All-India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum (AIPIF) to jointly study the legal, educational, and socioeconomic conditions of vulnerable communities. Under this collaboration, CLES/CDPP and AIPIF aim to conduct joint research on access to justice, incarceration, rehabilitation, reintegration, and broader socioeconomic challenges faced by marginalised groups. Both organisations will contribute expertise, facilitate fieldwork, and co-design research outputs with shared authorship and mutual learning at the core of the collaboration.

## ***Digital Citizen Summit 2025***

Partner Organisation: Digital Empowerment Foundation, Government of Telangana, and T-Hub

The Digital Citizen Summit 2025, held at T-Hub Hyderabad on November 14th and 15th, 2025, brought together policymakers, researchers, civil society and technologists for discourse on ethical AI, digital governance, and platform accountability. The event was organised by the Digital Empowerment Foundation, in collaboration with the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), the Government of Telangana, and other associate partners.

CDPP played a significant role in shaping conversations on citizenship, gender, digital rights, marginalisation, and public-interest technology. It led two sessions, first on "Accountability in the Digital Health Era," highlighting challenges in data governance and public-interest digital infrastructure and a second session on "Accountability by Design: Shaping AI Regulations, Platforms, and Critical Digital Infrastructure," which examined regulatory models and governance frameworks for responsible AI systems.

CDPP also hosted paper presentations at the Summit, aligning with the overall DCS 2025 theme, which will be published as part of a JDPP special issue on technology and society, strengthening the research-policy interface. The summit featured over one hundred workshops, panels and exhibitions, and served as a collaborative platform to examine how digital systems had impacted communities and what accountability mechanisms were required going forward.

## ***CDPP-DEF Handbook***

Partner Organisation: Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)

This handbook in collaboration with DEF will explore the intricate relationship between technology and development, emphasising how technological innovations drive progress across various development parameters. Combining theoretical insights with practical case studies, the book aims to make complex concepts accessible to a broad audience. It will showcase diverse examples, share key learnings, and highlight challenges while integrating data to enrich each chapter. CDPP will define the overarching themes, theories, and policy landscape, while DEF will contribute relevant case studies and practical insights. This resource will appeal to readers seeking to understand the transformative role of technology in addressing developmental challenges globally.

## ***Targeted Village Selection for the Earn and Serve Programme Using the Disability Needs Index (DNI)***

Partner Organisation: Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF)

CDPP is collaborating on the “Earn and Serve” programme, adapted from the Samarth Sochnapreneur model and implemented by the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) with the Government of Telangana and the Equally Able Foundation. Designed for Persons with Disabilities (PwDs), the programme aims to create 250 Micro Enterprises and 5,000 Nano Entrepreneurs across 5,000 villages, digitally empowering 100,000 unconnected villagers each year.

CDPP is conducting a study to identify villages where PwDs from SC, ST, OBC, women-headed households, artisan families, and other marginalised groups would benefit most. For this purpose, it has developed a Disability Needs Index (DNI), which uses SECC data on disability, education, social marginalisation, and economic vulnerability to determine suitable intervention locations.

## ***Impact Evaluation of Access Foundation's Community-Centric Interventions***

Partner Organisation: Access Foundation

The Access Foundation, a Hyderabad-based non-profit organisation, works to empower women through technology, livelihoods, and healthcare. In collaboration with the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), the project aims to undertake a systematic, longitudinal impact assessment of Access Foundation's interventions across education, health, and skill development/training. Through its centres in Shastripuram and Musheerabad, Access Foundation provides critical services to women and girls from local communities, and this project seeks to monitor, evaluate, and strengthen these initiatives to enhance long-term outcomes.

## 2025 Publications

1. Alfaz ki Mehfil 2025
2. Agriculture in Telangana (English Version)
3. CDPP-Goonj Handbook: Sharing, Development, and People
4. Cycles of Change: Intersections of Health, Policy, and Practice in Menstrual Hygiene Management
5. Data Protection for Persons with Disabilities: Gaps, Challenges, and the Way Forward
6. Digital Health in India
7. Gender and Inclusion: Women in the Workforce
8. Muslims in Bihar (English/Hindi/Urdu)
9. Rethinking Affirmative Action for Muslims in Contemporary India (English/Hindi/Urdu)
10. Shaping the Future: Re-imagining AI & Technology for Inclusion

## Upcoming Publications and Events

1. Agriculture in Telangana (Telugu Version)
2. Gender and Inclusion: Women in the Workforce (Urdu Version)
3. Business Failures: A Focus on Telangana
4. CDPP-DEF Handbook: Growth with Technology
5. Development Policy and Practice Conference 2026
6. Digital Citizen Summit 2026
7. Gender and Inclusion
8. Gender and Inclusion Conference 2026
9. Muslims in Gujarat
10. Muslims in Himachal Pradesh
11. Muslims in Uttarakhand
12. Regulatory Landscape of India: A Comprehensive Look at Artificial Intelligence Governance in Healthcare Sector
13. Regulatory Landscape of India: A Comprehensive Look at the Aviation Sector

## CDPP PRIVATE LIMITED

UNAUDITED PROFIT & LOSS STATEMENT FOR THE PERIOD  
FROM 01-01-2025 TO 23.12.2025

PARTICULARS	Note Ref	Amount
<b>INCOME</b>		
Revenue from Operations		12,185,360
Other Income (excess provision for income tax written back)		224,396
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>		<b>12,409,756</b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Employee Benefits Expenses	8	8,041,128
Depreciation	9	-
Other Expenses	10	7,716,012
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b>15,757,140</b>
Profit / (Loss) before exceptional and extraordinary items and tax		(3,347,384)
Exceptional & Extraordinary Items (Profit on Sale of Asset)		-
Profit/(Loss) before Tax		(3,347,384)
Current Tax		-
<b>Profit/Loss for the period</b>		<b>(3,347,384)</b>
Earnings per Equity Share:		
(1) Basic		(334.74)
(2) Diluted		(334.74)

Statement on Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the  
are an integral part of this Balance Sheet

1) Director

2) Director

Place : Hyderabad

Date : 23-12-2025

**CDPP PRIVATE LIMITED**  
**UNAUDITED BALANCE SHEET FOR THE PERIOD FROM 01-01-2025 TO**  
**23-12-2025**

Amount in Rs.		
Particulars	Note No.	Amount in Rs.
<b>EQUITY AND LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Shareholders' funds</b>		
Share capital	1	100,000
Reserves and surplus (Negative)	2	-235,329
Add / Less: Profit & Loss 23-12-2025		31,883
		(203,446)
Short-term Loan From Director		-
<b>Current liabilities</b>		
Trade payables	3	2,887,721
Short - term provisions	4	7,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,791,276</b>
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Fixed Assets</b>	5	1,675,825
<b>Non-current assets</b>	6	
Other non-current assets		390,845
<b>Current Assets</b>	7	
Cash and cash equivalents		158,190
Sundry Debtors		116,415
Short-term Loan to Director		450,000
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>2,791,276</b>

Statement on Significant Accounting Policies and Notes to the Financial Statement are an integral part of this Balance Sheet

1) Director      2) Director

Place : Hyderabad  
Date : 23-12-2025

CDPP PRIVATE LIMITED

UNAUDITED NOTES ANNEXED TO AND FORMING PART OF THE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

	<u>Amount in Rs.</u>	
	As at From 01.01.2025 up to 31 March 2025	As at From 01-04-2025 up to 23 Dec 2025
<b>1 CAPITAL</b>		
Authorised		
10000 Equity shares of Rs.10/- each	<b>100,000</b>	<b>100,000</b>
Issued, subscribed and fully paid up		
5000 Equity shares of Rs.10/- each	100,000	100,000
<b>Reconciliation of the Number of Shares Outstanding:</b>		
No. of Shares outstanding at the beginning of the year	0	0
No. of Shares outstanding at the end of the year	0	0
<b>The rights, preferences and restrictions attaching to each class of shares including restrictions on the distribution of dividends and the repayment of capital:</b>		
a) The Company has only one class of shares referred to as equity shares having a par value of Rs.10/-. Each holder of equity shares is entitled to one vote per share		
b) The Company declares and pays dividends in Indian rupees.		
c) In the event of liquidation of the Company, the holders of equity shares will be entitled to receive the remaining assets of the Company, after distribution of all preferential amounts. The distribution will be in proportion to the number of equity shares held by the shareholders.		
<b>Shareholders holding more than 5% of the sharecapital:</b>		
i) Mr. Syed Adeeluddin - 5000 shares - 50%		
ii) Mr. Sudhir Gurnurkar - 5000 shares -50%		
<b>2 RESERVES AND SURPLUS</b>		
Profit and Loss Account -		
Opening Balance	412,124	-235,329
Transferred from Statement of Profit & Loss	<b>(3,702,190)</b>	<b>31,883</b>
Balance at the end of the year	<b>-3,290,066</b>	<b>-203,446</b>
<b>3 TRADE PAYABLES</b>		
Sundry Creditors	1,350,000	2,842,721
Payables to other suppliers for goods and services	0	45,000
	<b>1,350,000</b>	<b>2,887,721</b>
<b>4. SHORT TERM PROVISIONS</b>		
TDS payable	5,000	7,000
Audit Fee	0	-
GST	19,068	-
salaries	-	-
	<b>24,068</b>	<b>7,000</b>

	Amount in Rs.	
	As at 31/03/2025	As at 23/12/2025
<b>5 ASSETS</b>		
<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>	0	1675825.00
Balance at the end of the year	0	1,675,825
* Depreciation as per Income Tax Rule		
<b>6 OTHER NON-CURRENT ASSETS</b>		
Rent Deposit (Noor Mangani)	100,000	100,000
Miselleneous (TDS-Advance Tax)	42,373	290,845
Balance at the end of the year	142,373	390,845
<b>7 CASH AND CASH EQUIVALENTS</b>		
Cash on hand	0	82,409
Balance with bank - in current account	1,438,328	75,781
	1,438,328	158,190
<b>8 Employee Benefits Expenses</b>		
Consultancy Charges	1,615,800	5,767,200
Salaries	168,270	316,880
Staff Welfare	13,763	159,215
	1,797,833	6,243,295
<b>9 Depreciation</b>		
Depreciation	0	-
	0	0
<b>10 OTHER EXPENSES</b>		
Advertisement	15,000	-
Audit Fees	60,000	-
Bank Charges	91	2,231
Conveyance	3000	6,185
Donation	0	600,000
Electricity Expenses	66,130	75,309
Entertainment Exp	102,370	96,285
Fees & Subscription	23625.45	39,979
Insurance (Car)	51786	-
GST	76395.6	286,332
Internet Expenses	15,635	12,050
Miscellaneous Exp	4,324	11,976
Office Expenses	14,484	42,459
Postage & Courier	76,145	16,990
Printing & Stationery/Books Printings	652,427	413,845
Professional Charges	15,000	-
Rate & Taxes	-	1,032
Renovation (Office)	-	59,555
Rent	149,240	298,480
Web Site	8,640	-
Repair & maintenance	21,169	131,684
Study Material	5,467	7,778
Seminar/workshop	624,431	544,431
Travelling Expenses	471,749	1,452,301
Training and Development Exp	0	1,100,000
Stipend	40,000	20,000
	2,497,110	5,218,902

For and on behalf of the Board

1) Director

2) Director

## OUR COLLABORATIONS

