

MAY 2026 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Contents

Online Articles

Events

Working Paper



GLIMPSES OF APRIL



POLICY TO PRACTICE PODCAST

CDPP's "Policy to Practice" podcast aims to enlighten a diverse audience on global issues, fostering conversations with experts to simplify complex concepts related to social, cultural, economic, and technological development.

Policy to Practice: Law & Society #10 with Sanu Rani Paul



In this episode of the Centre for Law, Economics and Society Podcast organised by CDPP, we were joined by Dr. Sanu Rani Paul, a faculty member at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University. With over a decade of academic experience in environmental law and jurisprudence, her work has engaged with questions of ecocentrism, rights of nature, environmental ethics, and the legal personality of natural entities within comparative legal frameworks.

This episode explored the intersections of environmental governance, constitutional principles, and the rights of tribal and vulnerable communities in India. The conversation reflected on the tensions between conservation objectives and community livelihoods, while examining how legal and policy frameworks could better balance ecological protection with dignity, justice, and inclusion.

This episode was hosted by Moumita Barman, Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Development Policy and Practice.

Click on the title to listen to the podcast!

ONLINE ARTICLES

Indian scholars love theory, policymakers want quick fixes. Both forget who they're serving



The article critiques the disconnect between academia and public policy in India, where theory and technocratic solutions often overlook complex social realities. It calls for democratising research by centring affected communities and fostering more collaborative, grounded approaches.

Pipelines under pressure: Preparing CSST systems for hydrogen blends and beyond



The article warns that existing GI pipelines pose safety risks as India scales hydrogen blending in its gas network, and advocates CSST as a safer, more durable alternative, calling for policy support to enable a resilient, future-ready infrastructure.

Click on the title to read the article!

ONLINE ARTICLES

When a Face Scan Meets Food Security: AI, Welfare, and the Future of Digital Governance in India



The article examines the use of AI in India's Public Distribution System, highlighting its potential to improve efficiency while stressing the need for inclusion, transparency, and strong frontline support. It argues that responsible, people-centred implementation is key to strengthening welfare delivery and the social contract.

University endowments and India's research ambitions



This article argues that India's research ambitions require stable, long-term funding beyond limited public budgets. Drawing on innovation theories by Joel Mokyr, Philippe Aghion, and Peter Howitt, it highlights universities as central to sustained innovation and economic growth. Global institutions such as Harvard University demonstrate how endowments provide financial flexibility for high-risk, long-term research. In India, low R&D spending and reliance on short-term funding constrain such ecosystems. However, rising philanthropy and emerging models in institutions like Ashoka University present an opportunity to build endowments, strengthen research capacity, and drive future innovation-led growth.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

BLOGS

CDPP's blogs offer sharp, research-driven insights on public policy, development, and contemporary socio-economic issues.

Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Occupational Health Policies for Women in Indian Agriculture



Access to Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) is a critical yet overlooked aspect of wellbeing, especially when considering the occupational health of women. India's agricultural workforce is approximately 64.4% women (Banerjee, 2025), yet policies do not adequately address the needs of women in the workforce. Women face several unaddressed occupational hazards in farms, such as extreme weather conditions, exposure to agricultural chemicals, infections, lack of sanitation, ergonomic disparities in equipment design, and extreme distress (Gohain, 2026). These have a direct impact on these women's SRH in the form of issues like infertility, miscarriages, hormonal imbalances, uterine prolapse, Reproductive Tract infections (RTIs), among others.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

EVENTS

CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND
PRACTICE

Programme on Digital Public
Infrastructure for East Africa

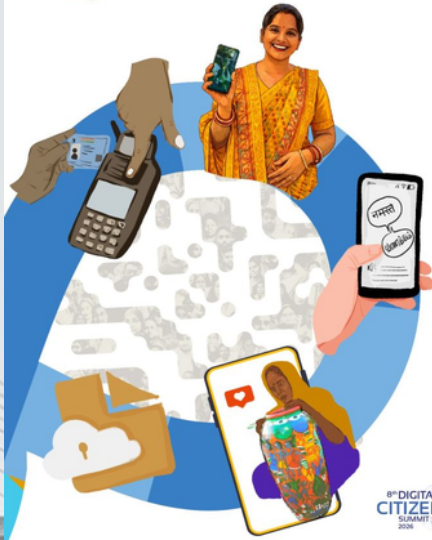
Webinar Series on Digital Public Infrastructure

Topic
Digital Public Infrastructure:
How It Works and Who It Serves

Venue

zoom

 May 15, 2026, 3 PM IST





Speaker
Hemant Adarkar
Technology Advisor and a
Resident Senior Fellow at
Artha Global.



Digital Public Infrastructure: How It Works and Who It Serves

The session, “Digital Public Infrastructure: How It Works and Who It Serves,” explored the functioning of DPI systems and examined the questions on accessibility, inclusion, governance, and public value in an increasingly digital society.

Featuring Mr. Hemant Adarkar, the discussion reflected on how digital systems can better serve communities at the last mile.

Date and Time: May 15, 2026; 3:00 PM IST

Venue: Online

EVENTS

CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

MXR DEF

World Telecom and Information Society Day

Date: **May 17**, 3:00–5:00 pm IST
Online

MXR and Digital Empowerment Foundation are hosting a global virtual dialogue on May 17, which is celebrated as **World Telecommunication and Information Society Day**. The theme will be digital inclusion and empowerment.

SCAN QR
tinyurl.com/mxrdef-0517



From Connectivity to Capability: Building Inclusive Digital Societies

May 17 is celebrated internationally as World Telecommunications and Information Society Day. On this occasion, innovation platform [MXR.world](https://mxr.world) ('mixers across the world') teamed up with the Digital Empowerment Foundation, Centre for Development Policy and Practice, and other partners to convene a virtual global dialogue on connectivity, inclusion, and the future of digital societies.

Reflections on the evolution of telecommunications, from basic voice networks to critical digital lifelines, this curated two-hour session brought together leaders from government, academia, civil society, industry, and international organisations to examine progress, challenges, and pathways forward.

Day and Date: Sunday, 17 May 2026

Time: 3:00 PM

Venue: Online

EVENTS



CDPP Centre for Development Policy and Practice

CLES Centre for Law, Economics and Society

Discussion on

Access to Justice

By Ms. Renu Mishra

Organised by the Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES) under CDPP

Ms. Renu Mishra is the Executive Director of Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives Trust. A lawyer with 20+ years in women's human rights, she leads access to justice initiatives across Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Uttarakhand, and Jharkhand. Adviser to national networks and government bodies, and recipient of the Hindustan Times Woman of the Year Award (2014).

29th April 2026, 12:30 p.m.
CDPP Office, Masab Tank,
Hyderabad

SCAN TO RSVP



Access to Justice

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice, conducted a discussion on Access to Justice by Ms. Renu Mishra, Executive Director, Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives Trust.

With over two decades of experience in advancing women's rights, Ms Mishra reflected on access to justice across marginalised communities and the institutional pathways shaping legal empowerment.

Day and Date: Wednesday, 29 March 2026

Time: 12:30 PM

Venue: CDPP Office, Serene Heights, Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana 500006

EVENTS



Hyderabad Policy Conclave: THE INDIAN ERA

**CDPP PANEL ON:
POLICY, PRACTICE,
IMPLEMENTATION AND
IMPACT: NAVIGATING
UNCERTAINTY**

Date & Time
9:30 AM – 10:20 AM,
Wednesday, April 29, 2026

Location
Dasarathi Auditorium, MCR HRD Institute
for Human Development, Hyderabad

Speakers

Moderator


AMIR ULLAH KHAN
Member, Telangana Public Service
Commission (TGSPC)


RENU MISHRA
Executive Director,
Association for Advocacy and Legal
Initiatives Trust (AALI)


R SAMEER NAIR
Head of Operations,
Youth4Jobs Foundation


ARPITA KANJILAL
Head, Research & Communications
Division, Digital Empowerment
Foundation


N. BHAVANI SRI
IAS, Secretary,
National Turmeric Board,
Government of India

Co-Hosts


Strategic Sponsor:


Policy, Practice, Implementation and Impact: Navigating Uncertainty

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice convened a panel discussion at the Hyderabad Policy Conclave: The Indian Era, organised by the School of Public Policy and Governance - TISS, Hyderabad.

The panel, titled “Policy Practice: Implementation and Impact: Navigating Uncertainties,” brought together practitioners and policymakers to examine how public policies translate into real-world outcomes by identifying the gaps in design, development, and deployment. The discussion focused on why certain interventions succeed while others face significant hurdles, with the goal of informing more effective and inclusive policy designs in the future.

The discussion was moderated by Amir Ullah Khan (Member, Telangana Public Service Commission), and featured an insightful panel comprising:

- Renu Mishra, Executive Director, Association for Advocacy and Legal Initiatives Trust (AALI)
- R Sameer Nair, Head of Operations, Youth4Jobs Foundation
- Arpita Kanjilal, PhD, Head, Research & Communications Division, Digital Empowerment Foundation
- N Bhavani Sri, IAS, Secretary, National Turmeric Board, Government of India

Day and Date: Wednesday, 29 April 2026

Time: 9:30 AM

Venue: Dasarathi Auditorium, MCR HRD Institute for Human Development, Hyderabad.

UPCOMING EVENTS



FILMI
Naghmon
KA SAFAR

June 17, 2026 (Wednesday), 6:30 p.m
at Lamakaan, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) warmly invites you.
An Evening of Filmi Songs and Poetry



Sajid Azam

Sajid Azam is an accomplished writer, producer, director, journalist, and Urdu scholar. An M.A. graduate from Osmania University, he has contributed to Doordarshan, ETV, Zee TV, & documentary film-making. His award-winning works include Hamari Zeenat and several Nandi Award-winning productions. He remains active in literature, media, and cultural initiatives.

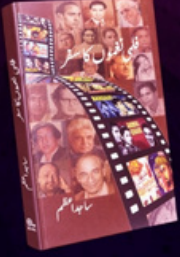


Dr. Atiya Mujeeb Arefi
School Assistant,
Education Department Telangana
Poetess, Writer & Anchor



Zaheer Baig

Zaheer Baig is an eminent surgeon and a gifted singer. He brings together the essence of Urdu literature and poetry in popular culture and film music.



The event will feature live singing of select film songs by Dr Zaheer Baig
A discussion with Sajid Azam by Dr. Atiya Mujeeb Arefi

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

Supported by



TEA & SNACKS

Bazm-e-Sukhan

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with Bazm-e-Sukhan, is organising Filmi Naghmon Ka Safar on 17 June 2026 at Lamakaan, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The evening will celebrate film music, poetry, and Urdu literary traditions through live singing by Zaheer Baig and a discussion with Sajid Azam, moderated by Dr. Atiya Mujeeb Arefi. The programme will begin at 6:30 p.m. and bring together literature, cinema, and cultural dialogue in a unique musical and poetic gathering.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE **CETI** FOUNDATION Aspire. Act. Achieve.

FOUNDATIONS OF ECONOMICS & PUBLIC POLICY

Short Course

5 day course on concepts of economics and public policy by
Dr. Rathin Roy



- ✓ Principles of Microeconomics
- ✓ Principles of Macroeconomics
- ✓ Development Economics
- ✓ Public Finance and Fiscal Policy
- ✓ Political Economy of Contemporary India

1-5 JUNE, 2026
04:30 PM - 06:30 PM
CDPP OFFICE

Short Course: Foundations of Economics and Public Policy

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) invites applications for Foundations of Economics & Public Policy, a 5-day short course by Dr. Rathin Roy

An economist and public policy expert with extensive experience in fiscal policy, governance, and development, Dr. Rathin Roy has worked across academia, government, and international policy institutions. Through this course, he will introduce students to the foundations of economics while connecting theory to contemporary policy challenges in India and beyond.

Designed for students, the series combines core economic concepts, Indian policy applications, contemporary debates, and interactive discussions.

Dates: 1-5 June 2026

Time: 4:00 PM – 6:00 PM IST

Venue: CDPP Office

UPCOMING EVENTS



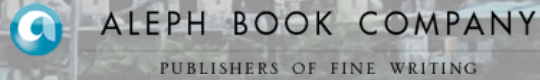
Policy and Disability Workshop

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with CETI Foundation, is organising an in-person workshop on Public Policy and Disability: Understanding Inclusion, Rights, and Justice on 20 June 2026 in Hyderabad. The workshop will feature Amita Dhanda and Aymen Mohammed, and will explore key issues relating to disability rights, inclusion, and public policy. The session will be held from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. at the CDPP Office, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, with limited in-person participation.

Menstruation Dialogue 2026

Goonj, in collaboration with The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and National Foundation for India (NFI), will be organising the Menstruation Dialogue 2026 in July 1st, 2026. As part of this initiative, a Special Edition on Menstrual Health and Hygiene will also be released during the event.

This publication will bring together multidisciplinary perspectives, lived experiences, and policy-practice insights on menstrual health, positioning it as a critical issue of public health, gender justice, and inclusive development. It aims to amplify voices from both grassroots practitioners and academic communities, fostering dialogue around dignity, equity, and access in the context of menstruation.



Click on the social media platform icons to connect!

