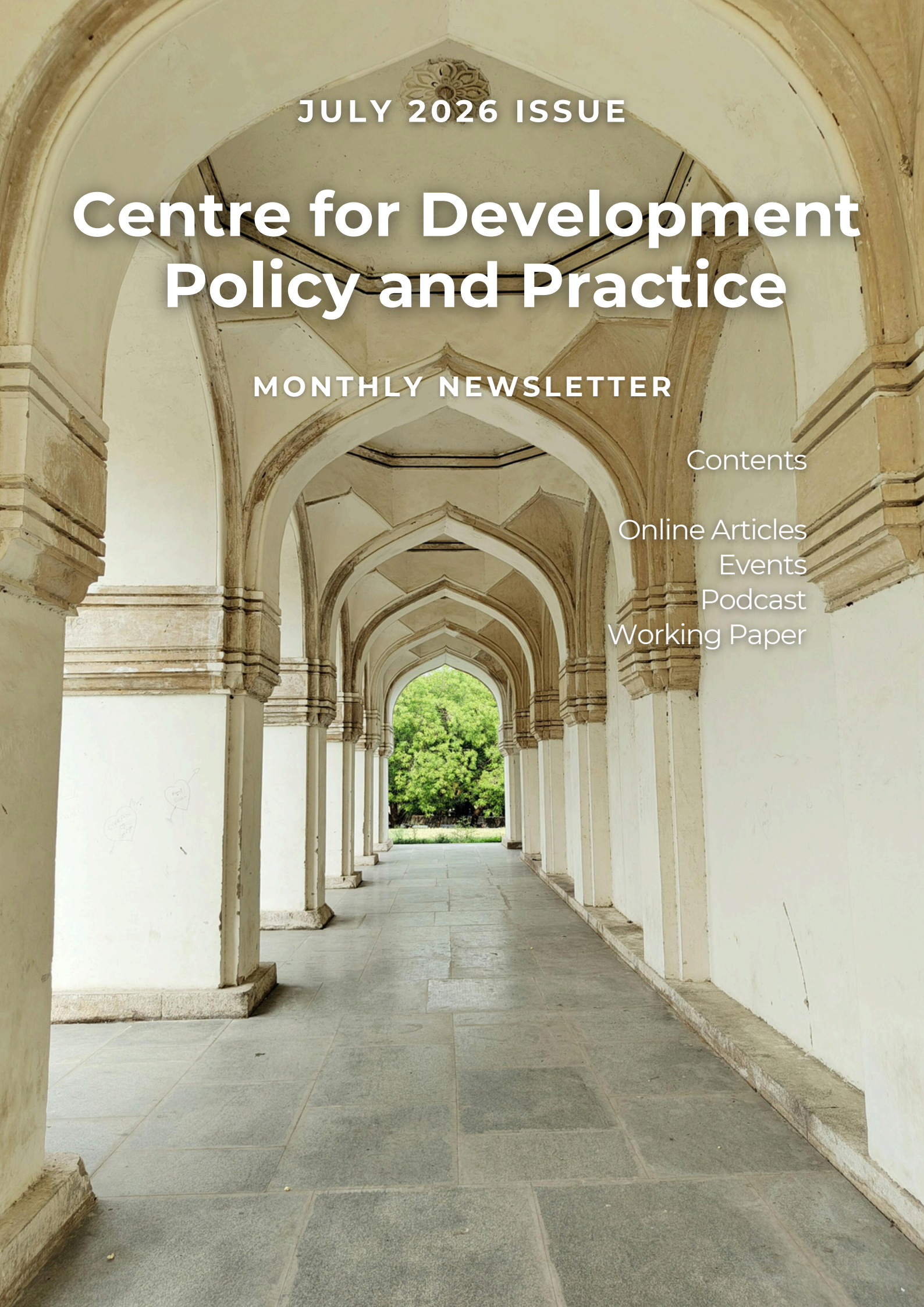




JULY 2026 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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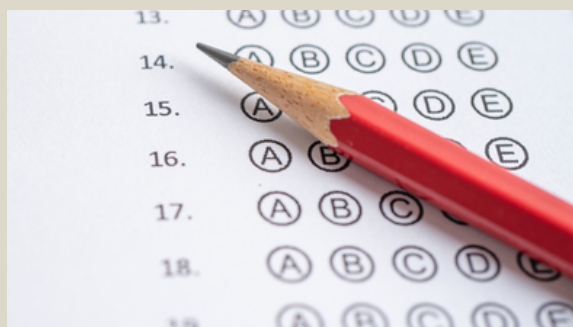
GLIMPSES OF JULY



ONLINE ARTICLES

Opinion articles bring together evidence-based analysis by CDPP researchers and invited contributors on contemporary public policy issues. Alongside original articles published on the CDPP platform, this section also features opinion pieces by our researchers in leading national publications. Together, these writings seek to inform public debate, bridge research and policy, and make complex issues accessible to a wider audience.

Beyond NEET: When India's Examination System Becomes a Crisis of Trust



This article examines the growing credibility crisis in India's examination system, arguing that restoring trust requires stronger institutional accountability, secure examination processes, and fairer assessment methods that reduce reliance on a single high-stakes test.

The Invisible Economy of Unpaid Care Work in India—How Women are Kept Out of the Workforce



This article explores how the unequal burden of unpaid care work limits women's participation in the workforce, arguing that greater investment in childcare, eldercare, and supportive labour policies is essential for meaningful economic inclusion.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

ONLINE ARTICLES

Opinion articles bring together evidence-based analysis by CDPP researchers and invited contributors on contemporary public policy issues. Alongside original articles published on the CDPP platform, this section also features opinion pieces by our researchers in leading national publications. Together, these writings seek to inform public debate, bridge research and policy, and make complex issues accessible to a wider audience.

What the Government's New Labour Survey Reveals About Hyderabad?



This article analyses Hyderabad's latest labour market trends, highlighting the city's strengths while examining persistent challenges in employment quality, gender disparities, and livelihoods.

India Has Put CSR on Dalal Street. Can Markets Understand Social Impact?



This op-ed explores India's decision to allow companies to route up to 10% of their CSR spending through the Social Stock Exchange, arguing that meaningful social impact requires going beyond compliance and disclosure to focus on long-term outcomes and equitable funding.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

ONLINE ARTICLES

Opinion articles bring together evidence-based analysis by CDPP researchers and invited contributors on contemporary public policy issues. Alongside original articles published on the CDPP platform, this section also features opinion pieces by our researchers in leading national publications. Together, these writings seek to inform public debate, bridge research and policy, and make complex issues accessible to a wider audience.

Beyond the Bench: The Many Dimensions of Justice M. N. Rao



This review examines *M. N. Rao: The Renaissance Man of Law* by Amita Dhanda, highlighting Justice M. N. Rao's enduring contributions to Indian jurisprudence while recommending the book as an essential resource for students, legal practitioners, and scholars.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

EVENTS

The poster features a background image of hands clasped in prayer, with a woman's arm adorned with bangles. At the top, the Goonj logo is displayed with the tagline 'GOONJ.. a voice, an effort' and the website 'www.goonj.org'. The main title 'MENSTRUATION DIALOGUE' is in large, bold, red letters, followed by the year '2026' and the subtitle 'UNDERSTANDING MENSTRUATION AS A HUMAN ISSUE'. A white box contains the theme: 'RE-CENTERING LIVED REALITIES, RESEARCH, POLICY AND COLLECTIVE ACTION'. Below this, a paragraph describes the event as an annual dialogue to create a safe space for grassroots realities. The date 'Wednesday, July 1st, 2026' is prominently displayed, followed by the venue 'Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Pt. Uma Shankar Dikshit Road, Teen Murti Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi- 110021' and the time '9:00am-6:00pm'. Logos for 'nfi' (National Foundation for India) and 'CDPP' (Centre for Development Policy and Practice) are shown, along with a QR code for RSVP. Contact information 'goonj.org' and 'mail@goonj.org' is at the bottom.

GOONJ..
GOONJ.. a voice, an effort
www.goonj.org

MENSTRUATION DIALOGUE

2026

UNDERSTANDING MENSTRUATION AS A HUMAN ISSUE

THEME

RE-CENTERING LIVED REALITIES, RESEARCH, POLICY AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

An annual dialogue to create a safe space where grassroots realities, lived experiences, and sectoral insights come together to inform policy and practice. This convening serves as a platform to reimagine what menstrual equity looks like in the Indian context and beyond.

Wednesday, July 1st, 2026

Venue: Vishwa Yuvak Kendra, Pt. Uma Shankar Dikshit Road,
Teen Murti Marg, Chanakyapuri, New Delhi- 110021

Time: 9:00am-6:00pm

In association with

nfi | **CDPP** CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

RSVP Here



goonj.org | mail@goonj.org

Menstruation Dialogue 2026

1 July 2026 | New Delhi

The Menstruation Dialogue 2026, organised by Goonj in association with the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and the National Foundation for India (NFI), brought together researchers, practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders to advance conversations on menstrual wellbeing, dignity, and social justice.

A key highlight was the launch of the inaugural Menstruation Dialogue Special Issue, published by CDPP, featuring multidisciplinary research and policy perspectives. The Dialogue reinforced the value of connecting lived experiences, research, and policy to promote inclusive and evidence-based approaches to menstrual justice.

EVENTS



CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

SIR in TELANGANA

Data Cleansing vs. Social Welfare

Lessons from the West Bengal SIR Exercise

TUESDAY, JULY 7, 2026 | TIMINGS: 2 PM. TO 4 PM.

Venue :
The Federation of Telangana Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FTCCI)
Federation House, 11-6-841, Red Hills
Hyderabad 500004, Telangana. India

This talk examines lessons from West Bengal's Special Intensive Revision (SIR), exploring its impact on electoral rolls, welfare access, and legal safeguards, while highlighting key considerations for balancing electoral integrity with citizens' rights in future implementations, including in Telangana.

OUR SPEAKERS

SABIR AHAMED

Researcher, Social Activist and RTI expert with 20+ years of experience in governance, electoral processes and developmental issues. At the forefront of research and advocacy on the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) process in West Bengal, and co-author of the pioneering "SIR Appeal: A Citizen's Handbook" developed with legal experts from NUJS Kolkata and NLSIU Bangalore.

ASHIN CHAKRABORTY

Economist and public policy researcher working on political economy, inequality, gender economics and social representation. Led a major empirical project on voter exclusions during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), 2026, digitising and structuring over 150 million voter records across roughly 80,000 polling booths.

SHAIKH AYAAN HOSSAIN

Political science researcher actively engaged in minority rights and social inclusion. Played a frontline role in the legal aid effort during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR), guiding affected voters through appeals and contributing to the "SIR Appeal: A Citizen's Handbook".

SIR in Telangana: Data Cleansing vs. Social Welfare

7 July 2026 | Hyderabad

CDPP hosted a discussion on "SIR in Telangana: Data Cleansing vs. Social Welfare—Lessons from the West Bengal SIR Exercise." The session examined the implications of Special Intensive Revision (SIR) for electoral rolls, access to welfare, legal safeguards, and the balance between electoral integrity and citizens' rights.

The discussion featured Sabir Ahamed, Ashin Chakraborty, and Shaikh Ayaan Hossain, and encouraged evidence-based dialogue on the policy and governance implications of SIR.

EVENTS

CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

Hyderabadi Poets

July 08, 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.

Contribution of Hyderabadi Poets to Urdu Literature

Mohammed Sajjad Ansari
Research Scholar, MANUU, Hyderabad
Will speak on Hyderabadi Poets

Smita Bellur
Smita Bellur, BE MS (BITS Pilani) worked at Oracle and SAP before turning a full-time musician. She is a trained Hindustani Classical Sufi singer who has performed at more than 500 venues. She has performed at Jodhpur RIFF, Spree Paisley Festival (Scotland), Rajgir Utsav, Kalaghoda Arts Festival, Jahan-e-Khusrau (Delhi), to name a few.

TEA & SNACKS

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

Contribution of Hyderabadi Poets to Urdu Literature

8 July 2026 | Hyderabad

CDPP hosted an evening celebrating Hyderabad's literary heritage with a talk on "Contribution of Hyderabadi Poets to Urdu Literature" by Mohammed Sajjad Ansari, Research Scholar at MANUU. The event concluded with a musical performance by renowned Hindustani classical and Sufi vocalist Smita Bellur, bringing together literature, music, and cultural dialogue.

EVENTS

CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

JOIN US FOR A
DISCUSSION
on the
FESTSCHRIFT
for
PROF. AMITABH KUNDU

Saturday July 11, 2026 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

VENUE: SEMINAR HALL 1, IIC, NEW DELHI

CONTRIBUTIONS TO INDIA'S HUMAN DEVELOPMENT JOURNEY
A Festschrift for Prof. Amitabh Kundu
Edited by
Abhinav Kumar, P. C. Mohan, (Joint Editors) Anil Chakrabarti

DINNER FOLLOWS

CRDDP Centre for Research and Debate in Development Policy
Understanding Truth Through Data

INDIA DEVELOPMENT INSTITUTE

Discussion on the Festschrift for Prof. Amitabh Kundu

11 July 2026 | New Delhi

CDPP hosted a discussion on the Festschrift for Prof. Amitabh Kundu, marking the release of Contributions to India's Human Development Journey. The event brought together scholars and practitioners to reflect on Prof. Kundu's enduring contributions to human development, public policy, and development research in India.

EVENTS





BOOK DISCUSSION

M N RAO: THE RENAISSANCE MAN OF LAW

Join us for an engaging conversation on leadership, public service, and building a lasting legacy.

5 PM to 6:30 PM | Monday, 20 July, 2026
CETI Foundation, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad



AMIR ULLAH KHAN
Development Economist
Former Civil Servant



AMITA DHANDA
Author of the Book
Head, Centre for Disability Studies



L. RAVICHANDER
Designated Senior Advocate for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh



ADITHYA K. CHINTAPANTI
Professor, NALSAR University of Law



SCAN TO RSVP

Policy, Practice, Implementation and Impact: Navigating Uncertainty

20 July 2026 | Hyderabad

CDPP, in collaboration with the CETI Foundation, hosted a discussion on M N Rao: The Renaissance Man of Law by Dr. Amita Dhanda. The conversation reflected on Justice M. N. Rao's legacy as a jurist, administrator, and public servant, exploring its relevance for leadership, institution-building, and constitutional values.

The panel featured Dr. Amita Dhanda, L. Ravichander, Dr. Adithya Krishna Chintapanti, and Dr. Amir Ullah Khan, bringing together diverse perspectives on law, governance, and public service.

EVENTS



The poster for the Webinar Series on Digital Public Infrastructure features logos for defindia.org, CDPP (Centre for Development Policy and Practice), and DPI (Digital Public Infrastructure). The title is "Webinar Series on Digital Public Infrastructure". The topic is "Data Discourses in the Making of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)". The venue is Zoom. The date and time are July 21st, 2026, 3.30 IST - 4:30 IST. The speaker is Preeti Raghunath, Lecturer in Digital Media and Society, University of Sheffield, UK. The poster also includes an illustration of a woman holding a smartphone, a hand holding a smartphone, and a hand holding a tablet, all set against a background of a globe and a map of India. At the bottom, there are logos for Digital Citizen Summit, CDPP, and other partners.

defindia.org **CDPP** CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE **DPI**

Webinar Series on Digital Public Infrastructure

Topic
Data Discourses in the Making of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)

Venue
zoom

Date
July 21st, 2026,
3.30 IST - 4:30 IST

Speaker
Preeti Raghunath
Lecturer in Digital Media and Society, University of Sheffield, UK

Digital Citizen Summit Webinar Series | Episode 2

21 July 2026 | Online

CDPP, in collaboration with the Digital Empowerment Foundation, hosted the second episode of the Digital Citizen Summit Webinar Series on "Data Discourses in the Making of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI)." The session featured Preeti Raghunath, Lecturer in Digital Media and Society at the University of Sheffield, UK.

The webinar explored how data discourses have shaped India's Digital Public Infrastructure, fostering discussions on digital governance, technology, and their broader social and political implications.

EVENTS



CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND
PRACTICE

TWO EVENTS. ONE CONVERSATION.

Exploring stories, challenging myths, understanding impact.



Aspire. Act. Achieve.

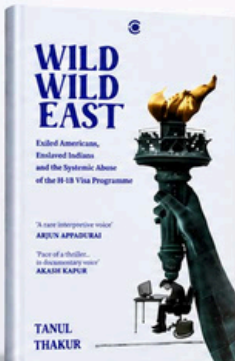
AUTHOR TALK

July 25, 2026

3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Venue: CETI FOUNDATION
S/1/A, Road No. 2,
Park View Enclave,
Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad 500034,
Telangana

 Scan to
Register



**WILD
WILD
EAST**
Exiled Americans,
Enclaved Indians,
and the Systemic Abuse
of the H-1B Visa Programme
TANUL THAKUR



By
Tanul Thakur
Author of
"Wild Wild East"

Through the stories of Kumar, Manu, and Virgil,
the book dismantles myths surrounding the
Indian IT boom and the American Dream.

BOOK DISCUSSION

July 25, 2026

6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Venue: Lamakaan
Off Road No. 1, Banjara Hills,
Opposite GVK One,
Hyderabad, Telangana 500034

 Scan to
Register

DISCUSSANTS

- **Vikas Singh**
Senior Fellow, MCRHROI
- **Sajid Hussain**
CEO, Human Development Trust (HDT)
- **Mubeen Rafat**
Director - Legacy Exim Dive Pvt Ltd
- **Ram R Bhupathiraju**
Associate Researcher,
Institute of Public Enterprise

 Be part of the conversation. Two events. One powerful book. | Register now to reserve your spot!

Author Talk: Wild Wild East

25 July 2026 | 3:30–5:00 PM | CETI Foundation, Hyderabad

CDPP, in collaboration with the CETI Foundation, hosted an author talk by Tanul Thakur on Wild Wild East. The discussion explored the hidden realities of the H-1B visa programme and its impact on migration, labour, identity, aspiration, and global inequality, followed by an interactive audience discussion.

Book Discussion: Wild Wild East

25 July 2026 | 6:00–8:00 PM | Lamakaan, Hyderabad

Later the same day, CDPP hosted a panel discussion on Wild Wild East featuring Tanul Thakur, Kumar Pandruvada, Sajid Hussain, and Mubeen Rafat, moderated by Ram R. Bhupathiraju. The conversation examined the realities of the H-1B visa programme and the broader questions it raises about migration, work, and the American Dream.

UPCOMING EVENTS



EXPERT TALK Data and Statistics for Evidence Based Policy Making

Wednesday, 5 August, 2026 | 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m.
Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Manasa Hills, Rajendra Nagar,
Hyderabad



About the Speaker

Rukmini S is the founder of Data For India and an award-winning data journalist. She is the author of *Whole Numbers & Half Truths: What Data Can and Cannot Tell Us About Modern India*, winner of the Tata Literature Live! First Book Award (Non-Fiction) 2022.

About the Talk

With unprecedented access to Indian public data, there has never been a better time to shape data-driven policy and practice. How can we harness this opportunity to build impactful careers across government, academia, civil society, and the private sector?

Registration is mandatory (limited seating).

Email: manisha@cdpp.co.in

Subject: Registration - Rukmini's Talk

Body: Your name, organisation, and a brief note about yourself and why you would like to attend.

**Data and Statistics for Evidence Based Policy Making
5 August 2026 | 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m. | Tata Institute of Social
Sciences (TISS), Manasa Hills, Rajendra Nagar, Hyderabad**

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) is pleased to host an Expert Talk by Rukmini S, founder of Data For India and author of *Whole Numbers & Half Truths*. The session will explore how India's expanding public data ecosystem can strengthen evidence-based policymaking and create opportunities for impactful careers across government, academia, civil society, and the private sector.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Understanding the World We Work In A Field Guide to Systems, Power and Change

6, 13, 20, & 27 August 2026 | Time: 4:30 p.m.–6 p.m.



Naghma Mulla
CEO, EdelGive Foundation

Naghma Mulla is a leading voice in strategic philanthropy. As the CEO of EdelGive Foundation, she champions innovative models of development financing that strengthens long-term grassroots resilience and drive systemic change.

Sessions

- 01** The Invisible Game Board.
What Makes Good People Get Stuck?
- 02** The Stories Power Tells.
How Privilege Shapes What We Notice and What We Miss
- 03** Beyond Planning.
Thinking Strategically in Uncertain Worlds
- 04** Leaving Something Behind That Lasts

JOIN ZOOM MEETING
Meeting ID: 833 7085 4766
Passcode: 468651



Register here



Understanding the World We Work In: A Field Guide to Systems, Power and Change

6, 13, 20 & 27 August 2026 | Online (Zoom)

CDPP, in collaboration with CETI Foundation, will host a four-part online learning series on systems thinking, power, privilege, and strategic change. Led by Naghma Mulla, CEO, EdelGive Foundation, the sessions will explore how individuals and organisations can better understand complex systems, navigate uncertainty, and create meaningful, long-term impact.

Learn more & register: Scan the QR code on the event poster.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND
PRACTICE

MERE PAAS MAA HAI

Ten years. Two hundred forwards. One argument India cannot stop having.

 August 7, 2026
Time: 6:30 p.m. – 8 p.m.

Venue: *Lamakaan*
Off Road No.1, Banjara Hills, Opp. GVK One,
Hyderabad, Telangana 500034.



Register Here


Author

Rajendra Prasad Boddapati

Rajendra Prasad Boddapati, writing as RAJU, is a Hyderabad through and through, raised in Mehdiapatnam, shaped by this city's gift for holding humour and history in the same sentence. For ten years he did what most of us do: got forwarded things, argued about them, forwarded some back. Unlike most of us, he kept notes.

Discussants

L. Ravichander

L. Ravichander, designated Senior Advocate for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh.

Rashad Ullah Khan

Rashad Ullah Khan, master's student at Columbia University. He previously was an academic associate at KSPP and a Sr. Research Fellow, CDPP.

Asma Rasheed

Asma Rasheed, Associate Professor at English and Foreign Languages University (EFLU), Hyderabad.

Brief on the book: If your family WhatsApp group has ever gone silent-then-explosive over a forward... if you've typed out a fact-check reply and deleted it before sending... if you grew up on Dakhni one-liners and Hyderabad wit and still wince at how flattened our politics has gotten, this one's for you. Mere Paas Maa Hai is what those notes became, six Acts on Indian politics, cinema, religion, nationalism, geopolitics, and Hyderabad itself, told with the city's own *tehzeeb* and its refusal to take anything, including itself, too seriously. Foreword by Mir Ali Husain, academic, cultural historian, and a familiar face to anyone who's spent an evening at Lamakaan talking about things that matter.

Book Discussion: Mere Paas Maa Hai 7 August 2026 | Hyderabad

CDPP will host a discussion on Mere Paas Maa Hai by Rajendra Prasad Boddapati (Raju), exploring politics, cinema, religion, nationalism, geopolitics, and Hyderabad through the lens of everyday conversations and social media culture.

The event will feature the author in conversation with L. Ravichander, Designated Senior Advocate for Telangana and Andhra Pradesh, Rashad Ullah Khan, a master's student at Columbia University, and Asma Rasheed, Associate Professor, EFLU, Hyderabad.

Learn more & register: Scan the QR code on the event poster.

UPCOMING EVENTS



JASHN E AAZADI

August 12, 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 Basant Songs and Patriotic Poetry.



Yousuf Saeed
Independent Filmmaker, Author and Archivist of Arts and Culture in South Asia

Announcing the release of Yousuf's book on Basant and its Cultural Heritage: "**Aaj Rachyo Hai Basant Nijam Ghar**"
This richly illustrated and full-colour book maybe the first of its kind in Hindi.

”آج رچو ہے بسنت نظام گھر“ فلم ساز اور مصنف یوسف سعید کی ایک نئی اور رنگین تصاویر سے مزین کتاب ہے؛ یہ کتاب بسنت سے متعلق صوفیانہ روایات اور برصغیر میں صدیوں سے پروان چڑھنے والی مشترکہ ثقافت پر مبنی ہے۔ اس کتاب میں تاریخ، ادب اور فن جیسے مختلف حوالوں سے بسنت کے موسم اور اس کے رنگوں کی عکاسی کی گئی ہے۔



Release of the book

Dr. Atiya Mujeeb Arefi and Dr. Gul e Rana will present a feature on patriotic Urdu poetry. Dr. Humera Sayeed will host the evening.

TEA & SNACKS

Supported by  

Bazm-e- Sukhan

12 August 2026 (Wednesday) | Lamakaan, Hyderabad

Bazm-e-Sukhan is CDPP's monthly Urdu literary series, organised in collaboration with the Digital Empowerment Foundation through its A-CODE initiative. Since 2018, it has brought together poets, scholars, and literature enthusiasts at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, while also hosting weekly online sessions and publishing Urdu anthologies, fostering an open and inclusive space for literary dialogue.

The upcoming edition will begin with a special Jashn-e-Azadi feature, where patriotic poetry will be presented. This will be followed by a discussion with filmmaker and author Yousuf Saeed on his latest Hindi book, "Aaj Rachyo Hai Basant Nijam Ghar," which explores the history, literature, art, and syncretic cultural heritage of the Basant tradition in the Indian subcontinent.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CETI Author Talk & Lamakaan Book Discussion *Busy Women: Building Commerce and Culture in Middle India* 25 September 2026 | Hyderabad

CDPP, in collaboration with CETI Foundation and Lamakaan, will host an author talk and book discussion on *Busy Women: Building Commerce and Culture in Middle India* by Shinjini Kumar. The discussion will explore women's entrepreneurship, informal economies, cultural production, and the ways women shape commerce and community in contemporary India. The author will be joined by distinguished discussants (to be announced).

Learn more & register: Details will be shared soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS



CALL FOR PAPERS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027

Law, Economics, Trade and Justice

5 & 6 February 2027

SUB-THEMES

- ✓ Law, Markets and Economic Performance
- ✓ Regulation, Labour and Market Governance
- ✓ Trade, Global Governance and Economic Law
- ✓ Access to Justice and Legal Inequality
- ✓ Institutions, Technology and Legal Reform

SUBMISSION CATEGORIES

- ✓ Abstract: 300 words
- ✓ Academic Research Papers: 6,000–8,000 words
- ✓ Policy Papers: 3,000–5,000 words
- ✓ Empirical and Field Studies: 4,000–6,000 words
- ✓ Comparative Legal and Trade Studies: 4,000–6,000 words (or as appropriate)

IMPORTANT DATES

 15 SEP 2026 Abstract Submission Deadline	 15 OCTOBER 2026 Acceptance Notification	 15 NOVEMBER 2026 Full Paper Submission	 4–17 JANUARY 2027 Virtual Presentation Round & Workshop	 5–6 FEBRUARY 2027 Conference Date
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SUBMISSION DETAILS

Submit a 300-word abstract by **15 September 2026** to info@cdpp.co.in with the subject line **"Law Conference_Abstract Submission_Your Name"** and an email body. Selected authors will be invited to submit full papers.

More Information: www.cdpp.co.in

Annual Conference 2027: Law, Economics, Trade and Justice 5–6 February 2027

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and the Economic Policy Center, Mahindra University invite submissions for the Annual Conference 2027: Law, Economics, Trade and Justice. The conference will bring together scholars, practitioners, policymakers, and researchers to examine the intersections of law, economic governance, trade, and access to justice.

Call for Papers: Abstract submissions (300 words) are open until 15 September 2026. Selected authors will present their work at the conference following a paper development process.

Learn more: <https://www.cdpp.co.in/events/annual-conference-2027-law-economics-trade-and-justice>

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!

LATEST WORKING PAPER

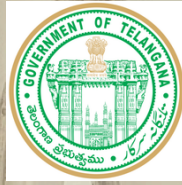
Caste, and Educational Backwardness in India: Lessons from the Telangana SEEEPC Survey

Caste continues to shape who gets access to education, secure work, and a decent standard of living in India, even after decades of growth. This working paper examines that pattern using the Telangana Socio, Economic, Educational, Employment, Political and Caste (SEEEPC) Survey 2024, a state-wide count of about 3.55 crore people across 242 caste groups. The survey is unusual because India has not carried out a full caste census since 1931, so most policy still relies on broad categories such as Scheduled Caste (SC), Scheduled Tribe (ST), Other Backward Class (OBC), and General Caste. These categories are useful for administration, but they may hide very different realities for the smaller communities sitting inside each group. The SEEEPC survey addresses this gap through a Composite Backwardness Index (CBI), which scores every caste on 42 measures spread across education, occupation, living conditions, land and assets, gender, and access to finance. A caste's score can range from 0 to 126, and a higher score points to a more difficult life; the state-wide average currently works out to 81.

The paper opens by explaining the CBI and its conceptual grounding. It then examines school dropout, women's educational attainment, and higher education access by caste, before turning to a focused look at girl child marriage and women's autonomy. A separate section studies the rural-urban divide and asks whether moving to a city reduces caste-based disadvantage, or simply reshapes it. The paper then places Telangana's findings within a country-wide picture using state-level AISHE and UDISE+ tables, which appears to suggest that broad social-group averages used nationally may conceal large gaps between individual castes, much as they do within Telangana itself. It closes with policy recommendations and a short discussion of what this evidence could mean for future research, including a proposed study of youth aspirations in urban Hyderabad.

Keywords: Caste Backwardness, Composite Backwardness Index, SEEEPC Survey, OBC, SC, ST, Educational Inequality, Occupational Exclusion, AISHE, UDISE+, India

The PDF (online version) of the working paper will be shared soon through the CDPP WhatsApp Community and across our social media platforms.



Click on the social media platform icons to connect!

