

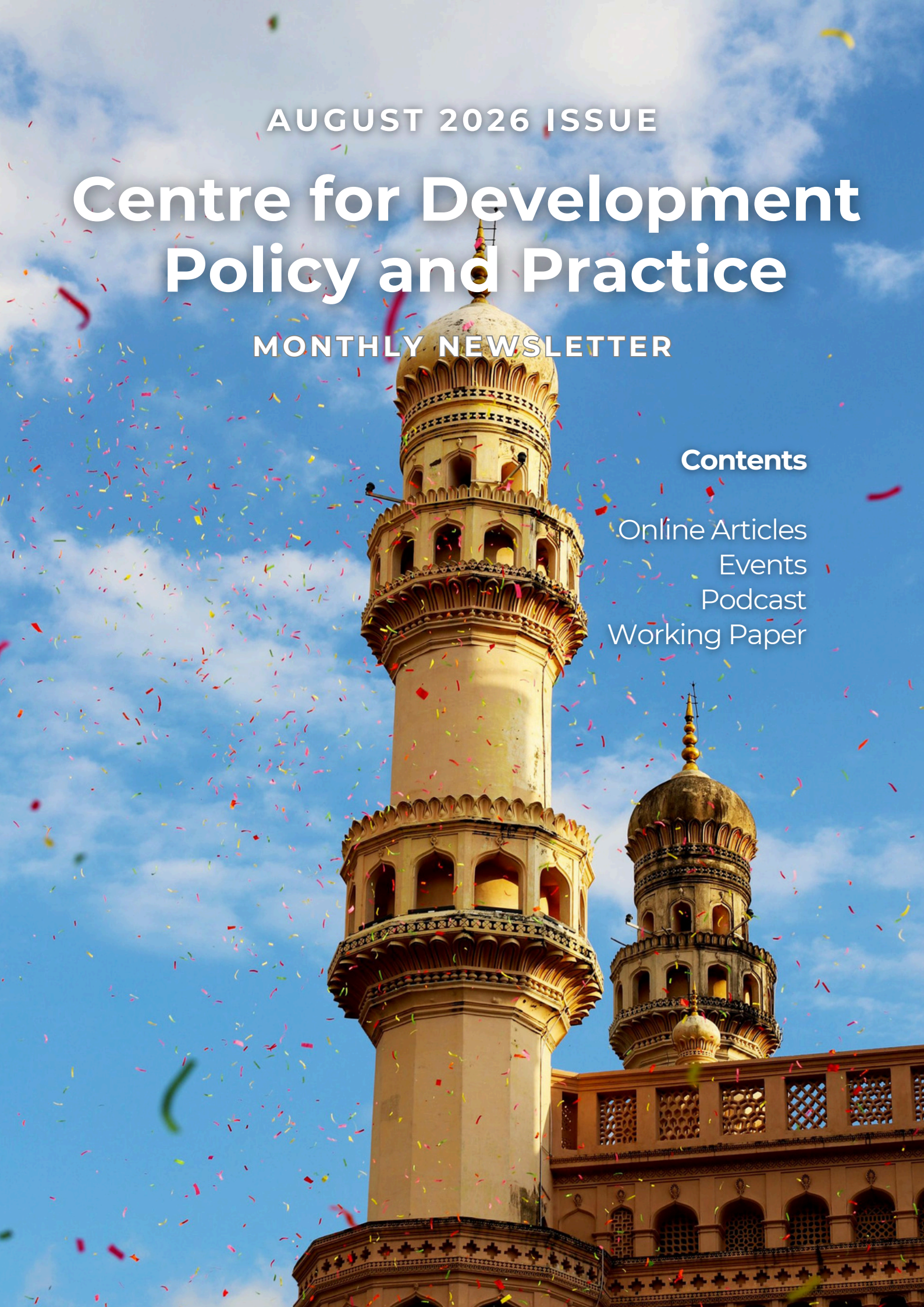
AUGUST 2026 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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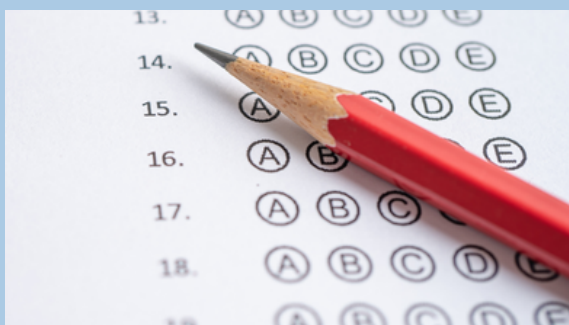
GLIMPSES OF AUGUST



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 CDPD researchers and invited contributors on contemporary public policy issues. Alongside original articles published on the CDPD 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

CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

CETI FOUNDATION
Aspire. Act. Achieve.

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, conducted a four-part online learning series on systems thinking, power, privilege, and strategic change. Led by Naghma Mulla, CEO, EdelGive Foundation, the sessions explored how individuals and organisations can better understand complex systems, navigate uncertainty, and work towards meaningful, long-term change.

The series provided participants with an opportunity to reflect on the systems within which they work, examine questions of power and privilege, and strengthen their approaches to creating strategic and sustainable impact.

EVENTS

**CDPP**
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 KSP 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 hosted 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 featured 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.

The discussion brought together diverse perspectives on contemporary society, public discourse, and the ways in which popular culture and everyday conversations intersect with larger political and social questions.

EVENTS

JASHN E AAZADI

CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

BAZM-E-SUKHAN

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.

Release of the book

”آج رچیو 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۔

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 DEF A-CODE

Bazm-e- Sukhan

12 August 2026 (Wednesday) | Lamakaan, Hyderabad

Bazm-e-Sukhan is CDPP's monthly Urdu literary event, 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.

This edition began with a special Jashn-e-Azadi feature, featuring patriotic poetry. This was 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.

EVENTS



CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND
PRACTICE

RELIGIOUS CONFLICT IN UTTARANCHAL: UNDERSTANDING HATE AND VIOLENCE



SPEAKER

Rashad Ullah Khan

The presentation will analyze how Hindutva vigilante organizations operating in Uttarakhand understand and narrate the legitimacy of violence across religious, civic, and political spheres. The talk will examine day-to-day operations of Hindutva vigilante organizations and the larger ideological doctrine of sacred duty and civic belonging as concepts, as well as the political and sovereign orders they authorize.

Rashad is a sociologist at Columbia University studying religion, violence, gender and society.



DATE
Monday,
31 August 2026



TIME
1:30 pm – 3:00 pm



VENUE
CDPP Office

Religious Conflict in Uttarakhand: Understanding Hate and Violence

31 August 2026 | CDPP Office & Online

CDPP hosted an academic talk by Rashad Ullah Khan, sociologist at Columbia University, on religious conflict, hate, and violence in Uttarakhand.

The session examined how Hindutva vigilante organisations understand and justify violence, and explored the ideas of religion, civic belonging, and political authority that shape their activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS



HEALTH & EDUCATION DATA

Talk & Discussion by Rukmini S.

8 September 2026 | 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

CETI Foundation, 4th Floor, United Colours of Benetton,
Road No. 2, BNR Colony, Venkat Nagar, Banjara Hills,
Hyderabad, Telangana

India has a long history of collecting both administrative and survey data on health and education. However, much more can be done in terms of data collection by the government, but also in terms of analysis and communication of this data by academia and others.

Students interested in data, development, public policy, health and education: discover how numbers can reveal and sometimes hide the realities of India.



Speaker: Rukmini S.

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.



SCAN THE QR
TO REGISTER



www.cdpp.co.in
9949299910
info@cdpp.co.in

Health & Education Data: Talk and Discussion with Rukmini S. 8 September 2026 | 10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m. | CETI Foundation, Hyderabad

CDPP, in collaboration with CETI Foundation, will host a talk by Rukmini S., founder of Data For India and award-winning data journalist. The session will examine how health and education data is collected, analysed, and communicated in India, and what numbers can reveal—or obscure—about development realities. The discussion will be particularly relevant for students and researchers interested in data, public policy, health, education, and development.

Registration: Scan the QR code on the event banner.

UPCOMING EVENTS



8th Digital Citizen Summit 2026: Call for Papers

Theme: JanDPI – Centering People in Digital Public Infrastructure

Abstract Deadline: 8 September 2026

The 8th Digital Citizen Summit (DCS) 2026 will focus on building a more people-centric approach to Digital Public Infrastructure, bringing together community experiences, research, and policy perspectives on inclusion, accessibility, rights, and accountability.

As part of the Summit's DPI Special Series, the Digital Empowerment Foundation, in collaboration with CDPP and APNIC Foundation, invites research papers, essays, commentaries, and case studies on people-centric DPI. Selected contributions will be published and released during DCS 2026.

For submission guidelines and further details: [View the Call for Papers](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

CDPP CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

KHAWATEEN KA MUSHARA AUR KAVI SAMELAN

THE BAZM E SUKHAN

September 09, 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 to an evening of Khawateen Mushaira & Kavi Sammelan

The Mushaira on September 9, will feature some of our finest women poetes writing in Urdu and Hindi.

The history of Urdu poetry includes Extraordinary women who broke social boundaries, pioneered feminist literature, and brought distinct emotional and political perspectives to the Urdu language.

From courtesans in royal courts to modern anti-establishment activists, women writers like Mahlaqa Bai writing in 1790 to Parvin Shakir in 1990 have fundamentally reshaped Urdu literature.

1) Professor Ashraf Rafi	5) Savita Soni	9) Anjum Ziyaei
2) Hina Shahedi	6) Uma Devi	10) Subhatul Marjaan
3) Rafia Nausheen	7) Aarzoo Mahek	11) Saima Mateen
4) Sunita Lulla	8) Elizebeth Mona	

Convener Rafia Nausheen

TEA & SNACKS

Supported by DEF ACODE

Bazm-e-Sukhan: Khawateen Mushaira & Kavi Sammelan 9 September 2026 | 6:30 p.m. | Lamakaan, Hyderabad

As part of Bazm-e-Sukhan, CDPP will host an evening of Urdu and Hindi poetry featuring women poets from diverse literary traditions. The event will celebrate the longstanding contribution of women writers to Urdu and Hindi literature, from early pioneers to contemporary voices.

The evening will bring together poetry, literature, and conversation, with Rafia Nausheen as the convener.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Book Discussion

Busy Women: Building Commerce and Culture in Middle India
25 September 2026 | 6:30 p.m.–8:00 p.m. | Lamakaan, Hyderabad

CDPP will host a discussion on *Busy Women: Building Commerce and Culture in Middle India* by Shinjini Kumar, author, poet, and former banker. The book examines the lives and experiences of women who are reshaping commerce, enterprise, and everyday culture across Middle India.

The discussion will feature Shinjini Kumar in conversation with Dolly Thakore, veteran actor, casting director, and author; Duvvuri Subbarao, former RBI Governor, economist, and author; and Amir Ullah Khan, development economist and former civil servant.

The conversation will explore women's work, entrepreneurship, aspiration, social change, and the evolving economic and cultural landscape of India beyond its major metropolitan centres.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



CENTRE FOR
DEVELOPMENT
POLICY AND
PRACTICE



SAHAYATA
TRUST

 Workshop for Teachers |  29 September, 2026 |  2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m.

SPEAKER:
HABEEB QADRI

- Superintendent, MCC Academy, Chicago
- Educator | Author | Youth Mentor



**FOR TEACHERS AND
STUDENTS OF CLASS
VII AND ABOVE**

A discussion on learning, skills,
leadership, opportunities and
how students can prepare
themselves for a changing world.



Learning for the Future: What Should Students Be Preparing For? 29 September 2026 | 2:00 p.m.–5:00 p.m. | Manchi Challenger School, Balapur, Hyderabad

CDPP, in collaboration with Sahayata Trust, will host a workshop for teachers and students of Class VII and above on learning, skills, leadership, opportunities, and preparing for a rapidly changing world.

The session will be led by Habeeb Qadri, Superintendent, MCC Academy, Chicago, educator, author, and youth mentor, and will explore how schools and students can better prepare for future academic, professional, and social challenges.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE | **SAHAYATA TRUST**

A CONFERENCE ON

THE FUTURE OF SCHOOL EDUCATION

For Teachers, Educators, and School Leaders

DAY & DATE
Wednesday,
30 September 2026

TIME
9 a.m. – 2 p.m.
Followed by lunch

VENUE
Ravindra Bharathi,
Hyderabad

WHAT SHOULD SCHOOLS BE PREPARING STUDENTS FOR?

A day of conversations around the changing needs of school education, including:

- Skills and conceptual learning
- Curriculum and pedagogy
- Language and the social sciences
- STEM and the liberal arts
- Teaching and teacher development
- Inclusion and diversity
- Assessment and evaluation
- Preparing students for a changing world

This exclusive program has been designed for practising teachers, educators, and school leaders in Hyderabad.

SPEAKER:

Habeeb Qadri
• Superintendent, MCC Academy, Chicago
• Educator | Author | Youth Mentor

The Future of School Education 30 September 2026 | 9:00 a.m.–2:00 p.m. | Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad

CDPP, in collaboration with Sahayata Trust, will host a conference for teachers, educators, and school leaders on the changing needs of school education and what schools should be preparing students for.

Featuring Habeeb Qadri, Superintendent, MCC Academy, Chicago, educator, author, and youth mentor, the conference will explore curriculum and pedagogy, skills and conceptual learning, teacher development, inclusion and diversity, assessment, STEM and the liberal arts, and preparing students for a changing world.

Registration: Details will be conveyed soon.

UPCOMING EVENTS

CALL FOR PAPERS

ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2027
Law, Economics, Trade and Justice
19 & 20
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
- 1 OCT 2026**: Acceptance Notification
- 15 NOV 2026**: Full Paper Submission
- 4–17 JAN 2027**: Virtual Presentation Round & Workshop
- 19 & 20 FEB 2027**: Conference Date

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 19–20 February 2027 | Mahindra University, Hyderabad

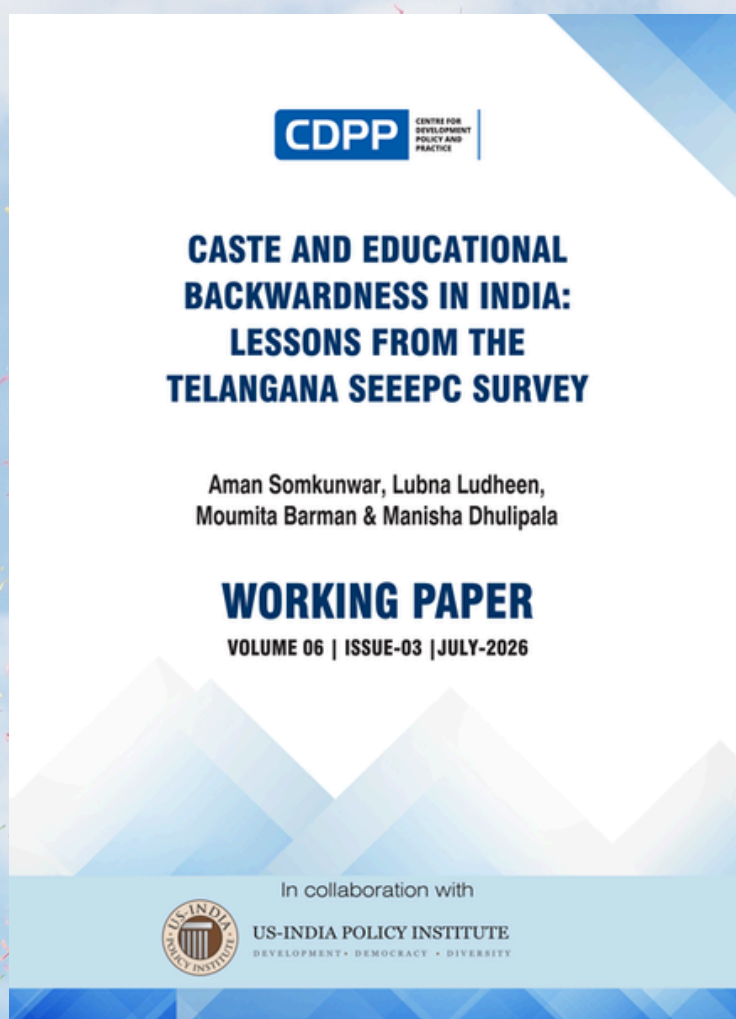
The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), through its Centre for Law, Economics and Society (CLES), in collaboration with the Economic Policy Center, Mahindra University, will organise the Annual Conference 2027 on Law, Economics, Trade and Justice.

The conference will bring together scholars, practitioners, policy-makers, trade experts, and early-career researchers to examine the intersections of legal institutions, markets, trade governance, inequality, and access to justice. Key themes include judicial efficiency, labour and competition law, trade agreements and dispute settlement, intellectual property, climate and trade policy, legal aid, alternative dispute resolution, and digital justice.

Call for Papers: Authors are invited to submit a 300-word abstract by 15 September 2026 to info@cdpp.co.in with the subject line "Law Conference: Abstract Submission (Your Name)".

Authors of selected abstracts will be notified by 1 October 2026, and will be required to submit full papers by 15 November 2026.

LATEST WORKING PAPER



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

This working paper uses the Telangana SEEEPC Survey 2024, covering around 3.55 crore people across 242 caste groups, to examine caste-based educational and social disadvantage. Using the Composite Backwardness Index (CBI), it looks at the issues of school dropout, women's education, higher education, child marriage, autonomy and rural-urban inequalities. The paper also draws on AISHE and UDISE+ data to place Telangana within the wider national context and highlights how broad social categories can mask differences between individual castes.

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

Link: <https://www.cdpp.co.in/working-papers/detail?id=36>

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

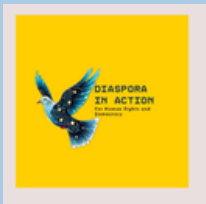


In this episode of the Centre for Law, Economics and Society Podcast organised by CDPP, we were joined by Dr. Sanu Rani Paul, a faculty member at Damodaram Sanjivayya National Law University. With over a decade of academic experience in environmental law and jurisprudence, her work has engaged with questions 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!



Click on the social media platform icons to connect!

