SEPTEMBER 2026 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



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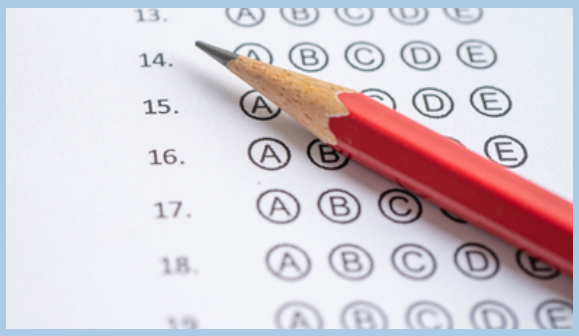




ONLINE ARTICLES

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!

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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!

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



This review by L. Ravichander 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



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

On 8 September 2026, CDPP, in collaboration with CETI Foundation, hosted a talk and discussion with Rukmini S., founder of Data For India and an award-winning data journalist. The session, held at CETI Foundation in Hyderabad, examined how health and education data is collected, analysed, and communicated in India, and what numbers can reveal, or obscure, about development realities.

The event drew students and researchers interested in data, public policy, health, education, and development, and offered them an opportunity to engage directly with a leading practitioner in the field.

EVENTS

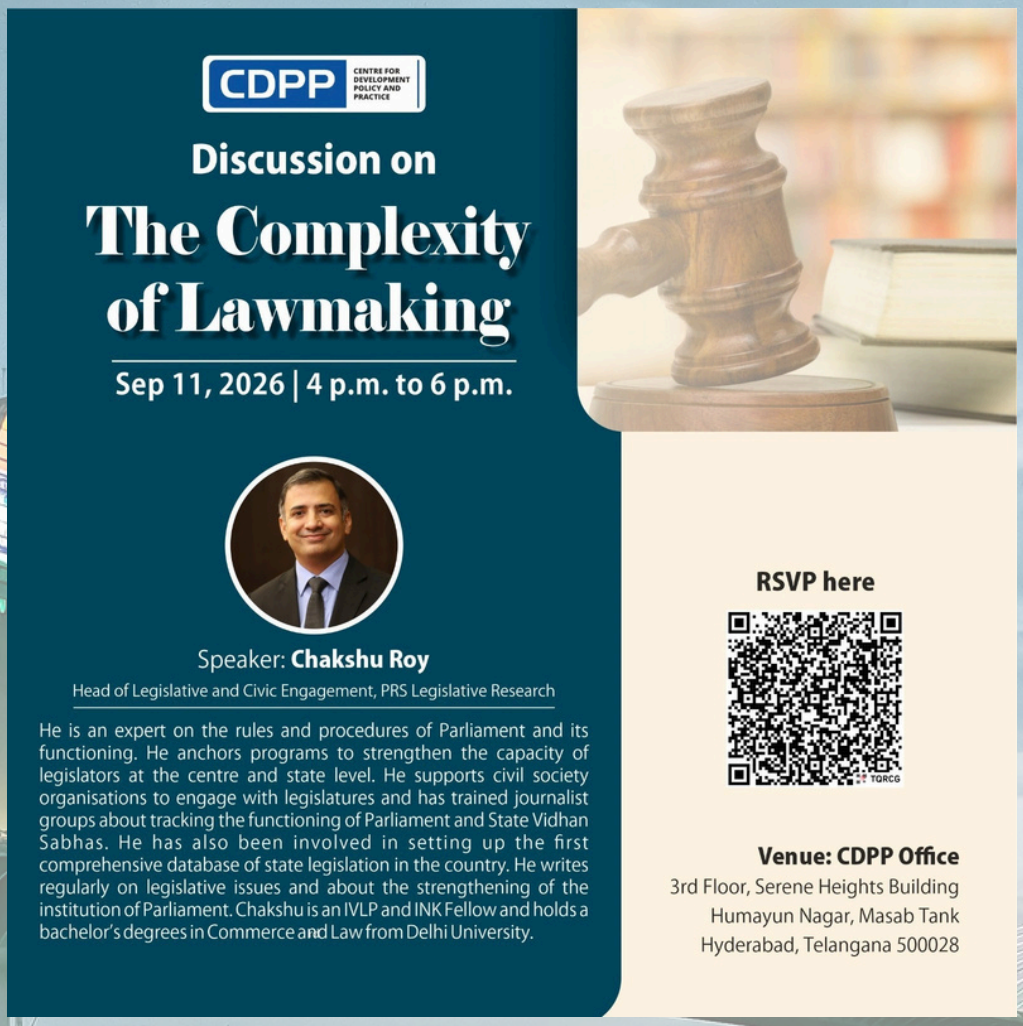


Bazm-e-Sukhan: Khawateen Mushaira & Kavi Sammelan
9 September 2026 | 6:30 PM Onwards | Lamakaan, Hyderabad

On 9 September 2026, CDPP hosted an evening of Urdu and Hindi poetry at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, as part of Bazm-e-Sukhan. The programme featured women poets from diverse literary traditions and celebrated the longstanding contribution of women writers to Urdu and Hindi literature, from early pioneers to contemporary voices.

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

EVENTS



Discussion on The Complexity of Lawmaking
11 September 2026 | CDPP Office, Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad

On 11 September 2026, CDPP hosted a discussion on The Complexity of Lawmaking at its office in Masab Tank, Hyderabad. The speaker was Chakshu Roy, Head of Legislative and Civic Engagement at PRS Legislative Research.

Chakshu Roy is an expert on the rules and procedures of Parliament and its functioning. He anchors programmes to strengthen the capacity of legislators at the centre and state level, supports civil society organisations in engaging with legislatures, and has trained journalist groups on tracking the functioning of Parliament and State Vidhan Sabhas. He has also been involved in setting up the first comprehensive database of state legislation in the country.

EVENTS

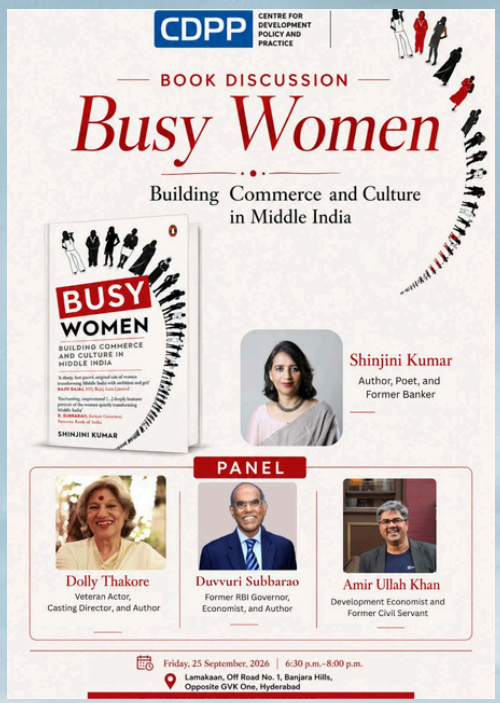


Webinar Series on Digital Public Infrastructure: The Human Side of DPI
21 September 2026 | 4:00 PM onwards | Zoom

On 21 September 2026, the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and CDPP held a webinar on The Human Side of DPI: Adoption, Friction, and Governance in India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, as part of their Webinar Series on Digital Public Infrastructure. The session was held on Zoom.

The speaker was Dr. Ranjini C R, Professor of Public Policy at RV University. The webinar looked at how people adopt and experience India's Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission, where friction arises in practice, and how the system is governed.

EVENTS



Book Discussion

Busy Women: Building Commerce and Culture in Middle India

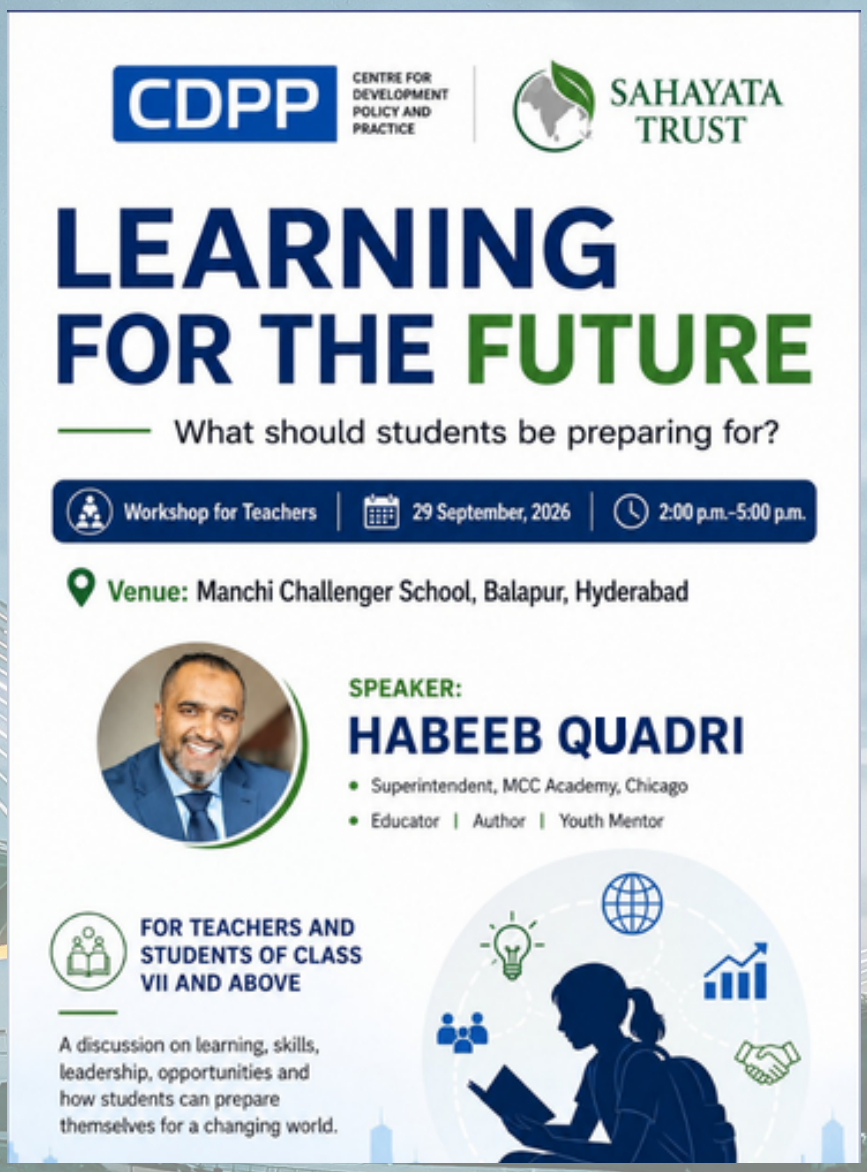
25 September 2026 | 6:30 PM–8:00 PM | Lamakaan, Hyderabad

On 25 September 2026, CDPP hosted 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.

Shinjini Kumar was 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 explored women's work, entrepreneurship, aspiration, social change, and the evolving economic and cultural landscape of India beyond its major metropolitan centres.

EVENTS



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

CDPP, in collaboration with Sahayata Trust, hosted 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 was led by Habeeb Quadri, Superintendent, MCC Academy, Chicago, educator, author, and youth mentor. It explored how schools and students can better prepare for future academic, professional, and social challenges.

EVENTS



The Future of School Education
30 September 2026 | 9:00 AM–2:00 PM | Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad

On 30 September 2026, CDPP, in collaboration with Sahayata Trust, hosted The Future of School Education 2026, a conference for teachers, educators, and school leaders at Ravindra Bharathi, Hyderabad. The day centred on a single question: what should schools be preparing students for?

Speakers reflected on the goals of modern education and the role of civil society in achieving them, on reimagining careers, and on how technology is changing the classroom. Sessions looked at robotics in early school education and at why the teacher remains essential in the age of AI. CDPP researchers also presented findings on the state of education in Telangana, drawing on evidence, trends, and emerging priorities.

Habeeb Quadri, Superintendent, MCC Academy, Chicago, led the closing special session on the future of school education. The conference ended with key takeaways and a vote of thanks, followed by lunch and informal interaction.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Bazm-e-Sukhan: Dohas: The Language of Peace and Love
14 October 2026 (Wednesday) | 6:30 PM Onwards | Lamakaan, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

CDPP will host an evening devoted to the Doha, one of the most beloved poetic forms in Urdu and Hindi literature. In just two lines, the doha captures profound thoughts and timeless messages of ethics, love, tolerance, and humanity. The evening will celebrate this tradition through the poetry of Ameer Khusro, Sur Das, Abdul Rahim Khan-i-Khanan, Kabir Das, Miranji Shams-ul-Ushshaq, and others.

Professor Arshia Jabeen, Head of the Department of Urdu at the University of Hyderabad, will deliver the keynote address, "The Journey of the Doha." Students of the University of Hyderabad will present "Dohas & Their Meaning" in a session titled Voice of the Youth, and an interactive game, "Recognise & Complete," will engage the audience with the moderator. Rafia Nausheen will be the convener.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Book Discussion: *The Economy Is Personal*
17 October 2026 (Saturday) | 6:30 PM–8:00 PM | Lamakaan, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

CDPP will host a discussion on *The Economy Is Personal: How Big Economic Forces Shape Your Money, and What You Can Do About It* by Anisha Sircar and Nupur Pavan Bang, with a foreword by Duvvuri Subbarao, former Governor of the Reserve Bank of India. The book shows how macroeconomic forces shape our earnings, the value of our money, and what we can do with it, covering saving, investing, borrowing, credit, investment instruments, and the worth of real estate through engaging examples and activities.

Nupur Pavan Bang is a globally recognised thought leader in family business and finance, with over 25 years of experience in research, teaching, leadership, and advising. Anisha Sircar is a journalist and researcher covering business, technology, culture, and policy. She is a Non-Resident Fellow at the East Asian Institute, National University of Singapore, and was previously Deputy Asia Editor at Reuters.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Digital Citizen Summit (DCS) 2026: JanDPI, Centring People in Digital Public Infrastructure
9-10 December 2026 | New Delhi

CDPP is a principal partner of the eighth edition of the Digital Citizen Summit, by Digital Empowerment Foundation, which will take place in New Delhi on 9-10 December 2026. Its theme, JanDPI: Centring People in Digital Public Infrastructure, reimagines DPI as a people's infrastructure grounded in equity, dignity, and accountability.

The summit will call for digital systems that are designed, governed, and delivered with people at the centre, so they can be used locally, affordably, and without exclusion. This means shared access points, assisted services, offline and low-tech options, regional languages, and inclusive design. Civil society, government institutions, business, and legal and tech experts will come together to challenge the idea of citizens as passive users, and to push for infrastructure that adapts to the country's diverse realities rather than expecting people, especially unconnected communities, to adapt to it.

UPCOMING EVENTS



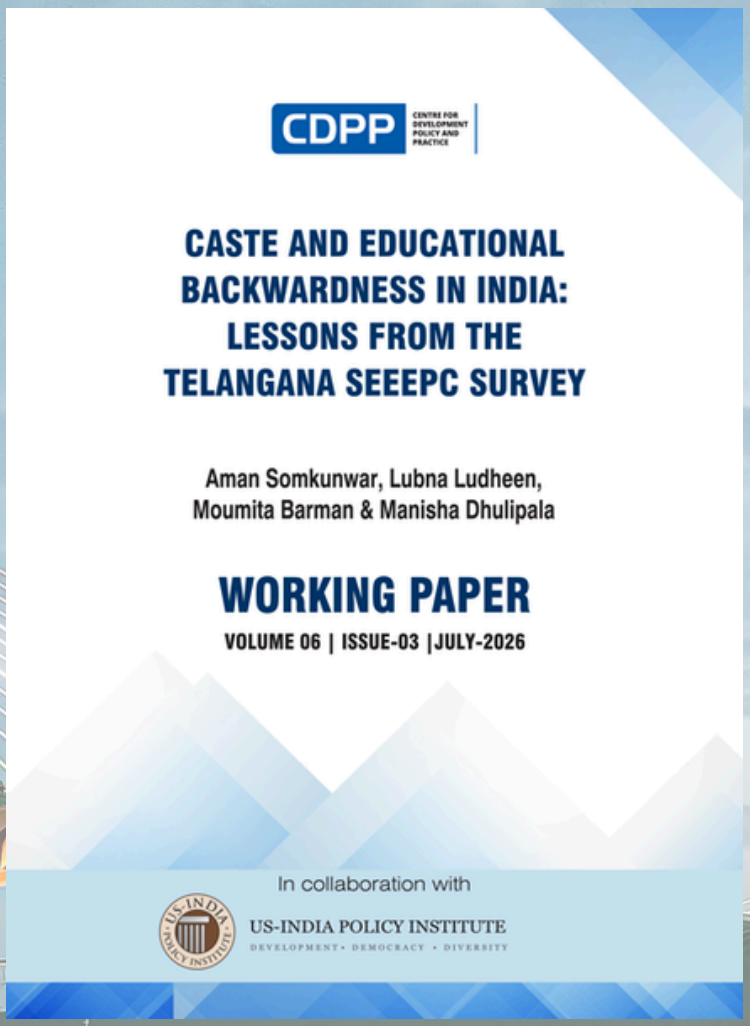
Annual Conference 2027: Law, Economics, Trade and Justice
19–20 February 2027 | Mahindra University, Hyderabad

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: The call for abstracts is now closed, with the deadline having been 15 September 2026. Only authors of selected abstracts will be contacted, by email, by 15 October 2026. Selected authors 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!



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