

APRIL 2026 ISSUE

# Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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# 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 S.A. Huda



In this episode of the Centre for Law, Economics and Society Podcast organised by CDPP, we sit down with S. A. Huda, a retired IPS officer and former Director General of Police of Andhra Pradesh. A founding member of the Centre for Studies of Plural Societies, New Delhi, he is widely recognised for his administrative leadership and long-standing commitment to public service. Over the years, he has actively engaged with questions of educational reform and the need to strengthen representation of underrepresented communities within the civil services.

This episode explores the question of representation and diversity in the Indian civil services, examining the structural barriers that shape access to these institutions and the broader implications for governance and equity. Through this conversation, the episode reflects on how inclusive representation can strengthen public institutions and deepen democratic practice.

This episode is hosted by Moumita Barman, Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP).

**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.

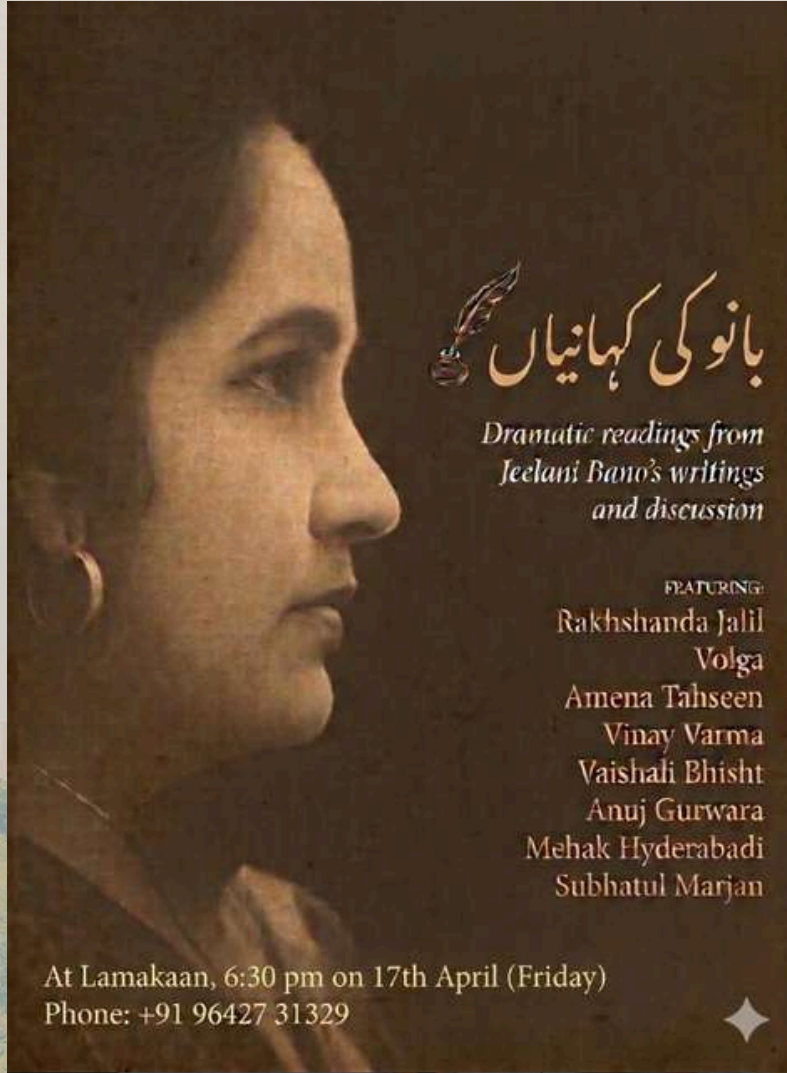
## **Sexual and Reproductive Rights in Occupational Health Policies for Women in Indian Agriculture**



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



## **Bano Ki Kahaniyaan**

An evening of literature, performance, and reflection—\*Bano ki Kahaniyaan\* brings alive the powerful writings of Jeelani Bano through dramatic readings and discussion.

Featuring a diverse ensemble of voices, the event invites audiences to engage with stories that resonate across time, identity, and experience.

Date: Friday, 17 April 2026

Time: 6:30 PM

Venue: Lamakaan, Hyderabad

# EVENTS

The poster features the CDPP logo in the top left and the Lamakaan logo in the top right. The title 'UNDER GREY SMOGGY SKIES' is prominently displayed in orange, with the subtitle 'Living Homeless on the Streets of India's Cities' below it. A line indicates a conversation with Amir Ullah Khan. On the left is the book cover, which shows a dark street scene at night. To the right of the cover is a text box describing the book's content. Below that is a box with the date and time, accompanied by a calendar icon and a location pin. At the bottom left is a bio for Harsh Mander, and at the bottom right is a black and white portrait of him.

CDPP

Lamakaan

**BOOK RELEASE**

**UNDER GREY SMOGGY SKIES**  
Living Homeless on the Streets of India's Cities

**Harsh Mander** in conversation with **Amir Ullah Khan**

Each night, nearly three million people sleep on India's streets, facing harsh weather, violence, and neglect. This book reveals lives shaped by survival and resilience.

21 April | 7:00 PM  
Lamakaan, Hyderabad

Harsh Mander is an Indian author, columnist, researcher, teacher, and social activist. He is the Director of the Center for Equity Studies, a research organisation based in New Delhi

## **Under Grey Smoggy Skies: Living Homeless on the Streets of India's Cities - Harsh Mander**

The launch of "Under The Grey Smoggy Skies: Living Homeless on the Streets of India's Cities" by Harsh Mander took place at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, on 21st April 2026, featuring a conversation with Amir Ullah Khan. The discussion invited the audience to reflect on the lived experiences of homeless people in Indian cities through a sensitive lens.

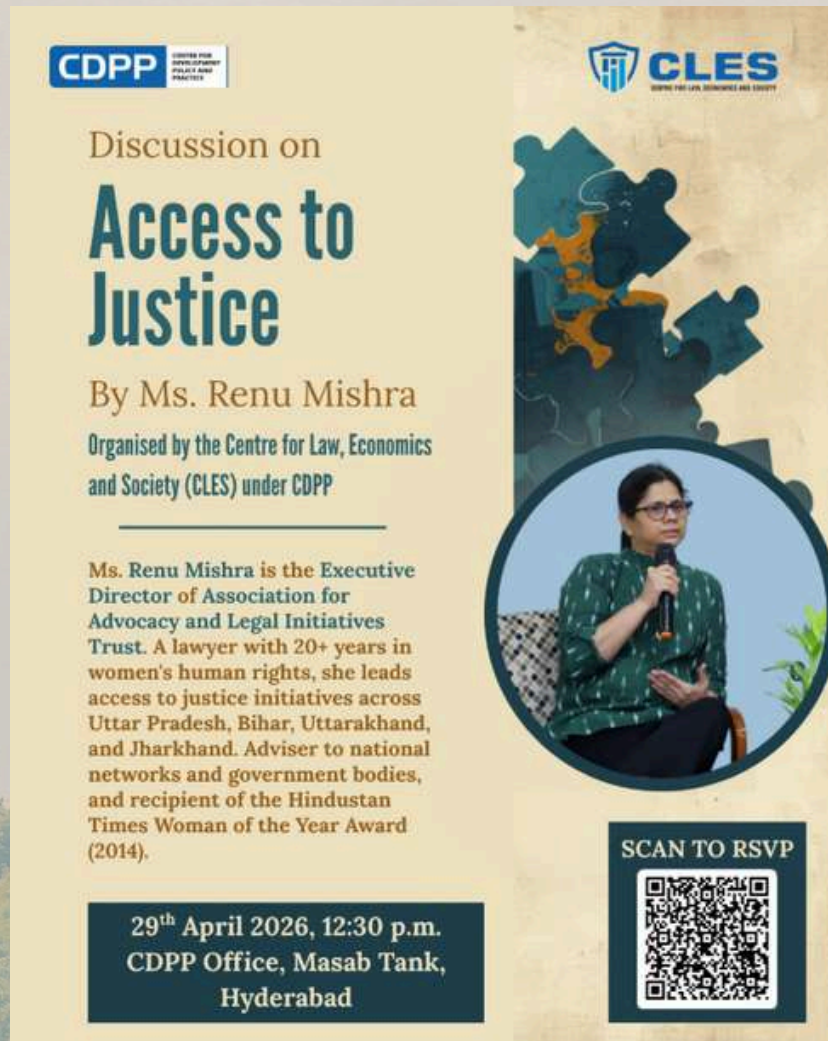
In the discussion, questions about common perceptions of the homeless were raised, which Harsh Mander answered with a critical lens, examining the failure of the infrastructural and institutional systems that have led to the homeless being in a helpless state in India. The conversation engaged deeply with the themes of rights, dignity, indifference, crime, and justice, with stories shared by the author from his 25 years of experience working with the homeless population across the country.

Day and Date: Tuesday, 21 April 2026

Time: 7:00 PM

Venue: Lamakaan, Hyderabad

# EVENTS



**CDPP** CENTER FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

**CLES** CENTER 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).

29<sup>th</sup> 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

**Moderator**

**Speakers**

**AMIR ULLAH KHAN**  
Member, Telangana Public Service  
Commission (TSPSC)

**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**  
YASADHS, RIS

**Strategic Sponsor**  
NMDC

## 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

**CDPP** CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

**ALLAMA Iqbal KE NAAM**

BAZM-E-SUKHAN

May 13, 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 on Allama Iqbal's personality and poetry

**Syed Mahmood Kazmi**  
Syed Mahmood Kazmi is Professor, HOD and Assistant Director. Department of Translation, MANUU, Hyderabad. He previously worked as a translator for 9 years with the Uttar Pradesh government. Dr. Kazmi is a renowned scholar of Urdu, Persian, Hindi and English languages. He is a poet, critic, researcher, teacher and translator.

**Allama Iqbal**

**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.

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

TEA & SNACKS

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## Bazm-e-Sukhan

Date: 13 May 2026

A cultural and literary gathering celebrating poetry, prose, and artistic expression of Allama Iqbal, featuring readings and performances.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

## **Delimitation and Finance Commission - Prof. Amitabh Kundu**

Date: 15 May 2026

A lecture focusing on the political and economic implications of delimitation, alongside the role and impact of the Finance Commission in resource distribution.

## **Reading in the Era of ChatGPT - Rashad Ullah Khan**

Date: 21 May, 2026

An interactive workshop examining how digital tools and AI are reshaping reading habits, critical thinking, and academic engagement in contemporary times.

## **Bail Application in the Indian Legal System - Ramsha Farhan**

Date: June 2026

This session will explore the legal framework governing bail in India, including procedural aspects, judicial interpretation, and practical challenges in securing bail.

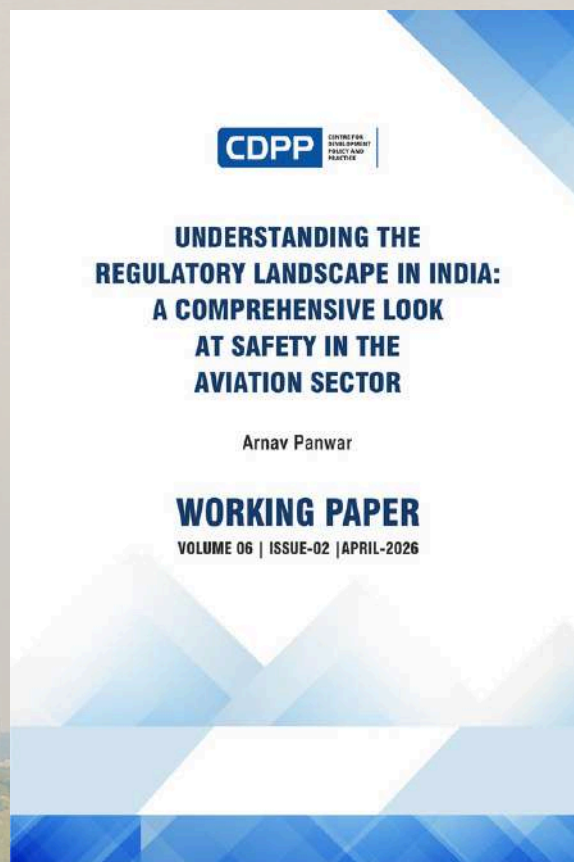
## **Menstruation Dialogue 2026**

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 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.

# CURRENT WORKING PAPER

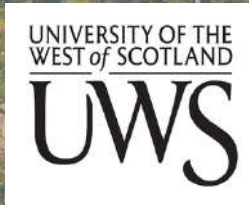


## **Understanding the Regulatory Landscape in India – A Comprehensive Look at Safety in the Aviation Sector**

India's civil aviation sector stands at a critical juncture of rapid growth and regulatory modernisation. This working paper by the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDDP) offers a comprehensive examination of the regulatory landscape governing Indian aviation. It traces the sector's strategic contribution to GDP, employment, tourism, and supply-chain resilience amid post-COVID recovery and technological shifts such as drones, sustainable aviation fuel (SAF), and AI integration.

The study maps the institutional architecture of safety regulations in India. The Directorate General of Civil Aviation (DGCA), Airport Authority of India (AAI), Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) work under Ministry of Civil Aviation (MoCA). While the DGCA is the primary regulatory body responsible for overseeing civil aviation safety, AAI and AAIB play a strong complementary role. The legislative foundation of Indian aviation safety consists of the Aircraft Act 1934 (and its 2024 successor, Bharatiya Vayuyan Adhiniyam), Aircraft Rules 1937, and the full suite of Civil Aviation Requirements (CARs). Detailed analysis of DGCA's safety regulations—covering airworthiness, flight crew standards, operations, incident investigation, and emerging domains—forms the core.

Through detailed analysis of existing data and literature, the paper identifies institutional capacity gaps, enforcement challenges, safety risks, and jurisdictional overlaps. It concludes with evidence-based recommendations for balanced regulation, deregulation, and re-regulation to foster safe, sustainable, and globally competitive aviation growth in India.



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