



**AUGUST 2025 ISSUE**

# **Centre for Development Policy and Practice**

**MONTHLY NEWSLETTER**

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# GLIMPSES OF AUGUST



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# POLICY TO PRACTICE PODCAST: LAW & SOCIETY SERIES

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.

## #4: Featuring Prof. Manisha Sethi



The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) featured Dr. Manisha Sethi, sociologist and scholar, in Episode 5 (Part 1) of the Policy to Practice podcast series, under the ongoing Law and Society series.

Dr. Sethi has taught at Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi, and NALSAR University of Law, Hyderabad. Her work spans gender and religion, the intersection of law and religion, and the sociology of criminal law. She is the author of *Escaping the World: Women Renouncers among Jains* (Routledge, 2012) and *Kafkaland: Law, Prejudice and Counterterrorism in India* (Three Essays Press, 2014), and has edited *Communities and Courts: Religion and Law in Modern India* (Routledge, 2021).

In this episode, Dr. Sethi examines how minorities and marginalized communities navigate India's criminal justice system. The discussion explores the imprint of majoritarian politics on law, the deployment of counterterrorism legislation such as the UAPA, the role of judicial bias, and the ripple effects of criminalisation on families and communities. Through her insights, the conversation highlights the lived realities of those who bear the brunt of structural prejudice in law enforcement and adjudication.

Hosted by Moumita Barman, Senior Research Associate at CDPP, the episode underscores the need to critically interrogate the intersection of law, politics, and society, while recognising the vulnerabilities and resilience of affected communities.

**Click on the title to listen to the podcast!**

# CDPP BLOGS

CDPP disseminated thought-provoking articles through the CDPP website. This month's blogs covered diverse perspectives under the theme, "Gender Diversity and Inclusion in the Tech Industry."

## [Studying the Impact of Male Migration on Decision-Making by Women in Agriculture](#)



Male migration from rural areas has been a regular trend in India. It has had consequential effects on rural women's decision-making. This article aims to contribute to the literature on understanding the relationship between migration and agrarian gender in Maharashtra, particularly focusing on four villages in Wai Block. The study explores the dynamics behind the changes in decision-making by women in agriculture due to male migration. The study reveals that they have been able to exercise some agency and can spend money earned through wages. Women had exercised collective action by working in groups in agricultural fields.

## [India-Africa Partnerships As A Model For Decolonising SDG 3 Implementation Through a South-South Cooperation](#)



This article seeks to examine the foundational role of Sustainable Development Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being) in shaping India-Africa health diplomacy, highlighting the importance of inclusive health policies in strengthening partnerships. Despite comprehensive academic and policy discussions on India-Africa health diplomacy, there is a limited research base that clearly links these efforts to the strategic objectives of SDG 3, particularly concerning gender inclusivity and mental health, which are key pillars of its focus. Health security has progressively become a cornerstone of international relations, particularly through the human security approach, which emphasizes the security of the individual.

**Click on the title to read the article!**

# CDPP BLOG

## Unpacking Household Decision Making Among Agricultural Households in Uttar Pradesh, India



The article examines the decision-making power of household members in agricultural households using a mixed-methods diary approach. A total of 60 respondents from 30 Farmer Production Organization member households were surveyed through both qualitative and quantitative methods over a period of 12 months. The study highlights that women have started participating more actively in decision-making, and instances of joint decision-making are on the rise. However, the majority of decision-making power still remains with men, reflecting persistent gender disparities. Men and women's report of decision making fluctuates through the year.

## Gendered Fragmented Digital Literacy: A Chilling Effect on Reproductive Rights of Women in India



This article navigates how the lack of digital literacy in India is limiting women's reproductive rights. While digital healthcare services like e-Sanjeevani, AYUSH, and telemedicine offer new opportunities, many rural and urban women struggle to use these tools due to limited digital skills and awareness. The situation is further complicated by the integration of Aadhaar with digital healthcare data, raising serious privacy and surveillance concerns. Without addressing these digital gaps, women remain vulnerable. The article highlights the urgent need to build a gender-inclusive digital literacy ecosystem to ensure that all women can safely access and control their reproductive healthcare.

**Click on the title to read the article!**

# ONLINE ARTICLES

CDPP disseminated thought-provoking articles for the Siasat Daily e-paper. This month's articles covered themes on gender and technology, invisible labour, etc.

## Exploring Tech and Equity: The Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025



The Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025, organised by the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and partners, will be held on 8–9 August in Hyderabad to address the digital gender divide. With sessions on algorithmic bias, economic empowerment, and inclusive governance, the conference will explore evidence-based solutions for equitable technology access. Data highlights persistent gaps—South Asian women are 41% less likely to use mobile internet—causing significant economic losses. Featuring research, panels, and global perspectives, the event aims to foster multi-sector collaboration to ensure technology empowers women and gender minorities, transforming digital spaces into platforms for equity and inclusion.

## Bridging the Gender Divide in Emerging Technologies



Despite rising access, women, transgender persons, Dalits, and Adivasis face barriers of affordability, safety, and discrimination, limiting agency. Labour markets remain unequal, with wage gaps and declining female participation, while transgender individuals struggle with education and employment. Case studies showed technology's potential—rural entrepreneurs, artisans, and women-led businesses thriving with targeted support. Yet, access alone is insufficient. Inclusive policies, equitable training, and intersectional approaches are essential for transforming technology into a tool of gender justice.

**Click on the titles to read the articles!**

CDPP | AUGUST 2025

# ONLINE ARTICLES

## The Silent Domestic Labour Force in Telangana is Mostly Invisible



Domestic workers in Telangana form an invisible yet essential workforce sustaining urban households, particularly in Hyderabad. Predominantly women from marginalised communities, they face systemic exclusion shaped by caste, gender, and religion. Despite their labour, most remain outside formal recognition—without contracts, fair wages, social security, or protections. Surveys reveal extreme precarity: 81% earn below minimum wage, 96% lack rest days, and many work 12-hour shifts without benefits. Though a draft bill for minimum wages and protections was proposed in 2025, enforcement remains weak, with wage laws largely symbolic. Organising is difficult due to the isolation of work and fear of retaliation. Civil society groups like NDWM offer support, but state action is inadequate. The pandemic further exposed this fragility, with mass dismissals and unpaid labour. Advocates argue that Telangana must move toward a rights-based framework—ensuring contracts, social security, and recognition—to restore dignity and justice to this hidden workforce.

## Digital Inclusion or Digital Illusion? Gendered Realities in a Connected World



India's digital transformation has been hailed as a tool for empowerment, yet the digital world often reinforces systemic biases and inequalities, particularly for women, gender-diverse persons, and marginalized groups. Technology is not neutral; it reflects entrenched male, Western-centric perspectives, creating barriers in safety, access, and inclusion. From AI hiring biases to language exclusion and online harassment, these challenges highlight the limits of mere access. True digital inclusion requires moving beyond devices toward agency—enabling marginalized communities to be creators, decision-makers, and owners of their digital futures. A rights-based, empathetic, and accountable design is essential for an equitable digital society.

**Click on the titles to read the articles!**

# EVENTS

## BAZM-E-SUKHAN

بزمِ سُخاں  
CDPP

قرآنی استعاروں کی فنی عظمت کے اثرات اردو اور فارسی ادب پر  
**ELEGANCE OF QURANIC METAPHOR AND ITS IMPACT ON URDU & PERSIAN LITERATURE**

13 August, 2025 (Wednesday) | 6:30 pm  
at **Lamakaan**, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

**PROF. MUZAFFAR ALI SHAHMIRI**  
Former VC, Dr. Abdul Haq University, Karnool, Andhra Pradesh

Prof. Muzaffar Ali (Shahmiri) was born on 5th May 1952 in Kadiri, Anantapur District, Andhra Pradesh. He has completed his PhD in 1989 from University of Madras, Chennai in the field of Metaphors in Urdu Ghazal. He has written 6 books and edited 4 books.

Prof. Muzaffar Ali has been honored with great awards from BBC London for his Article, Meritorious Teacher Award from Sri Venkateswara University, Tirupati, Life Time Achievement Award from Andhra Pradesh Urdu Academy and Iftekhâr-e-Urdu from Sibli International Educational & Charitable Trust, Hyderabad. He received many awards from Andhra Pradesh Urdu Academy and Osmania University for his services towards the field of education especially for the Urdu language.

He created a 76 Episode educational program "Ao Urdu Seekhein" which was aired in 52 countries on ETV Urdu for three consecutive years with the help of his students and the financial support of Andhra Pradesh Urdu Academy.

Release of the Book: **PAIKARAH**  
— Tea & Snacks —  
Presided over by Prof. Ashraf Rafi & Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj

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### ***Elegance of Quranic Metaphor and Its Impact on Urdu & Persian Literature***

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), and A-CODE, hosted yet another vibrant edition of Bazm-e-Sukhan. It was a delightful Urdu literary evening on the "Elegance of Quranic Metaphor and Its Impact on Urdu & Persian Literature."

Date & Time: Wednesday, 13 August 2025 | 6:30 p.m.

Venue: Lamakaan, near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

Prof. Muzaffar Ali Shahmiri, an eminent scholar of Urdu literature, holds a PhD in Metaphors in Urdu Ghazal from the University of Madras and is the author of six books. He has received many prestigious awards during his career, including honours from BBC London, Andhra Pradesh Urdu Academy, and Osmania University. He is also the creator of the 76-episode educational programme "Ao Urdu Seekhein," which was broadcast in 52 countries on ETV Urdu.

The event also featured the release of the book "Paikaarah."

The event was presided over by: Prof. Ashraf Rafi & Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj

# EVENTS

Exploring the Intersection of Gender, Technology, And Socioeconomic Empowerment

**GENDER AND INCLUSION**  
*Conference*  
**2025**

AUGUST  
FRIDAY **8 & 9** SATURDAY  
**2025**

**Venue**  
Day 1 Kautilya School of Public Policy  
Paper Presentations & Workshops  
Day 2 International Institute of Information Technology, Hyderabad (IIITH)  
Panel Discussion

For Registration



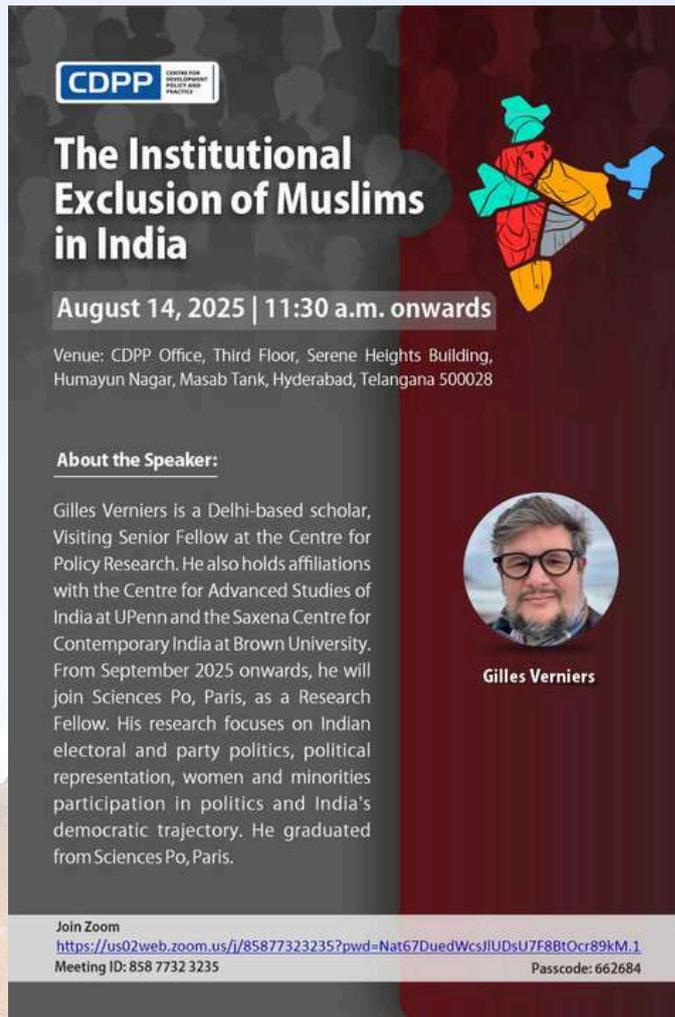
## Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025

The Centre for Development Policy Practice in collaboration with Kautilya School of Public Policy, Centre for Women Studies under Maulana Azad National Urdu University, The Education Group(London), and Digital Empowerment Foundation, and associate partners, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW), Jahangirabad Institute of Technology (JIT) and International Institute of Information Technology (IIIT), organised the Gender and Inclusion Conference: Exploring the Intersection of Gender, Technology, and Socioeconomic Empowerment. The conference brought together scholars, policymakers, practitioners, and thought leaders to discuss the pressing issues surrounding digital inclusion and gender equity.

As technology rapidly transforms economies and societies, marginalized communities often face exclusion from its benefits. This event critically examined the intersections of gender, caste, class, and digital inclusion, addressing how technological advancements can be leveraged for equitable social and economic empowerment.

The proceeding for the conference is available at:  
<https://www.cdpp.co.in/events/gender-and-inclusion-conference-2025>

# EVENTS



**CDPP** CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENTAL POLICY RESEARCH

## The Institutional Exclusion of Muslims in India

August 14, 2025 | 11:30 a.m. onwards

Venue: CDPP Office, Third Floor, Serene Heights Building, Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana 500028

**About the Speaker:**

Gilles Verniers is a Delhi-based scholar, Visiting Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research. He also holds affiliations with the Centre for Advanced Studies of India at UPenn and the Saxena Centre for Contemporary India at Brown University. From September 2025 onwards, he will join Sciences Po, Paris, as a Research Fellow. His research focuses on Indian electoral and party politics, political representation, women and minorities participation in politics and India's democratic trajectory. He graduated from Sciences Po, Paris.

  
Gilles Verniers

Join Zoom  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85877323235?pwd=Nat67DuedWcsJlUDsU7F8BtOcr89kM.1>  
Meeting ID: 858 7732 3235 Passcode: 662684

## The Institutional Exclusion of Muslims in India

Gilles Verniers is a Delhi-based scholar and Visiting Senior Fellow at the Centre for Policy Research. He is affiliated with the Centre for Advanced Studies of India at the University of Pennsylvania and the Saxena Centre for Contemporary India at Brown University. His research focuses on Indian electoral and party politics, political representation, and the participation of women and minorities in India's democratic trajectory. He is a graduate of Sciences Po, Paris. From September 2025, he will join Sciences Po, Paris, as a Research Fellow.

In this talk, Gilles Verniers explored the institutional mechanisms and political processes that have contributed to the exclusion of Muslims in India. Drawing on his extensive research on Indian politics, representation, and minority participation, he analysed how electoral systems, governance structures, and policy frameworks shape the lived realities of Muslim communities in the country.

Date & Time: August 14, 2025 | 11:30 a.m. onwards

Venue: CDPP Office, Third Floor, Serene Heights Building, Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500028

# UPCOMING EVENTS

**CDPP** CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

## The Idea of Social Democracy

Social Democracy is far more capacious than Political Democracy. This talk explores how far we are from Social Democracy and the limitations of a liberal human rights discourse.

Venue: CDPP Office, III Floor, Serene Heights Building, Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana 500028

**September 15, 2025**  
11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.



**Prof. Vinay Lal**

[www.cdpp.co.in](http://www.cdpp.co.in)

in f t i o s

12:30 PM onwards – Lunch / Informal discussions

## The Idea of Social Democracy

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) will host a lecture on “The Idea of Social Democracy”.

Prof. Vinay Lal is cultural critic, writer, blogger, and Professor of History at UCLA and author of over 22 books. Prof. Lal will be talking about the idea of "social democracy", and how far India remains from it even with the most generous reading of the Indian Constitution and the achievements of universal franchise. In the second half of this talk, he will suggest why attempts to achieve democratic outcomes largely through a regime of human rights have been largely unsuccessful, and why we may have to both revive certain discarded concepts and reflect anew on the insights from Indian traditions.

Date & Time: August 14, 2025 | 11:30 a.m. onwards

Venue: CDPP Office, Third Floor, Serene Heights Building, Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana – 500028

# UPCOMING EVENTS



**CDPP** CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

BOOK DISCUSSION:  
**THE HINDI HEARTLAND**

**September 16, 2025**  
3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Venue: CDPP Office, III Floor,  
Serene Heights Building,  
Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank,  
Hyderabad, Telangana 500028

[www.cdpp.co.in](http://www.cdpp.co.in)

**GHAZALA WAHAB**

Ghazala Wahab is an Indian journalist and author known for her work on national security, terrorism, and religious extremism. She wrote *Born a Muslim*, a book exploring Islam in India. Wahab is editor of *FORCE* magazine and co-author of *Dragon on Our Doorstep*, focusing on India-China military dynamics.

## Book Discussion: The Hindi Heartland

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) invites you to a thought-provoking book discussion on “The Hindi Heartland”.

Join us on Tuesday, September 16th, 2025, at 3:30 PM at the CDPP Office, Hyderabad, for this engaging session.

Ms. Ghazala Wahab is a journalist, author, and editor of *FORCE* magazine. Known for her work on national security, terrorism, and religious extremism, she has authored *Born a Muslim* and co-authored *Dragon on Our Doorstep*. In this discussion, she will reflect on the sociopolitical and cultural dynamics shaping the Hindi heartland of India.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

The poster is for an event organized by the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP). It features a vibrant background with a gradient from orange to purple. At the top left is the CDPP logo, and at the top right is the website www.cdpp.co.in along with social media icons for LinkedIn, Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, YouTube, and a menu icon. The main event is a discussion by Prof. Vinay Lal, titled "Genocide and Hope: Lessons from Robben Island". Below this, it mentions a book release by Ghazala Wahab, "The Hindi Heartland". The event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Lamakaan, near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The poster also includes circular portraits of both speakers.

**CDPP** CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

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**Speaks on:**  
**Genocide and Hope:  
Lessons from Robben Island**  
Study of violence and nonviolence; focus on Robben Island's transformation into a place of hope.

**PROF. VINAY LAL**

**Book release:**  
**The Hindi Heartland**  
**GHAZALA WAHAB**

**PROF. VINAY LAL**  
will release the book

**GHAZALA WAHAB**  
Speaks on her book  
**THE HINDI HEARTLAND**

**VENUE:**  
16 September, 2025 (Tuesday) | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm  
at **Lamakaan**, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

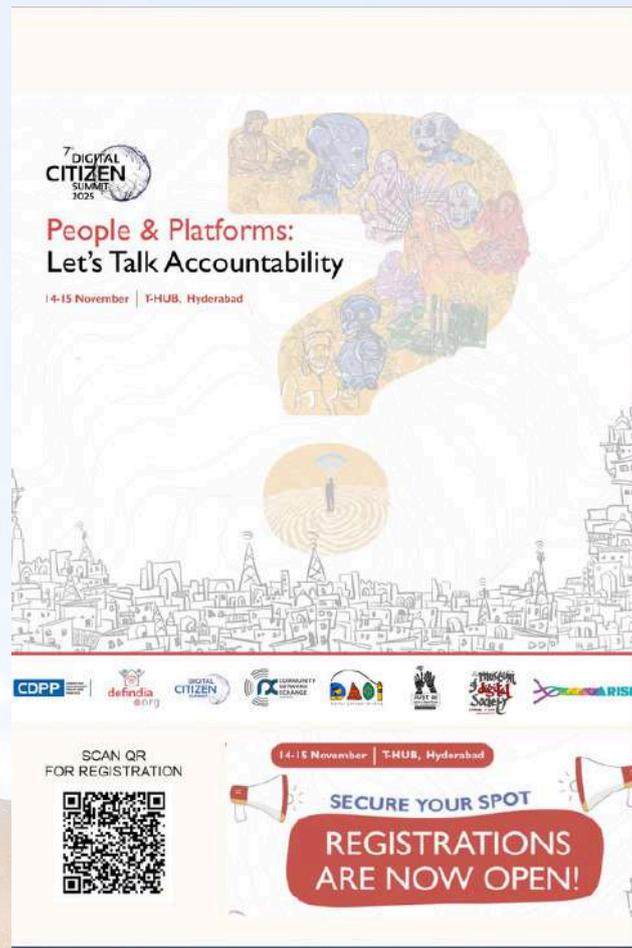
## Genocide and Hope-Lessons from Robben Island and Book Launch-The Hindi Heartland

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) invites you to a special evening featuring a discussion and a book release.

Join us on Tuesday, September 16th, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, for this program.

Prof. Vinay Lal, Professor of History at UCLA, will speak on "Genocide and Hope: Lessons from Robben Island", exploring the transformation of a site of violence into a place of resilience and hope. The event will also feature the release of Ghazala Wahab's book, The Hindi Heartland, followed by her reflections on its themes.

# UPCOMING EVENT



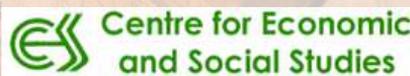
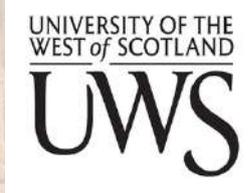
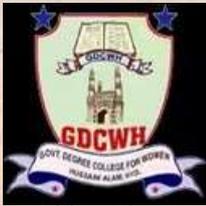
## Digital Citizen Summit 2025

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) are pleased to announce the 7th Digital Citizen Summit (DCS), scheduled to take place on 14–15 November 2025 at T-Hub, Hyderabad.

This annual summit brings together scholars, practitioners, technologists, civil society leaders, and policymakers to explore pressing questions around digital governance, inclusion, and rights. Drawing on the energy of past editions, this year's theme— "People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability"—calls attention to the urgent need to reclaim digital infrastructures as public goods. The summit focuses on power, participation, and justice in digital spaces, and invites critical dialogue on how platforms shape our digital futures.

Registrations are now open. Scan the QR code to register.

To know more: <https://www.cdpp.co.in/events/digital-citizen-summit-2025>



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