

MARCH 2025 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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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.

Podcast 12: Featuring Dr. Rajesh Chakrabarti



The Centre for Development Policy and Practice featured Dr. Rajesh Chakrabarti in the latest episode of the Policy to Practice podcast series.

A leading expert on AI policy and governance, Dr. Rajesh Chakrabarti, Dean of the School of Management at Bennett University, delves into the complexities of regulating artificial intelligence. From algorithmic bias to job displacement and sustainability, he explores the challenges policymakers face in balancing innovation with responsibility. He discusses the ethical implications of AI, the need for robust regulatory frameworks, and strategies to ensure AI benefits society as a whole.

Hosted by Ablaz Mohammed Schemnad, this episode provides critical insights into the future of AI regulation and its impact on policy and society.

Click on the title to listen to the podcast!

CDPP BLOG

CDPP disseminated thought-provoking articles. This month's blogs covered diverse perspectives under the theme, "Analysing the Socio-Economic and Environmental Impact of Mahakumbh 2025."

Triveni Sangam: A Confluence of Faith, Cultural, and Hindutva Diplomacy.



The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 in Prayagraj attracted 66 million people over 45 days, reinforcing India's cultural diplomacy and spiritual tourism. International media coverage and global participation from 183 countries positioned it as a platform for cultural exchange. The event also influenced India's soft power through heritage branding, interfaith dialogues, and government-backed initiatives like Kalagram and UNESCO recognition. However, the Mela also reflected a shift towards Hindutva-driven narratives, integrating religious diplomacy into India's foreign policy. This evolving trajectory raises questions about India's diplomatic identity—balancing cultural inclusivity with a growing majoritarian narrative in its global engagements.

[Click on the title to read the article!](#)

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Maha Kumbh 2025: Examining Its Socio-Economic Disparities and Gendered Challenges



The article examines the various aspects of the Maha Kumbh held in Prayagraj, India. The largest religious congregation, which aimed at inclusivity, harmony, and washing away sins, became the site of deceit, mismanagement, and socioeconomic disparities for its devotees. This article investigates various incidents, such as the multiple stampedes during the Maha Kumbh. It also critically analyses disparities and mismanagement evident in the event. It further discusses gender objectification and misogyny in our society, simultaneously highlighting differential treatment between privileged citizens and common citizens of the country.

[Click on the title to read the article!](#)

CDPP BLOG

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Mahakumbh Mela: A Model for Sustainable Development in Action



The Maha Kumbh Mela 2025 exemplifies the integration of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into large-scale events, showcasing advancements in health (SDG 3), clean energy (SDG 7), infrastructure (SDG 9), and social inclusion (SDG 10). Despite boosting religious tourism and economic growth, challenges persist, including Ganga pollution and crowd mismanagement. A tragic stampede on January 29th highlighted lapses in safety protocols. Policy recommendations include stricter environmental regulations, improved wastewater treatment, enhanced crowd monitoring using AI, and better infrastructure. The success of future Kumbhs hinges on balancing faith with sustainability, ensuring both environmental protection and pilgrim safety.

[**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 like irrigation tanks in Telangana and medical tourism in India.

Restoring Telangana's Lifelines: A Critical Look at Mission Kakatiya



Mission Kakatiya, launched by the Telangana government in 2015, aims to rejuvenate over 46,000 minor irrigation tanks across the state, drawing inspiration from the historical practices of the Kakatiya dynasty. The initiative has led to significant improvements, including a 78.5% increase in household agricultural income in tank ayacut areas, enhanced groundwater levels, and a 36%–39% rise in fish yields. Additionally, desiltation efforts have reduced artificial fertiliser usage by 36%, contributing to better water quality and ecosystem revival. Despite these successes, challenges such as ensuring equitable water distribution and maintaining community participation persist, necessitating ongoing efforts for sustainable water management.

Medical Tourism—New Life with the Healthcare Budget 2025–26



India's medical tourism sector has been a key driver of healthcare growth, attracting international patients due to its affordability, advanced medical infrastructure, and skilled professionals. The 2025-26 healthcare budget is expected to play a crucial role in further strengthening this industry by increasing investments in hospital infrastructure, digital health services, and regulatory frameworks. Key policy initiatives may focus on improving ease of travel, expanding insurance coverage for foreign patients, and enhancing quality standards. However, challenges such as disparities in healthcare access, ethical concerns, and the environmental impact of medical tourism remain significant. This article explores the potential impact of the 2025-26 budget on medical tourism, examining how financial allocations and policy interventions can shape India's position as a global healthcare hub while addressing sustainability and equity concerns.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

EVENTS




DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE CONFERENCE 2025

Date & Time: 8am to 6:30pm | March 28, 2025 | Venue: CESS, Hyderabad

Sharing, Development, People, and the Question of Redistribution

PARTNERS



PANEL 1 Navigating the Tax System, Devolution and Cooperative Federalism

PANEL 2 Regulation in India to Move Towards Excellence

PANEL 3 Trade, Geopolitics, and Climate Change

PANEL 4 Education: Bridging Digital and Social Divides

PANEL 5 India's Healthcare: Access and Equity

PANEL 6 Law, Economics, and Society: Ensuring Justice

Register here:



Development Policy and Practice Conference 2025

The Development Policy and Practice Conference 2025, organised by the Centre for Development Policy and Practice in collaboration with Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), Goonj, The Education Group (TEG), Centre for Women Studies, Maulana Azad National Urdu University (MANUU), Presidency University, and the Centre for Economics and Social Studies, was held on March 28, 2025, in Hyderabad.

Under the theme “Sharing, Development, People, and the Question of Redistribution,” the conference critically examined economic, social, and structural inequalities. Discussions focused on taxation, trade, governance, education, healthcare, legal aid, and digital access, with a particular emphasis on marginalised communities. Panels explored key issues such as cooperative federalism, regulatory frameworks, global trade dynamics, climate change, and social justice. Experts from academia, policymaking, and civil society contributed insights on bridging digital and economic divides, ensuring equitable access to public goods, and fostering inclusive development.

The conference generated actionable policy recommendations to address India's long-term development challenges. Through interdisciplinary engagement, it promoted equity, sustainability, and systemic change in public policy.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAZM - E - SUKHAN



BAZM - E - SUKHAN
CDPP

بے زبانی سے زباں تک: اُردو شاعرات کا فکری سفر

**BE ZUBANI SE ZUBAN TAK:
URDU SHAYERAT KA FIKRI SAFAR**

09 April, 2025 (Wednesday) | 6:00 pm
at **Lamakaan**, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad



Prof. Ameena Tahseen
Dept of Women Education, MANUU
Will speak on Women Urdu poets and their works

— DINNER FOLLOWS —

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

Supported by  

Be Zubani se Zuban tak: Urdu Shayerat Ka Fikri Safar

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice, in collaboration with the Digital Empowerment Foundation & A CODE, is proud to present another captivating edition of Bazm-e-Sukhan.

Join us on Wednesday, 9th April 2025, at Lamakaan, Hyderabad, for an enriching evening "Be Zubani se Zuban tak: Urdu Shayerat Ka Fikri Safar"

Event Details:

Date: Wednesday, 9th April 2025

Time: 6:00 PM

Venue: Lamakaan, Hyderabad


UPCOMING EVENTS

CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

Rebuilding a Secular and Inclusive Nation

Time and Date: 4:00 p.m | Wednesday, April 16, 2025
Venue: CDPP Office, 3rd Floor, Serene Heights Building,
Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana, Pin: 500028


Speaker:



Anand Vardhan Singh

Anand Vardhan Singh is an author, senior journalist, and political analyst. He is the founding editor of *The Public India* and the former editor of *Lokmat*.

CDPP Location



Rebuilding a Secular and Inclusive Nation

Anand Vardhan Singh is an author, senior journalist, and political analyst. He is the founding Editor of *The Public India* and a former editor of *Lokmat*. With decades of experience in media and political commentary, he is known for his incisive analysis of Indian politics and governance. His work focuses on social concerns, policy matters, and public discourse.

He will be speaking on “Rebuilding a Secular and Inclusive Nation” on April 16 at 4 pm at the CDPP office.

UPCOMING EVENTS



Gender and Inclusion Conference, 2025

The Gender and Inclusion Conference 2025, organised by CDPP in collaboration with Kautilya School of Public Policy, MANUU's Centre for Women Studies, The Education Group (London), and DEF, will be held on August 8–9, 2025 in Hyderabad. Focusing on the intersection of gender, technology, and socioeconomic empowerment, the conference will explore digital inclusion, gender equity, and policy frameworks for inclusive development. Key discussions will cover digital access, technology-driven economic empowerment, the gendered impact of emerging tech, and digital tools for social change.

Click on the link for Call for Papers & Details:

<https://www.cdpp.co.in/events/gender-and-inclusion-conference-2025>



Click on the social media platform icons to connect!

