

OCTOBER 2025 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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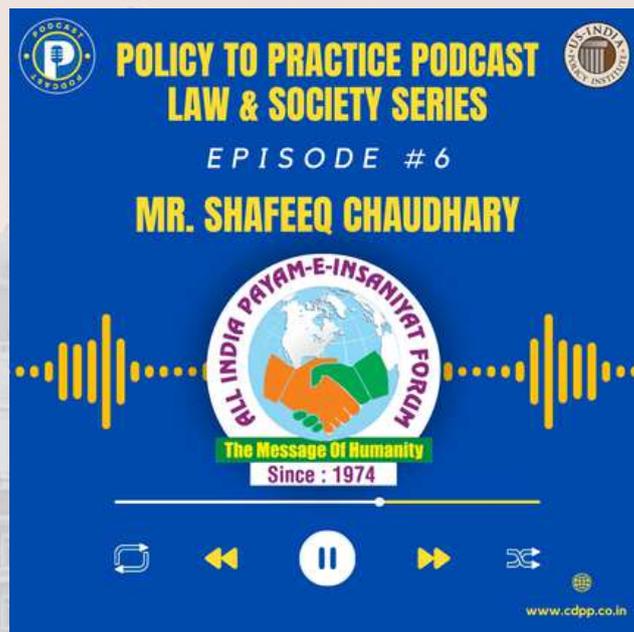
GLIMPSES OF OCTOBER



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.

#5: Featuring Md. Shafeeq Chaudhary



The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) featured Mr. Shafeeq Chaudhary from All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum in Episode 6 (Part 1 and Part 2) of the Policy to Practice podcast series, under the ongoing Law and Society series.

In this episode, we sat down with Md. Shafeeq Chaudhary, District Coordinator for Lucknow under All India Payam-e-Insaniyat Forum. He has been working under AIPIF for the last 20 years, contributing to various humanitarian causes.

Hosted by Moumita Barman, Senior Research Associate at the Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), this conversation takes us through the history of AIPIF, their work, philosophy, and their relentless focus on carceral justice and inmate upliftment in the form of bail funds and healthcare camps, highlighting a confluence between Islamic values and social work.

Listen to the podcast here:

[Policy to Practice: Law & Society Episode 6 Part 1](#)

[Policy to Practice: Law & Society Episode 6 Part 2](#)

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" and "Women in Agriculture."

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 emphasises 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, prison reforms, etc.

Beyond the Third Degree: Why India Must Break Cycle of Normalised Police Torture



This article exposes the deep-rooted culture of custodial torture within India's criminal justice system, as highlighted by the Status of Policing in India Report (SPIR) 2025. Despite constitutional bans, torture remains widespread, disproportionately affecting the poor and marginalised. The article links wrongful cases like Abdul Wahid Shaikh's with systemic failures—slow bail processes, reliance on forced confessions, and lack of accountability (no convictions in 1,107 custodial deaths from 2011–2022). The author urges urgent police reform through evidence-based investigation, human rights training, and ratification of the UN Convention Against Torture. Torture, she argues, represents not policing but a constitutional failure.

Marginalised Stakeholders with Technological Barriers Across Sectors Should Be in Focus



This article highlights the persistent gender and digital divides that limit women's participation in technology, education, and the economy. Despite constitutional and SDG commitments, women remain underrepresented in STEM and the tech workforce, facing structural barriers, social norms, and limited access to digital tools. Reports by UNESCO, Oxfam, and the World Bank show significant economic losses due to this exclusion. The author argues that equitable digital access, gender-sensitive policies, community-driven initiatives, and disaggregated data are essential to ensure inclusion, procedural fairness, and sustainable empowerment for marginalised groups.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

ONLINE ARTICLES

Undertrial Disparities of Caste and Religion in PSI 2023 India



The article examines data from Prison Statistics India 2023, highlighting significant disparities in undertrial detention across caste and religious groups. Undertrials constitute 73.5% of India's prison population, with Muslims, Sikhs, SCs, STs and OBCs disproportionately represented compared to their share in the general population. Limited access to legal aid and socio-economic vulnerability contribute to longer pre-trial detention for marginalised groups. The article argues that these disparities reflect systemic inequality, calling for structural reforms and updated caste-based data.

India's Breast Cancer Awareness Must Go Beyond Symbolism



The article argues that breast cancer awareness in India remains largely symbolic, focused on pink-themed campaigns rather than addressing systemic gaps in screening and treatment. Despite breast cancer being the most common cancer among Indian women, a majority of cases are detected at late stages due to limited diagnostic infrastructure, especially in rural areas. The article calls for decentralised oncology services, improved primary-level screening, transparent corporate support, and culturally sensitive outreach to ensure early detection and equitable care.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

EVENTS

BAZM-E-SUKHAN

The poster is for an event titled "EK SHAAM 'GILLI' AUR 'DANDA' KE NAAM". It is organized by CDPP (Centre for Development Policy and Practice) in collaboration with DEF (Digital Empowerment Foundation) and A-CODE. The event is scheduled for 08 October, 2025 (Wednesday) at 6:30 pm at Lamakaan, near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad. The event features two prominent Deccani poets: Gilli Nalgondavi and Sarwar Danda. Gilli Nalgondavi is described as a humorous Deccani Urdu poet known for his wit and satirical verses, often reflecting his personal struggles with humour. Sarwar Danda is described as a poet, specifically mentioned for producing "Exquisite Social Commentaries through humorous poetry". The event is presided over by Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj & Prof. Ashraf Rafi. The poster also mentions "TEA & SNACKS" and lists the supporting organizations: CDPP, DEF, and A-CODE.

Ek Shaam "Gilli" aur "Danda" ke Naam

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF), and A-CODE, organised yet another vibrant edition of Bazm-e-Sukhan, "Ek Shaam "Gilli" aur "Danda" ke Naam."

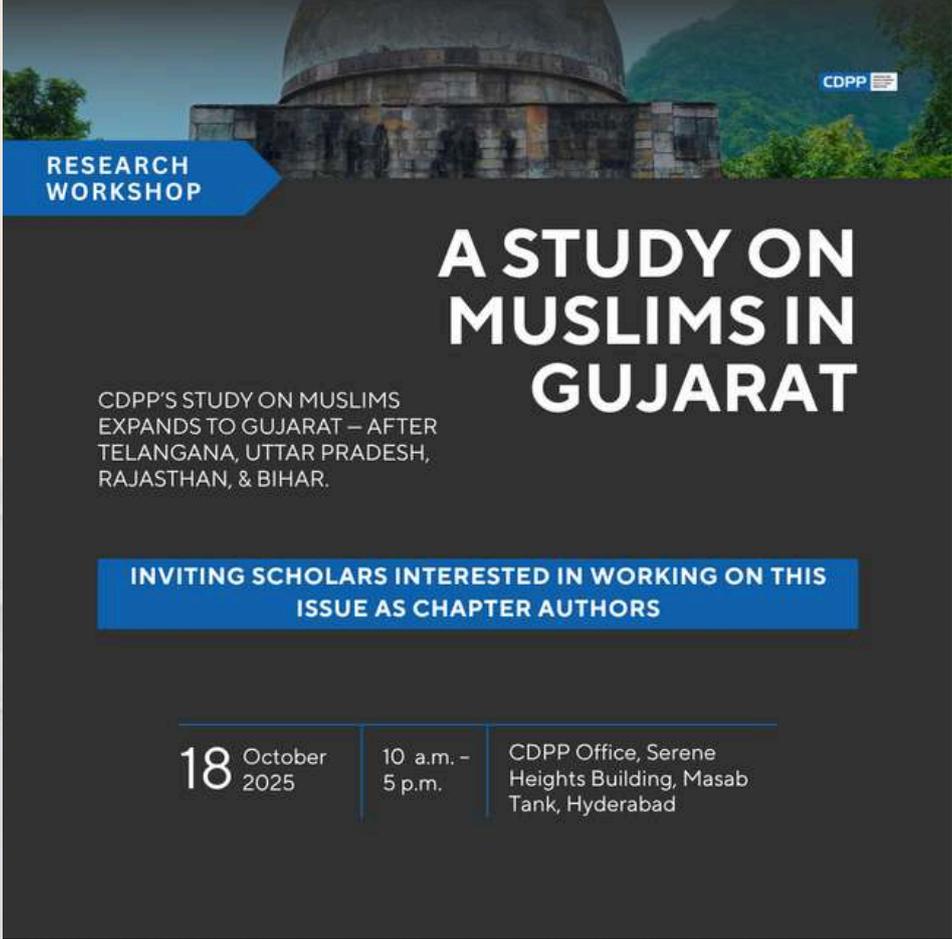
The event focused on the humorous poetry born out of hardships, and historical struggles and events, featuring two prominent Deccani poets—Sarwar Danda and Gilli Nalgondavi.

Date and Time: October 8, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

Presided over by Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj & Prof. Ashraf Ravi, this evening featured the participation of Syed Javed Mohiuddin, Syed Wajid Mohiuddin, Atiya Mujeeb Arefi, and Gul e Rana.

EVENTS



RESEARCH WORKSHOP

A STUDY ON MUSLIMS IN GUJARAT

CDPP'S STUDY ON MUSLIMS EXPANDS TO GUJARAT – AFTER TELANGANA, UTTAR PRADESH, RAJASTHAN, & BIHAR.

INVITING SCHOLARS INTERESTED IN WORKING ON THIS ISSUE AS CHAPTER AUTHORS

18 October 2025	10 a.m. – 5 p.m.	CDPP Office, Serene Heights Building, Masab Tank, Hyderabad
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A Study on Muslims in Gujarat

Supported by the Government of Telangana, the Centre for Development Policy and Practice began working on various aspects that concern India's minorities and marginalised populations. However, we realise that much of the literature treats Indian Muslims as a homogeneous group.

Hence, our endeavour to study regional nuances, differences, and concerns has resulted in volumes featuring Muslims in Telangana, Uttar Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Bihar.

We are now proposing to work on Muslims in Gujarat, and began this exercise with a workshop at the CDPP office in Hyderabad to structure and plan the volume.

EVENTS



The poster features a background illustration of a city skyline with domes and minarets. At the top left is the 'defindia.org' logo, and at the top right is the 'CDPP' logo. The central text reads '7th DIGITAL CITIZEN SUMMIT 2025' with a globe icon. Below this is the main title 'Road to People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability WEBINAR SERIES' and the theme 'Theme II: Digital Justice and Citizenship'. A red banner indicates the date and time: 'Wednesday | October 15, 2025 | Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.'. A text box describes the session: 'Digital spaces mirror social inequalities. This session looks at how caste, gender, and class shape online experiences. It emphasizes justice, dignity, and participation in digital spaces, and highlights strategies for building inclusive digital citizenship that empowers marginalized voices rather than silencing them.' Three discussants are listed with their photos: K. M. Ziyauddin (Associate Professor & Head, Dept. of Sociology, MANUU), Ruha Shadab (Founder Led by Foundation), and Usha Raman (Professor, University of Hyderabad). Two QR codes are provided: one for joining the Zoom meeting and another for DCS25 registration. At the bottom, logos for various partners are displayed under categories: Organisers (defindia.org, CDPP), Principal Partners (APNIC, APC, Internet Society, WSA, ARISE, CC), Associate Partners (WSA, ARISE, CC), Inclusion and Equity Partner (Woman 4 Ethical, A), Media Partner (MEDIANAMA), and Knowledge Partners (Internet Society, India Hyderabad Chapter).

Digital Justice and Citizenship

CDPP, in partnership with DEF, announced the second of the webinar series for the 7th edition of the Digital Citizen Summit—Road to People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability. The webinar series is part of DCS, a flagship summit by DEF in collaboration with the Government of Telangana.

The discussants at the webinar, “Digital Justice and Citizenship,” focused on how discrimination is mirrored in digital spaces, and how such inequalities can shape one’s online experience. The webinar highlighted strategies for building inclusive digital citizenship that empowers marginalised voices.

Scan the dedicated QR code to register for the Digital Citizen Summit (in-person, organised at T-Hub, Hyderabad).

Date and Time: October 15, 2025 | 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

EVENTS

defindia.org **CDPP** **7th DIGITAL CITIZEN SUMMIT 2025**

Road to People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability WEBINAR SERIES

Theme III: Truth in the Age of Disinformation
Wednesday | October 22, 2025 | Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Disinformation erodes trust and democracy. This webinar brings together fact-checkers, citizen journalists, and technologists to discuss narrative manipulation, media literacy, and accountability of platforms. It explores how communities can reclaim truth and pluralism in digital public discourse.

Discussants:

Anshul Tewari
Founder and CEO
Youth Ki Awaaz

Vamsi Krishna Pothuru
Pursuing PhD, Dept. of Communication
University of Hyderabad

SCAN QR TO JOIN ZOOM MEETING

SCAN QR FOR DCS25 REGISTRATION

Organisers: defindia.org, CDPP, DEF, T-Hub

Principal Partners: APNIC, APC, Internet Society, WSA, RISE, CC, DiGI, @creativewebguy, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership, Global Digital Empowerment Network

Associate Partners: WSA, RISE, CC

Inclusion and Equity Partner: Women & Ethical, MEDIA NAMA

Knowledge Partners: Internet Society India Hyderabad Chapter

Truth in the Age of Disinformation

CDPP, in partnership with DEF, announced the third of the webinar series for the 7th edition of the Digital Citizen Summit—Road to People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability. The webinar series is part of DCS, a flagship summit by DEF in collaboration with the Government of Telangana.

The webinar, “Truth in the Age of Disinformation,” featured fact-checkers, citizen journalists, and technologists who discussed narrative manipulation, media literacy, and accountability.

Scan the dedicated QR code to register for the Digital Citizen Summit (in-person, organised at T-Hub, Hyderabad).

Date: Wednesday, October 22, 2025

Time: 3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

EVENTS

defindia.org **CDPP** **7th DIGITAL CITIZEN SUMMIT 2025**

Road to People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability WEBINAR SERIES

Theme IV: Technology for local futures

Wednesday | October 29, 2025 | Time: 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Beyond connectivity, digital tools must work for people. This session focuses on frugal innovation, civic tech, and hyper local solutions co-created with communities. It highlights how digital empowerment can strengthen livelihoods, education, and civic participation, enabling inclusive development rooted in local realities.

Discussants:

Siddhartha Malempati
Directing Council-General
Commons Collective

Kaushiki Sanyal
Public Policy Strategy Consultant,
Fellow, JustJobs Network

SCAN QR TO JOIN ZOOM MEETING

SCAN QR FOR DCS25 REGISTRATION

Organisers: defindia.org, CDPP, ULLD

Principal Partners: APNIC, APC, Internet Society, DiGI, iCreativeAgency

Associate Partners: WSA, RISE, CC, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership, Global Digital Empowerment Network

Inclusion and Equity Partner: Women 4 Ethical, MEDIA NAMA

Knowledge Partners: Internet Society India Hyderabad Chapter

Technology for Local Futures

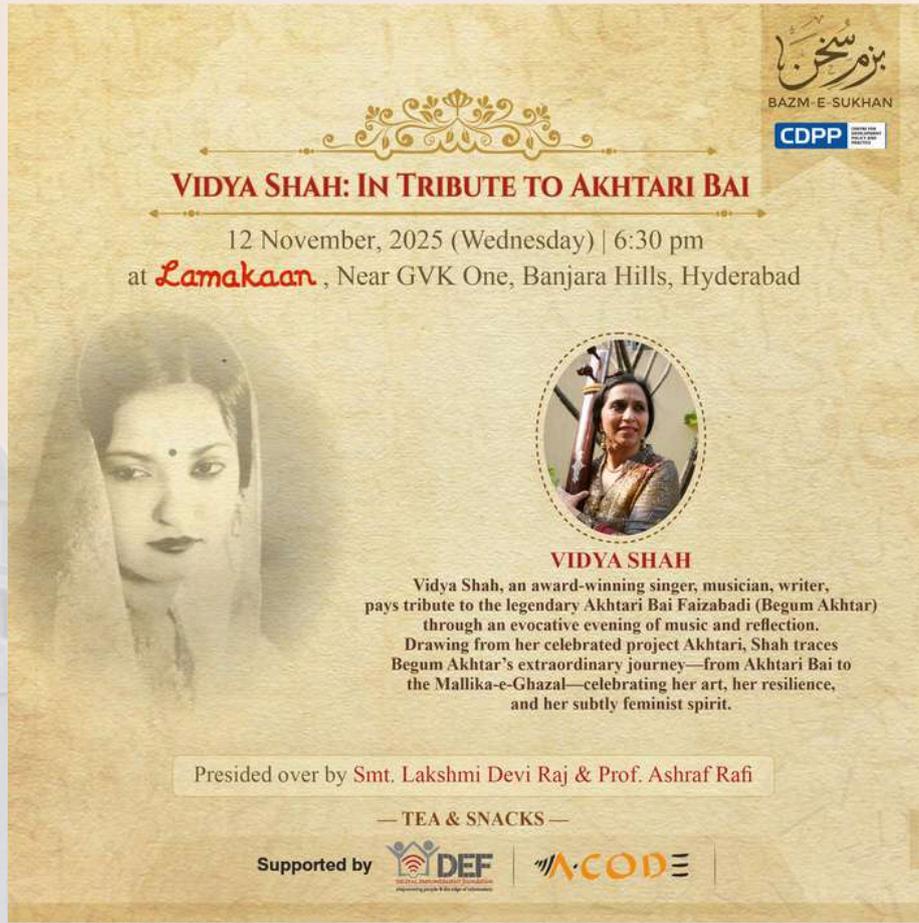
CDPP, in partnership with DEF, is pleased to announce the fourth of the webinar series for the 7th edition of the Digital Citizen Summit—Road to People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability. The webinar series is part of DCS, a flagship summit by DEF in collaboration with the Government of Telangana.

The webinar, “Technology for Local Futures” focused on frugal innovation, civic tech, and hyperlocal solutions co-created with communities.

Scan the dedicated QR code to register for the Digital Citizen Summit (in-person, organised at T-Hub, Hyderabad).

Date: Wednesday, October 29, 2025
Time: 3:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m.

UPCOMING EVENTS



BAZM-E-SUKHAN
CDPP

VIDYA SHAH: IN TRIBUTE TO AKHTARI BAI

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

VIDYA SHAH

Vidya Shah, an award-winning singer, musician, writer, pays tribute to the legendary Akhtari Bai Faizabadi (Begum Akhtar) through an evocative evening of music and reflection. Drawing from her celebrated project Akhtari, Shah traces Begum Akhtar's extraordinary journey—from Akhtari Bai to the Mallika-e-Ghazal—celebrating her art, her resilience, and her subtly feminist spirit.

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

— TEA & SNACKS —

Supported by  

Vidya Shah: In Tribute to Akhtari Bai

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP), in collaboration with Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) and A-CODE, warmly invites you to an enchanting edition of Bazm-e-Sukhan—"Vidya Shah: In Tribute to Akhtari Bai."

Join us for an evocative evening of music and reflection, as award-winning singer and writer Vidya Shah pays homage to the legendary Akhtari Bai Faizabadi (Begum Akhtar), tracing her extraordinary journey, resilience, and timeless art through her celebrated project Akhtari.

Date and Time: November 12, 2025 (Wednesday), 6:30 p.m.
Venue: Lamakaan, near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

Presided over by: Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj and Prof. Ashraf Rafi

UPCOMING EVENTS

VIDYA SHAH: IN TRIBUTE TO AKHTARI BAI

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

— TEA & SNACKS —

Supported by  

Policy, Development, and Reconciliation: Comparative Insights from Divided Societies

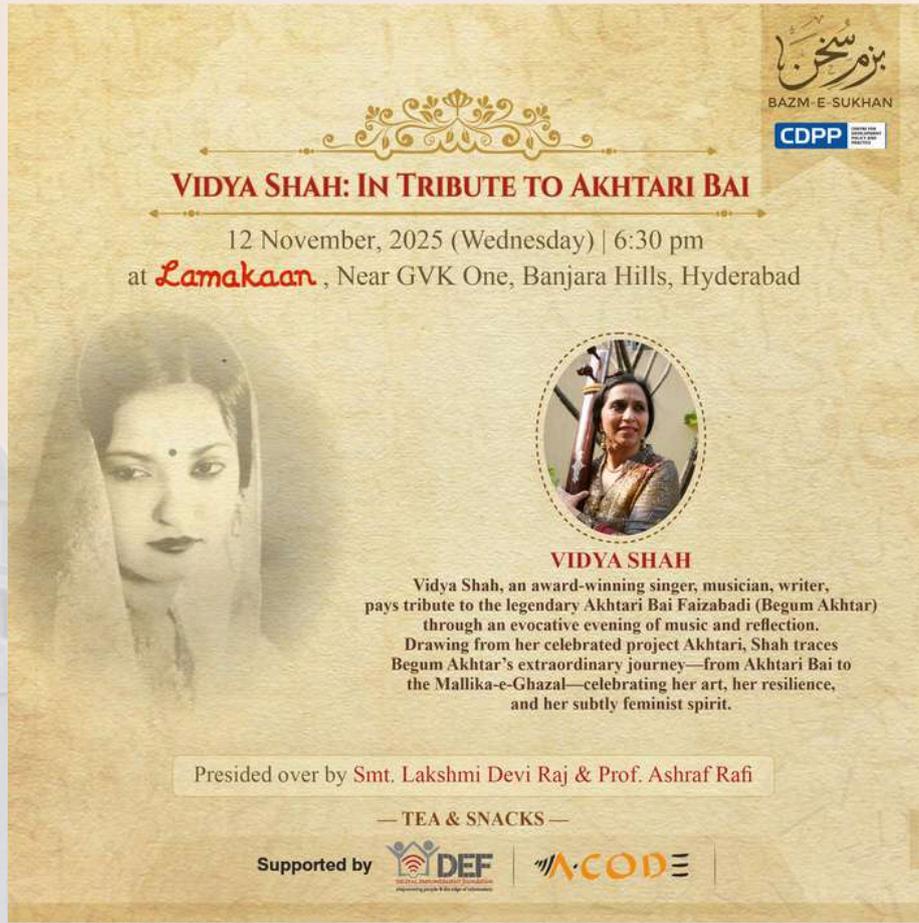
Prof. Ran Greenstein will explore how historical legacies of conflict, inequality, and exclusion shape policies for reconciliation and development in divided societies. Through a comparative sociological lens, it examines tensions between memory, reform, and justice, offering insights into building inclusive governance and equitable transformation beyond managed coexistence.

Prof. Ran Greenstein, a sociologist, specialises in comparative studies of power, identity, and transformation in divided and post-conflict societies. His research explores state formation, social movements, and historical memory, focusing on justice, reconciliation, and institutional reform. He has published extensively on issues of nationalism, citizenship, and inequality, contributing to debates on how societies confront legacies of division and exclusion.

Time and Date: 3:15 PM–3:45 PM | 13th November 2025

Location: CDPP Office, Serene Heights Building, Masab Tank, Hyderabad

UPCOMING EVENTS



VIDYA SHAH: IN TRIBUTE TO AKHTARI BAI

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

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

— TEA & SNACKS —

Supported by  

Book Discussion: Everything All At Once: India and the Six Simultaneous Global Transitions

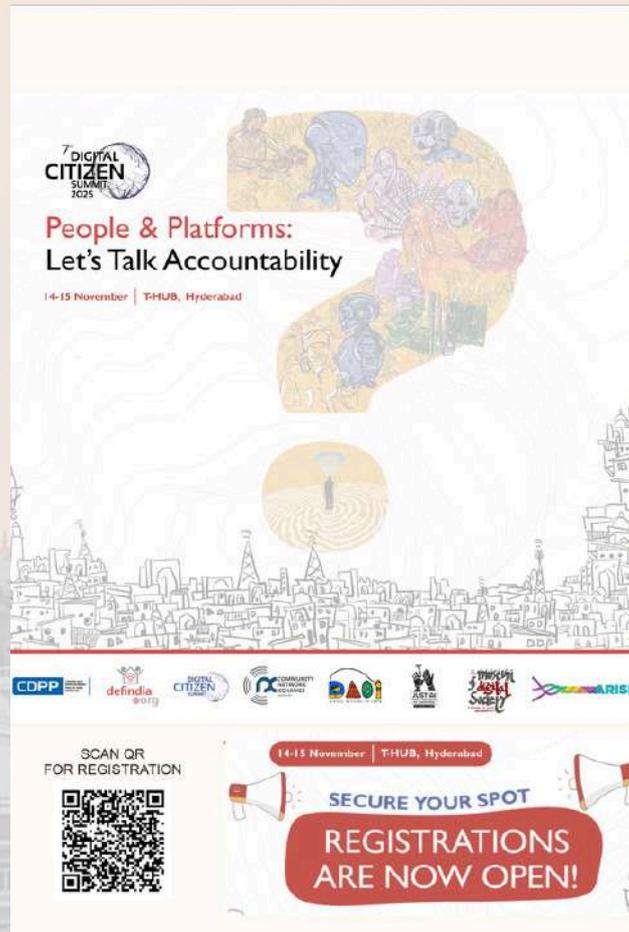
Everything All At Once by Rajiv Kumar and Ishan Joshi examines six simultaneous global transitions—geopolitical, geographical, geoeconomic, and technological—that are reshaping the world. The authors argue that India must move beyond business-as-usual policies, embrace innovation, and lead a “Coalition of the Willing” among Global South nations to achieve Viksit Bharat.

Dr. Rajiv Kumar, a distinguished economist, served as Vice Chairman of NITI Aayog from 2017 to 2022. He has held leadership roles at FICCI, ICRIER, CII, and the Asian Development Bank. With a PhD from Lucknow University and a DPhil from Oxford, he has authored extensively on macroeconomics, trade, and foreign policy. In 2023, he received Japan's Order of the Rising Sun, Gold and Silver Star for advancing India-Japan relations.

Time and Date: 13th November 2025 | 4:00 PM–6:00 PM

Location: CDPP Office, Serene Heights Building, Masab Tank, Hyderabad

UPCOMING EVENTS



Digital Citizen Summit 2025

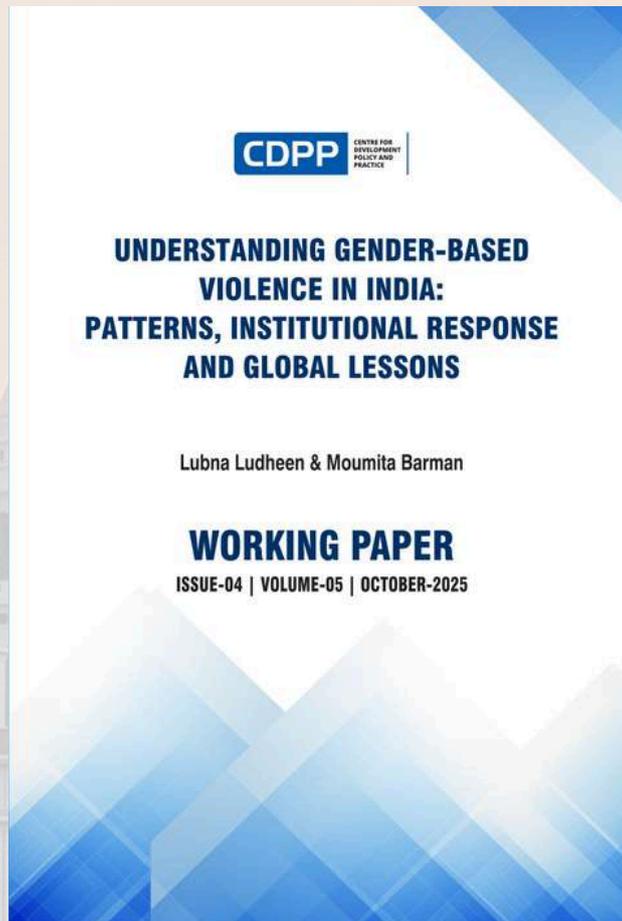
The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) and the Digital Empowerment Foundation (DEF) are pleased to announce the 7th Digital Citizen Summit (DCS), scheduled to take place on November 14–15, 2025, at T-Hub, Hyderabad.

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>

WORKING PAPER



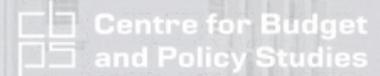
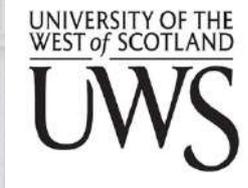
Understanding Gender-Based Violence in India: Patterns, Institutional Response, and Global Lessons

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in India spans intersections of caste, class, religion, gender identity, and geography, making it a critical human rights concern. This paper synthesizes existing data, legal frameworks, and scholarship on GBV, to understand its forms, impacts, and institutional responses through both national and global lenses.

It situates GBV within India's sociocultural and historical contexts, from patriarchal and colonial legacies to present-day inequities, and expands its scope beyond intimate and sexual violence to include digital, caste- and religion-based, and state or community-inflicted harms.

Drawing on NCRB, NFHS, media, and legal data, the study highlights underreported violence and systemic barriers to justice. Incorporating insights from Sweden, Argentina, Rwanda, South Africa, and Bangladesh, it outlines effective practices such as preventive education, survivor-centred policing, and community justice. The paper concludes that eliminating GBV demands intersectional, systemic, and rights-based reforms for inclusive and sustainable change.

Click on the title to read the article!



Click on the social media platform icons to connect!

