

SEPTEMBER 2025 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER



Contents

Blogs

Online Articles

Events

Working Paper

GLIMPSES OF SEPTEMBER



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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 2) 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 marginalised 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" 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.

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.

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!

ONLINE ARTICLES

Beyond the Third Degree: Why India Must Break the 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.

Techquity: Gendered Governance in the Digital Era



Women and other genders remain underrepresented in tech creation, use, and regulation, making them less likely to use digital services or pursue tech careers. Online harassment deepens this gap. The Costs of Exclusion (Web Foundation, 2022) report noted that this limits digital empowerment and tech's transformative potential. Over the past decade, excluding women from the digital sphere has cost low and middle-income countries (LMICs) approximately USD 1 trillion in GDP.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

EVENTS

BAZM-E-SUKHAN

WHOSE URDU IS IT ANYWAY?

September 12, 2025 (Friday) | 6:30 p.m.
at **Lamakaan**, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

Qamar Jamali
Urdu Writer, Translator & Critic.
She has published 13 books.

1. Shabee (Stories)
2. Sahoochi (Stories)
3. Sahaab (Stories)
4. Zubaan (Stories)
5. Sahaara Ba-Kaf (Stories)
6. Dard ka rishta (Stories)
7. Fitrak (Stories)
8. Novel: Aatishdaan
9. Collection of Radio Plays: Sangrezy
10. Inkaas (Criticism)
11. Navali-e-Adab (Criticism)
12. Arcesh (Children Literature)
13. Highway (Short Stories in English)

Rakshanda Jalil
Writer, Translator & Literary Historian

Dr. Rakshanda Jalil is a translator, writer, and literary historian. She has published over 25 books and written over 50 academic papers and essays. Some of her books include *Liking Progress*, *Loving Change: A Literary History of the Progressive Writers Movement in Urdu*, a biography of Urdu feminist writer Dr. Rashid Jahan, *A Rebel and Her Cause*, a translation of *The Sea Lies ahead*, Intezar Husain's seminal novel on Karachi and Krishan Chandlar's partition novel *Ghaddkar*, *Love in the Time of Hate* among others. She runs an organisation called Hindustani Awaaz, devoted to the popularisation of Hindi-Urdu Literature and culture.

A Conversation between Qamar Jamali & Rakshanda Jalil on the book "Whose URDU is it anyway?"

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

— TEA & SNACKS —

PLEASE CARRY YOUR UMBRELLA

Supported by **DEF** and **A-CODE**

Whose Urdu Is It Anyway?

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—"Whose Urdu is it Anyway?"

Date and Time: September 12, 2025, at 6:30 p.m.

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

This special event featured an eminent voice in Urdu literature—Qamar Jamali, the author of 13 books ranging from short story collections like Shabee, Sahoocah, and Sahaab to novels, criticism, and children's literature. She has contributed immensely to the richness of Urdu writing.

The session was presided over by Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj and Prof. Ashraf Rafi.

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

in f t i m

12:30 PM onwards – Lunch / Informal discussions

Vinay Lal is a cultural critic, writer, blogger, and Professor of History at the University of California (UCLA). He earned his PhD with Distinction from the University of Chicago in 1992. He is the author/editor of 22 books, including, most recently, *Gandhi, Truth and Nonviolence: The Politics of Engagement in Post-Truth Times* (Oxford 2025), *India and Its Intellectual Traditions: Of Love, Advaita, Power, and Other Things* (Oxford 2023), and *The Fury of Covid-19* (Pan Macmillan, 2020).

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.

The Idea of Social Democracy

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) held a lecture entitled "The Idea of Social Democracy" on Monday, September 15, 2025, at 11:30 a.m. at the CDPP Office, Hyderabad.

Prof. Vinay Lal is a cultural critic, writer, blogger, and Professor of History at UCLA and author of over 22 books. Prof. Lal talked 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 discussed 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.

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



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) organised a thought-provoking book discussion on “The Hindi Heartland,” on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, at 3:30 p.m. at the CDPP Office, Hyderabad.

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 reflected on the sociopolitical and cultural dynamics shaping the Hindi heartland of India.

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 talk by Prof. Vinay Lal, titled "Genocide and Hope: Lessons from Robben Island". Below the title is a subtitle: "Study of violence and nonviolence; focus on Robben Island's transformation into a place of hope." To the left of the title is a circular portrait of Prof. Vinay Lal. Below the portrait is his name. To the right of the title is the text "Speaks on:". Below the main title is a section for a book release: "Book release: The Hindi Heartland" by Ghazala Wahab. The book cover is shown. Below the book cover is the text "PROF. VINAY LAL will release the book". To the right of the book cover is a circular portrait of Ghazala Wahab. Below the portrait is her name and the text "Speaks on her book". Below the portraits is the venue information: "VENUE: 16 September, 2025 (Tuesday) | 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm at Lamakaan, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad". At the bottom right of the poster, the title of the book "THE HINDI HEARTLAND" is written in large, bold, black letters.

CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

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in f t i y

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) organised a special evening featuring a discussion and a book release on Tuesday, September 16, 2025, from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. at Lamakaan, Hyderabad.

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.

EVENTS

BAZM-E-SUKHAN

The poster is set against a parchment-like background with a decorative flourish at the top. In the top right corner, there is a logo for 'BAZM-E-SUKHAN' in Urdu calligraphy and a 'CDPP' logo. The title 'EK SHAAM "GILLI" AUR "DANDA" KE NAAM' is written in red. Below the title, the date and time are '08 October, 2025 (Wednesday) | 6:30 pm' and the venue is 'at Lamakaan, Near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad'. Two circular portraits are shown: Gilli Nalgondavi on the left and Sarwar Danda on the right. Below each portrait is a short biography. At the bottom, it says 'Join us for a humorous evening, with participations from Syed Javed Mohiuddin, Syed Wajid Mohiuddin, Atiya Mujeeb Arefi, Gul-e-Rana'. Below that, it says 'Presided over by Smt. Lakshmi Devi Raj & Prof. Ashraf Rafi'. At the very bottom, it says '— TEA & SNACKS —' and 'Supported by' followed by logos for DEF and A-CODE.

EK SHAAM "GILLI" AUR "DANDA" KE NAAM

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

Gilli Nalgondavi
Gilli Nalgondavi was a humorous Deccani Urdu poet known for his wit and satirical verses, often reflecting his personal struggles with humour.

Sarwar Danda
Sarwar Danda was a poet, specifically mentioned for producing "Exquisite Social Commentaries through humorous poetry"

Join us for a humorous evening, with participations from
Syed Javed Mohiuddin, Syed Wajid Mohiuddin,
Atiya Mujeeb Arefi, Gul-e-Rana

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

— TEA & SNACKS —

Supported by  

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, is delighted to invite you to yet another vibrant edition of Bazm-e-Sukhan. Join us for a delightful Urdu literary evening - "Ek Shaam "Gilli" aur "Danda" ke Naam.

This event will focus 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 PM

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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE **ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION**

The Brussels Effect of Technology Regulation in India



CDPP Office
Serene Heights, Masab Tank

27th October 2025

Dr Manuvie is a lawyer, an academic, and CEO of Diaspora in Action (formerly Foundation The London Story). She teaches Law at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. Her work lies at the intersectionality of politics and policy.

RITUMBRA MANUVIE

The Brussels Effect of Technology Regulation in India

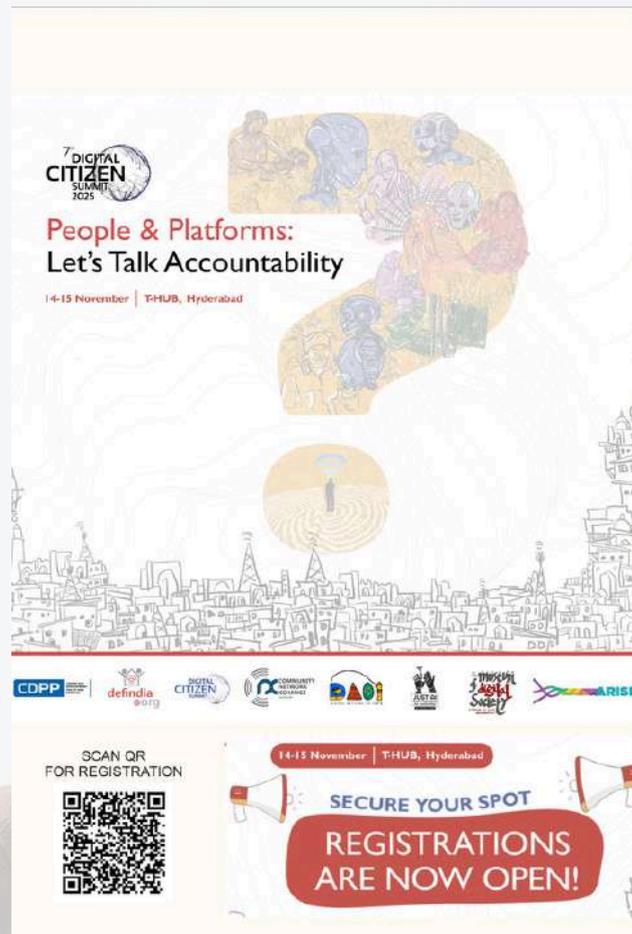
The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) will host a roundtable discussion on “The Brussels Effect of Technology Regulation in India.”

Dr. Manuvie is a lawyer, an academic, and CEO of Diaspora in Action (formerly Foundation The London Story). She teaches Law at the University of Groningen, Netherlands. Her work lies at the intersectionality of politics and policy.

Date: October 27, 2025

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

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 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>

UPCOMING WORKING PAPER

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

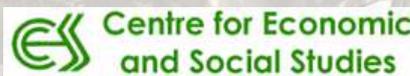
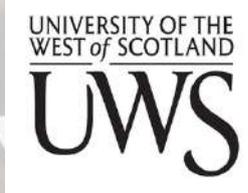
Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in India is entrenched across caste, class, religion, gender identity, and geography, making it one of the country's most pressing human rights concerns. This paper provides a comprehensive analysis of GBV by examining its typologies, impacts, and institutional responses, while drawing comparative lessons from global contexts. Integrating secondary data, policy analysis, and systematic literature review, the study highlights GBV as a multidimensional phenomenon requiring intersectional and collaborative solutions.

The paper situates GBV within India's sociocultural, legal, and historical frameworks, tracing its persistence from patriarchal traditions to colonial legacies and contemporary inequalities. It broadens the definition of GBV beyond intimate partner and sexual violence to include digital abuse, caste- and religion-based violence, human trafficking, honour killings, custodial violence, and discrimination against LGBTQI+ communities. By engaging NCRB, NFHS, and media data, alongside case studies and legal precedents, the study underscores both underreported forms of violence and the systemic barriers survivors face.

The impacts of GBV are analysed at multiple levels—physical and mental health consequences, economic and educational disruptions, intergenerational trauma, and broader social and political costs. Institutional frameworks such as the IPC, BNS, POCSO, *Domestic Violence Act*, and *PoSH Act* are critically assessed, alongside the functioning of police, judiciary, commissions, helplines, One-Stop Centres, and civil society mechanisms. Special attention is given to implementation gaps, budgetary constraints, and the gender-insensitivity of institutional actors.

Comparative insights are drawn from Sweden, Argentina, Rwanda, South Africa, and Bangladesh, highlighting preventive education, survivor-centred policing, integrated crisis centres, and community-led justice models. The paper argues for a transformative, intersectional, and multi-stakeholder strategy in India that not only strengthens prevention, protection, and prosecution but also leverages digital innovations and feminist civil society movements.

Ultimately, the study contends that addressing GBV requires moving beyond narrow legal frameworks to systemic reforms that challenge entrenched hierarchies, ensure accountability, and create sustainable, rights-based interventions for a violence-free future.



Click on the social media platform icons to connect!

