

JULY 2025 ISSUE

Centre for Development Policy and Practice

MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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GLIMPSES OF JULY



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. Vijay Raghavan



The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) featured Prof. Vijay Raghavan in the latest two-part episode of the Policy to Practice podcast series, as part of the ongoing Law and Society series.

A leading scholar at the Centre for Criminology and Justice, TISS Mumbai, Prof. Raghavan has dedicated decades to exploring the intersections of criminal justice and social work. He is the founder of Prayas, a pioneering field action project committed to protecting legal rights and enabling the social reintegration of individuals in the criminal justice system, with a particular focus on women, children, and youth.

In these episodes, Prof. Raghavan offers deep insights into the systemic challenges undertrials and prisoners face in accessing legal and social support. He explains why the justice system often overlooks the distinct needs of vulnerable groups and highlights the urgent need for robust rehabilitation frameworks after release; an area too often neglected. Drawing on extensive fieldwork and policy engagement, he outlines the types of support systems that can meaningfully aid reintegration into society.

Hosted by Moumita Barman, Senior Research Associate at CDPP, this conversation underscores the importance of rights-based interventions, inclusive policymaking, and a justice system that recognises the dignity and agency of every individual.

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."

Gender-Blind by Design? Why India's Draft Data Protection Rules Fail Women



India's Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules aim to enhance privacy but ignore structural gender inequities in digital systems. Using feminist theory and research on algorithmic accountability, this article critiques gender-blind consent, male-dominated data sets, and the lack of gender-disaggregated impact assessments. It proposes a five-step reform agenda: mandatory bias audits, context-aware consent, intersectional oversight, stronger safeguards for sensitive contexts, and transparency mechanisms. True equity—not symbolic language—must underpin India's data governance to protect women and gender minorities from systemic digital discrimination.

From Counterpublics to Criminality: How the Internet Radicalises Boys Against Women



Digital media has turned misogyny from private bias into an algorithmically amplified public ideology, recruiting boys, radicalising them, and harming women. Online spaces now provide language, validation, and justification for violence. This article examines how online misogyny shapes masculinities in India, why policy neglects it, and what a gender-just safety framework could be. It situates emerging masculine counterpublics within India's broader rape culture and entrenched misogyny.

Click on the title to read the article!

CDPP BLOG

Ghosts in the Machine: Adivasi Women and the Hidden Labours of AI



This article argues that Adivasi women's data labour is both economically precarious and epistemically exploited. Concentrated in low-skill roles like data annotation, they provide the foundational work for AI systems without understanding or benefiting from them. Rooted in Western epistemologies, these systems erase indigenous knowledge while relying on marginalised women's invisible labour. The shift from resource to data extraction mirrors colonial exploitation, with geographies of inequality and the structural marginalisation of tribal and Dalit women remaining intact.

Same Code, Unequal Pay: The Gender Divide in the Tech Workforce



Even though India is experiencing rapid digitalisation, the technology sector still mirrors the significant pay/opportunity imbalances characteristic of deep gender divisions. Women, and in particular Dalit and Muslim women, as well as other marginalised groups are still underpaid, under-promoted, and quarantined to low-growth occupations. This article analyses disparities based on national data, policy analysis, and lessons learned on the ground in Gurugram. It holds that workplace cultures, unclear compensation practices and marginal policing of equity legislations perpetuate exclusion. The piece ends with a proposal for a structural reform agenda, including a pay audit, salary-inclusive employment requirements, and gender-sensitive skilling, a global approach to go past tokenism in the direction of actual inclusion.

Click on the title to read the article!

CDPP BLOG

Reprogramming Leadership: Gender-Inclusive Pathways in Tech



Despite increasing participation, women and gender minorities remain underrepresented in leadership roles across the technology sector, particularly in the Global South. This article explores structural, institutional, and cultural barriers to women's tech leadership, drawing from lived experiences and global examples. It offers a roadmap for intersectional inclusion, highlighting initiatives that are transforming the tech ecosystem from the margins.

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 food safety, new laws, online trolling, government jobs and exams, etc.

One Nation, Many Kitchens: A Decentralised Approach to Safe Food



India's food safety framework, though comprehensive under FSSAI, faces critical enforcement challenges due to limited local capacity, outdated infrastructure, and inadequate staffing. Centralised regulations often overlook diverse regional food practices, creating blind spots in hygiene and compliance. This article advocates for a decentralised, tiered governance model where FSSAI sets baseline standards and states adapt rules to local contexts. Case studies from Kerala and Punjab demonstrate improved hygiene, faster inspections, and reduced adulteration through innovative local interventions. Strengthening state and municipal authority, resources, and autonomy is essential to ensure safe food as a right, not a privilege, for all citizens.

New Law, Old Mindsets: Whom Does Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita Really Protect?



The *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita* (BNS), 2023, touted as “gender-neutral,” fails to protect adult male and transgender survivors of sexual assault. While minors receive gender-inclusive legal recognition, protection ends at age 18. The removal of IPC Section 377 without a gender-neutral provision leaves adult male victims without recourse. This gap contrasts with global practices in Canada, Australia, and the UK, which define sexual assault irrespective of gender. Cultural stigma, underreporting, and lack of legal safeguards exacerbate invisibility. True reform demands amending Section 63, training legal stakeholders, and fostering societal change to ensure all survivors, regardless of gender, have equal protection and justice.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

ONLINE ARTICLES

Women Trolled, Threatened, and Silenced: Need for Bridging the Legal Gaps



Online gender-based violence in India—ranging from trolling and rape threats to deep fakes and doxing—silences women, particularly those from marginalised communities. Existing laws, including the *IT Act* and *Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita*, lack comprehensive provisions for emerging harms like AI-generated content and cyber flashing. Legal gaps, victim-blaming, and poor enforcement exacerbate underreporting and impunity. Learning from global models like the UK's *Online Safety Act* and Australia's eSafety Commissioner, India must enact a robust, victim-centred framework, mandate platform accountability, and modernise laws to match technological advances. A safe digital space is essential for women's empowerment, free expression, and participation in public life.

Between Hope and Hardship: Why Are Millions of Youth Chasing Government Jobs?



India's youth continue to overwhelmingly chase government jobs for stability, prestige, and benefits, despite limited vacancies and intense competition. This has created a crisis of "aspirational stagnation," where candidates spend years preparing for exams with selection rates often below 1%, incurring high financial, social, and psychological costs. Systemic failures like recruitment delays and paper leaks deepen the problem, while cultural narratives glorify sarkari employment as the only respectable career path. Addressing this requires timely and transparent recruitment, career counselling, mental health support, and societal mindset shifts to value diverse career opportunities. Broadening aspirations is vital to enable youth to thrive.

Click on the titles to read the articles!

EVENTS



Talk on:

Evolving Contours of the Right to Development

Date: July 10, 2025 | Time: 2:30 p.m.–3:30 p.m.



Prof. Archna Negi
Professor of Diplomacy and Disarmament
School of International Studies, JNU

She has authored several publications, including co-edited volumes on *Sustainability Standards and Global Governance: Experiences of Emerging Economies* (Springer, 2020) and *Reflections on the Right to Development* (Sage, 2005). She is also on the Editorial Board of the *Indian Journal of International Law and International Studies*.

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

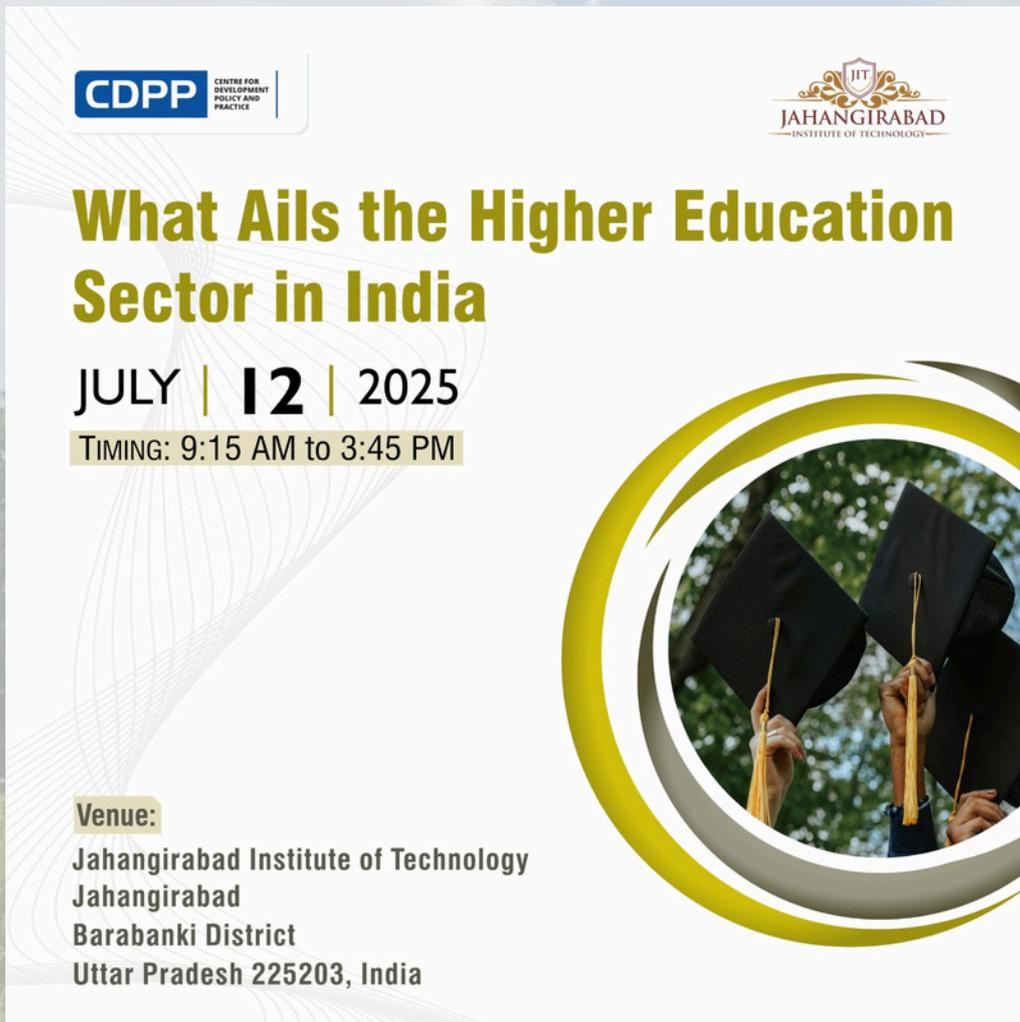
Evolving Contours of the Right to Development

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) hosted a special talk on "Evolving Contours of the Right to Development"

Prof. Archna Negi is the Professor of Diplomacy and Disarmament, School of International Studies, JNU. She has authored several publications, including co-edited volumes on *Sustainability Standards and Global Governance: Experiences of Emerging Economies* (Springer, 2020) and *Reflections on the Right to Development* (Sage, 2005). She is also on the Editorial Board of the *Indian Journal of International Law and International Studies*.

In this session, Prof. Negi discussed the evolving contours of the Right to Development and its relevance in today's global context.

EVENTS



CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

JAHANGIRABAD
INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

What Ails the Higher Education Sector in India

JULY | 12 | 2025

TIMING: 9:15 AM to 3:45 PM

Venue:
Jahangirabad Institute of Technology
Jahangirabad
Barabanki District
Uttar Pradesh 225203, India

What Ails the Higher Education Sector in India

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) hosted a full-day seminar on a critical theme in contemporary policy discourse: "What Ails the Higher Education Sector in India."

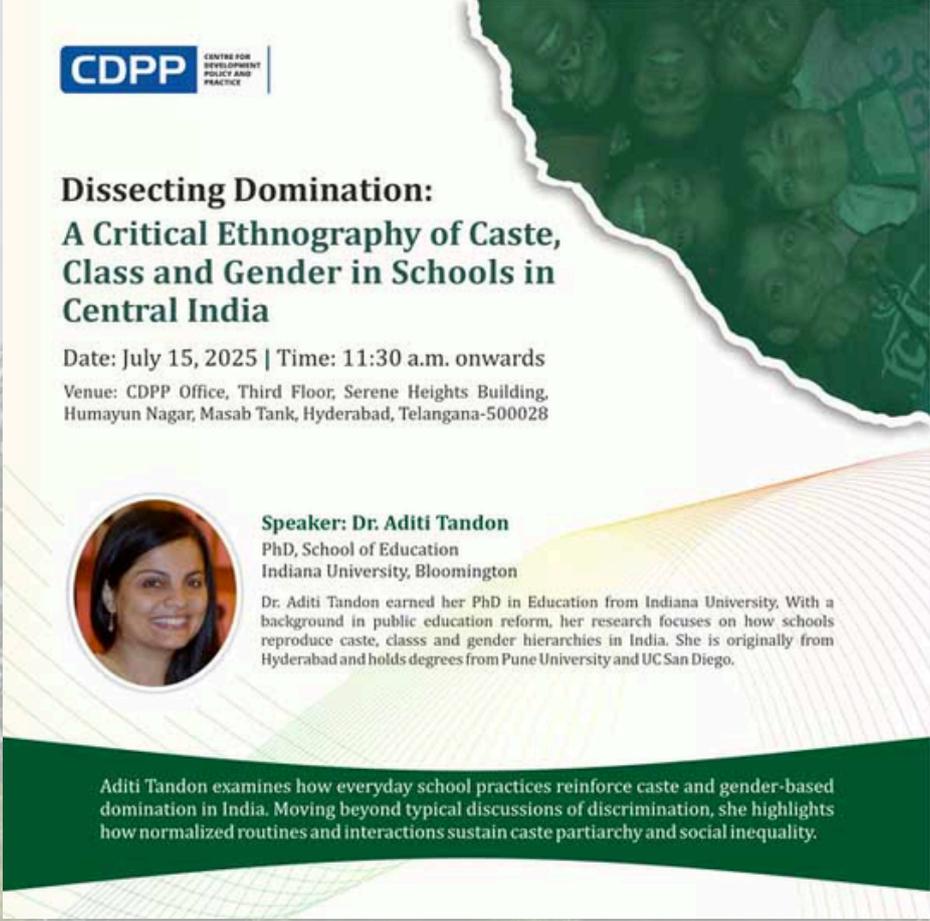
Date: Saturday, July 12, 2025

Time: 9:15 a. m. to 3:45 p. m.

Venue: JIT, Jahangirabad Fort, Jahangirabad, Barabanki District, Uttar Pradesh 225203, India.

This timely dialogue delved into the institutional, economic, and policy challenges that the Indian higher education is facing today.

EVENTS



CDPP CENTRE FOR DEVELOPMENT POLICY AND PRACTICE

Dissecting Domination: A Critical Ethnography of Caste, Class and Gender in Schools in Central India

Date: July 15, 2025 | Time: 11:30 a.m. onwards
Venue: CDPP Office, Third Floor, Serene Heights Building,
Humayun Nagar, Masab Tank, Hyderabad, Telangana-500028



Speaker: Dr. Aditi Tandon
PhD, School of Education
Indiana University, Bloomington

Dr. Aditi Tandon earned her PhD in Education from Indiana University. With a background in public education reform, her research focuses on how schools reproduce caste, class, and gender hierarchies in India. She is originally from Hyderabad and holds degrees from Pune University and UC San Diego.

Aditi Tandon examines how everyday school practices reinforce caste and gender-based domination in India. Moving beyond typical discussions of discrimination, she highlights how normalized routines and interactions sustain caste patriarchy and social inequality.

Dissecting Domination: A Critical Ethnography of Caste, Class, and Gender in Schools in Central India

The Centre for Development Policy and Practice (CDPP) hosted a special talk on "Dissecting Domination: A Critical Ethnography of Caste, Class, and Gender in Schools in Central India"

In this talk, Dr. Aditi Tandon drew from her ethnographic research in Central India to critically examine the ways caste, class, and gender-based domination are reproduced in school settings. Her work shed light on the subtle, everyday routines and interactions that sustain systemic inequalities—often under the guise of normalcy.

Dr. Tandon is a researcher in the field of public education reform. Her work focuses on how schools become sites where caste, class, and gender hierarchies are maintained. Originally from Hyderabad, she holds degrees from Pune University and UC San Diego, and earned her PhD in Education from Indiana University.

UPCOMING EVENTS

BAZM-E-SUKHAN

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 Ifekhar-e-Urdu from Slibli 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

PLEASE CARRY YOUR UMBRELLA Supported by DEF A-CODE

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, is delighted to invite you to yet another vibrant edition of Bazm-e-Sukhan. Join us for 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.

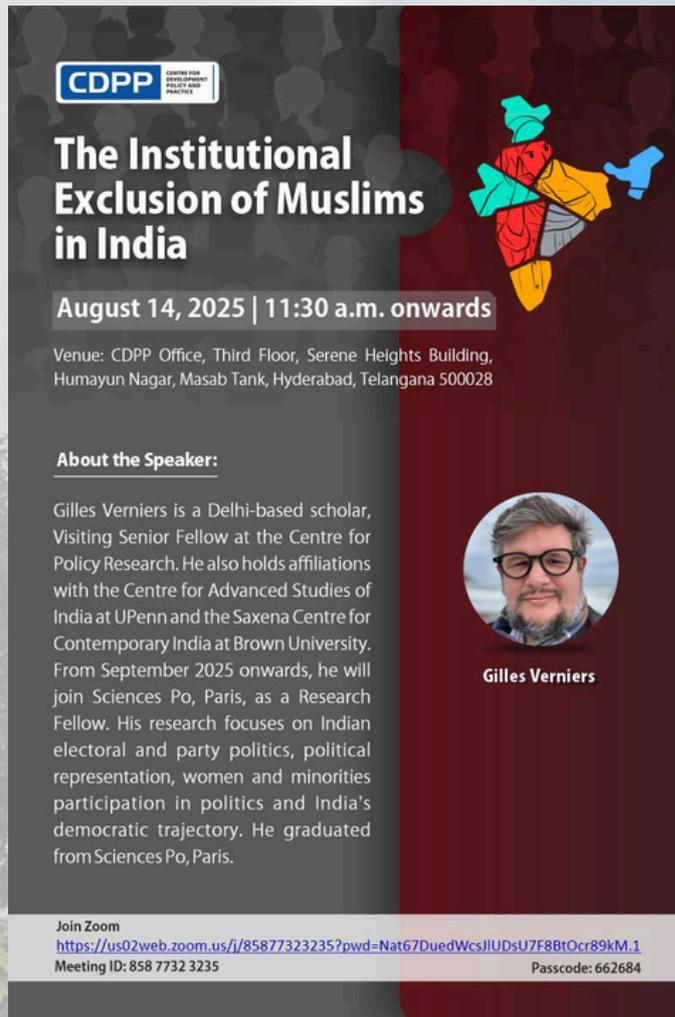
Venue: Lamakaan, near GVK One, Banjara Hills, Hyderabad

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 will also feature the release of the book "Paikaarah."

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

UPCOMING EVENTS



CDPP CENTRE FOR DELHI POLICY RESEARCH AND PRACTICE

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 will explore 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 will analyse 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 EVENT

DIGITAL CITIZEN SUMMIT 2025

People & Platforms: Let's Talk Accountability

14-15 November | T-HUB, Hyderabad

CALL FOR PAPERS

TIMELINE

- Call for Papers
July 11, 2025
- Abstract Submissions
August 15, 2025
- Notification of Selected Abstracts
September 22, 2025
- Presentation of Draft Papers
September 29–October 3, 2025
- Final Paper Submissions
October 15, 2025

Logos at the bottom: APNIC FOUNDATION, DIGITAL CITIZEN SUMMIT, COMMUNITY NETWORK EXCHANGE, Internet Society, APC, Global Digital Inclusion Partnership, Global Digital Empowerment Network, JUST RI, Digital Society.

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.

Call for Papers—Now Open!

We invite submissions of extended abstracts (1,500 words) addressing one or more of the following sub-themes:

- From Users to Architects: Reimagining Participation in Digital Governance
- Infrastructure of Inclusion: Designing Technology for the Margins
- Truth in a Platformed World: Ethics, Influence, and Information Futures
- Commons of Code and Connectivity: Reclaiming the Internet as a Public Good
- Justice by Design: Embedding Rights in Everyday Technologies

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

WORKING PAPER

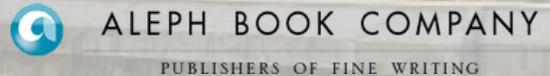
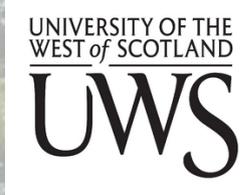
Understanding the Regulatory Landscape In India: A Comprehensive Look at the Consumer Sector

The upcoming working paper is in continuation of our research on regulatory frameworks in India. Previously examining infrastructure and emerging technology sectors, this paper shifts the attention on the consumer sector, with a detailed examination of regulations governing food safety and healthcare, two areas central to public welfare and market development.

The first section of the paper examines the regulatory landscape of India's food sector through a comprehensive literature review of existing laws, policies, and institutional frameworks. Using the farm-to-fork model, it maps regulations across all stages of the food supply chain, from production and processing to distribution, retail, consumption, and disposal. The review also examines the regulatory landscape of the food service sector and emerging trends, including cloud kitchens, plant-based foods, and innovative business models that are shaping food consumption and delivery. Through a literature review of national regulations and international best practices, the paper identifies gaps, overlaps, and areas where regulatory clarity or reform may be warranted to ensure consumer safety while enabling market growth.

The second section focuses on healthcare regulations, with particular attention to access, affordability, and the state of healthcare infrastructure in India. The analysis covers key regulations related to healthcare delivery systems, infrastructure development, and pharmaceutical access across the public and private realms. It draws on national and global regulatory frameworks to assess India's preparedness to address evolving challenges, including regulatory fragmentation, infrastructure gaps, financial inclusion, integration of technology, and uneven access to quality healthcare services.

Across both sectors, the working paper highlights the need for coherent, consumer-centric, and innovation-friendly regulatory approaches. By systematically mapping existing regulations and drawing lessons from global experiences, this paper contributes to the broader objective of identifying where India's consumer sector regulations require re-regulation, deregulation, or targeted policy intervention. This paper forms part of an ongoing research effort aimed at informing India's regulatory reform debates across infrastructure, emerging, and consumer sectors.



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