



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
[INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE]
UNIVERSITY
A Private University Promoting Public Service



I.D.E.A.S.
OFFICE of
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

ANNUAL REPORT

2025

OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES
(I.D.E.A.S.)

About Us

Drawing from the Latin roots of the word interdisciplinary—inter meaning “between” and disciplina meaning “knowledge” or “teaching”—IDEAS positions itself at the intersection of diverse fields of knowledge within the social sciences. We aim to inhabit this transitional intellectual space, fostering research that emerges between disciplinary boundaries, where convergence of thought, practice, and expertise takes place.

Our platform aspires to serve as a foundation for building sustainable, multidisciplinary collaborations—both within the University and in partnership with civil society, international organizations, and leading research institutions.

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Dean's Note

PROFESSOR DEEPANSHU MOHAN

DEAN, I.D.E.A.S. OFFICE OF
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES PROFESSOR
OF ECONOMICS, JINDAL SCHOOL OF
LIBERAL ARTS & HUMANITIES,
O. P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY



As I.D.E.A.S. is celebrating its first year since its establishment, I want to first thank Vice Chancellor Professor (Dr) C. RajKumar and the University higher administration for providing us with the creative freedom and invaluable opportunity to create an interdisciplinary research institute, the first of its kind, as a think-space within the University.

Through this annual reflection exercise, since IDEAS' inception, our team wanted to share and exhibit a few updates on a diverse range of multidisciplinary research activities and events. Through our seven research constellations and five initiatives - Grassroots Action Program (GAP), Solidarities, Moulding Methods, Haryana ki Awaaz, and Data Insights - the Office of Interdisciplinary studies seeks to act as a collaborative space for academics on and outside campus from various disciplines to engage with another, develop partnerships and anchor new efforts in areas of research, pedagogical and teaching of social sciences (practicing interdisciplinarity), while working closely on empirical issues while providing capacity building support to partner-civil society organisations.

Apart from serving as a platform for interdisciplinary research, IDEAS also wishes to create a space for practice-based transdisciplinary learning opportunities where scholars can meaningfully have an impact on policy and those working on the ground. We have done this through carefully considered partnerships with a host of institutions and creating opportunities for collaborations with the JGU space. The annual report is not only an accounting of the past year, but a roadmap of our future vision.

As part of our mission, we are excited to start an M.Sc. non-residential programme in Development Practice from August 2025 and an online M.Sc. Development Studies programme from December 2025 at IDEAS. These aim to bring an interface to our interdisciplinary research work (development across initiatives and constellations) while developing a practical, field-based pedagogical orientation to development studies, practitioners and interested early scholars.

Our Team



PROF. DEEPANSHU MOHAN

Dean I.D.E.A.S.(Office of Interdisciplinary Studies)
Director, Centre for New Economics Studies, (CNES)
Professor of Practice, Jindal School of Liberal Arts and Humanities (JSLH)
Senior Research Fellow, International Institute for Higher Educational Research (IIHED)

DIRECTORS



Dr. Namesh Killemsetty

Associate Director I.D.E.A.S.
Assistant Professor (JSGP)



Dr. Gayatri Balu

Assistant Director &
Assistant Professor I.D.E.A.S.



Dr. Shamindra Roy

Assistant Director (Institutional
Partnerships) and Assistant
Professor, I.D.E.A.S.



Dr. Bhavneet Kaur

Assistant Director I.D.E.A.S.
Assistant Professor JGLS



Dr. Preethi Krishnan

Assistant Director I.D.E.A.S.
Associate Professor, Jindal Global
Law School



Dr. Nayanjyoti

Assistant Director
Lecturer I.D.E.A.S.



Najam Us Saqib

Assistant Director I.D.E.A.S.
Constellation Fellow,
Justice, Urban Systems and Technology

SENIOR RESEARCH FELLOWS



Dr. Avanindra Nath Thakur
Constellation Fellow,
Understanding Indian Economy
Professor, JSGP



Dr. Swapnil Dhanraj
Constellation Fellow, Politics,
Society and History
Associate Professor, JGLS



Dr. Ambreen Agha
Constellation Lead, Politics,
Society and History
Associate Professor, JSIA



Dr. Divya Gupta
Constellation Fellow,
Understanding Indian Economy
Associate Professor, JGLS



Dr. Kaushalya Bajpayee
Constellation Fellow, Politics
Society and History
Associate Professor, JGLS



Dr. Chisom Ubabukoh
Constellation Fellow,
International Politics
Associate Professor, JGLS



Dr. Chetan Sinha
Constellation Fellow, Justice,
Urban Systems and
Technology
Associate Professor, JGLS



Dr. Vidya Subramanian
Constellation Fellow, Justice,
Urban Systems and Technology
Associate Professor, JGLS



Dr. Siddhartha Bhasker
Constellation Co-lead, Climate and
Sustainability
Associate Professor, JGGS



Dr. Aashita Dawer
Constellation Lead, Climate
and Sustainability
Associate Professor, JGLS



Dr. Abhisek Sur
Constellation Fellow, Understanding
Indian Economy
Associate Professor, JGLS



Dr. Namesh Killemsetty
Associate Director, IDEAS
Associate Professor of Public Policy and the
Associate Dean of Program Strategy and
Academic Affairs at the Jindal School of
Government and Public Policy

RESEARCH FELLOWS



Dr. Ashish Aman Sinha
Assistant Professor, JIBS



Dr. Devika Misra
Constellation Fellow,
International Politics
Assistant Professor, JSIA



Dr. Manika Bora
Constellation Fellow,
Understanding Indian
Economy
Assistant Professor, JGLS



Prof. Ramanathan Anjana
Constellation Fellow, Climate and
Sustainability
Assistant Professor, JGLS



Dr. Anjana Thampi
Constellation Fellow,
Climate and Sustainability
Assistant Professor, JGLS

IDEAS CORE FACULTY



Dr. Gayatri Balu

Assistant Director
Assistant Professor, I.D.E.A.S.,
Constellation Fellow, Justice, Urban
Systems and Technology



Dr. Shamindra Nath Roy

Assistant Director
Assistant Professor, I.D.E.A.S.
Constellation Lead, Understanding
Indian Economy



Dr. Nayanjyoti,

Assistant Director and
Lecturer, I.D.E.A.S.
Constellation Lead, Transitional
Spaces, Culture & Media Studies



Dr. Abhinita Mohanty

Assistant Professor &
Constellation Fellow, Climate
and Sustainability, I.D.E.A.S.



Prachy Hooda,

Lecturer
Constellation Fellow, Transitional
Spaces, Culture & Media Studies
Lead, Haryana Ki Awaz. I.D.E.A.S.



Tahiba Banu,

Lecturer
Constellation Fellow, Politics,
Society and History
Lead, GAP, I.D.E.A.S.

EXECUTIVE OFFICE MEMBERS



Nasima Sultana Choudhury

Deputy Manager, I.D.E.A.S.



Nirmal Lather

Assistant Manager, I.D.E.A.S.

1. Programme Launch and Related Events

PROGRAMME LAUNCH MSC. DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE

On 20th March 2025, the IDEAS team coordinated the program launch, which was formally launched at the Taj Mahal Hotel. Apart from the inaugural event with the Vice-Chancellor, two panel discussions involving renowned scholars and practitioners from the development sector were organized. Some of the dignitaries who were part of the launch event included

Mr. Chakshu Roy, Head, Legislative and Civic engagement initiatives, PRS Legislative Research

- Prof. (Dr.) Vesselin Popovski, Professor & Vice Dean and Executive Director, Centre for the Study of United Nations at O. P. Jindal Global University
- Dr. Ritu Matur, Director, Energy Assessment & Modelling Division, TERI
- Mr. Saugata Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, Centre for Policy Research and Member, Monetary Policy Committee, Reserve Bank of India
- Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay, Senior Fellow, CPR
- Mr Roshan Kishore, Data and Political Economy Editor, Hindustan Times
- Mr M K Venu, Founding Editor, The Wire
- Ms Arkaja Singh, Fellow, The Council for Energy, Environment and Water

The participation of dignitaries in the panel was also ensured to advance the conversation on the Development Practice programme within the development sector.

PROGRAMME LAUNCH MSC. DEVELOPMENT STUDIES (ONLINE)

The MSc in Development Studies program was officially launched on 8th October 2025 at the Jindal International Academy, Taj Mansingh, New Delhi. The event marked the introduction of a program aimed at bridging societal needs with policy design and implementation, emphasizing inclusion, well-being, and experiential learning.

The session began with opening remarks by Dr. Abhinita Mohanty (Program Director) and Dr. Shamindra Roy (Assistant Director), followed by a welcome address from Prof. Deepanshu Mohan (Dean). The keynote address was delivered by Mr. Amarjeet Sinha (Retd. IAS, Senior Fellow, Centre for Social and Economic Progress), who shared valuable perspectives on development and policy. The panel discussion featured Prof. Sanjoy Roy (Delhi University), Prof. Hebatallah Adam (JGU), and Prof. Seema Kazi (Centre for Women's Development Studies), and was moderated by Dr. Gayatri Balu (Assistant Director, IDEAS).



Related Events

Webinar on “Careers in Social Impact and Global Development – New Pathways for Young Leaders” (23rd September 2025)

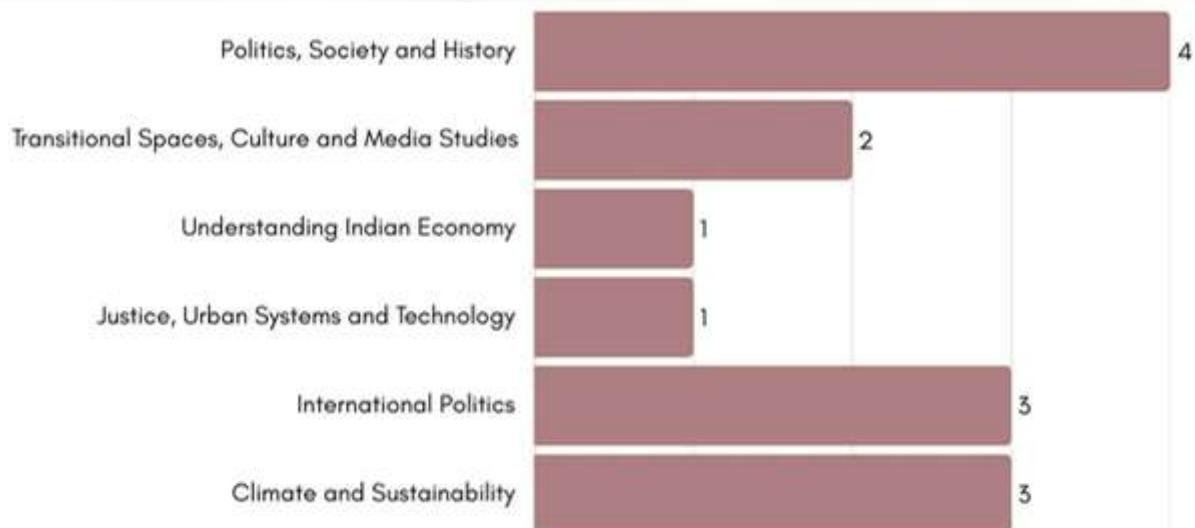
MSc. Development Practice Webinar Series:

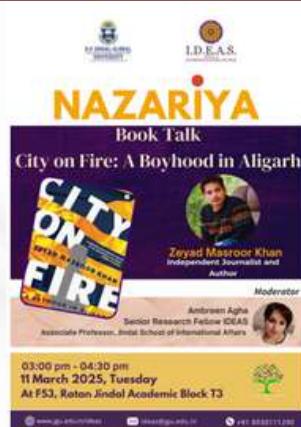
Date	Topic	Speaker
February		
22 Feb 2025	Introduction to MSc. Development Practice https://youtu.be/-QZ3u8Vp8fY?si=Rc8STlznT_Ggs9iR	Prof Deepanshu Mohan, Dean, IDEAS
March		
22 Feb 2025	'What is the Gender of Development?' Subheading: Interconnections of Social Security, Care Economy and Policy	Dr Dipa Sinha, Development Economist
15 March 2025	Data in Development Practice	Dr Kanhu Charan Pradhan, Research Lead, NIUA
April		
2 April 2025	Rethinking Mobility and Development	Dr Neha Wadhawan, ILO
16 April 2025	Revdi ya Haq: Samajik Suraksha par ek Nazariya: Discussion on recent book	Prof Reetika Khera, Professor, IITD

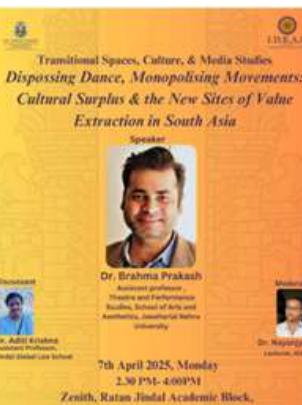
26 April 2025	Understanding India's Agrarian Organizational Transformation: A Multidisciplinary Perspective	Dr. Hari Charan Behera, Indian Statistical Institute
May		
10 May 2025	Corruption and Development – From Elite Networks to Everyday Life	Dr. Sudhir Chella Rajan, Professor, IIT Madras
13 May 2025	How India Works and Lives: Reflections on Methodological Questions from the 'State of Working India' Report* *Also Moulding Method event	Prof Amit Basole, Professor, Azim Premji University Discussant: Dr Avishek Konar, Assistant Professor, JGLS
17 May 2025	Who Accumulates? Capital, Community & the Politics of Dispossession in Northeast India	Dr Roluahpuia, IIT Roorkee (Editor – Development in Practice Journal and Active Member- Roots and Bridge initiative)
29 May 2025	Should We Let AI Think for Us? Rethinking Research and Teaching in a Machine Age	Prof (Dr) Namesh Killemsetty, Associate Professor, JSGP
June		
27 June 2025	Translating Knowledge: Writing Beyond the Academy Academic Blogging in India - Lessons from Doing Sociology *In Collaboration with Doing Sociology – Institutional Partnership	Dr Deepali Aparajita Dungdung (Assistant Professor, Ranchi University) & Rituparna Patgiri (Assistant Professor, IIT Guwahati) (Founding Team, Doing Sociology)

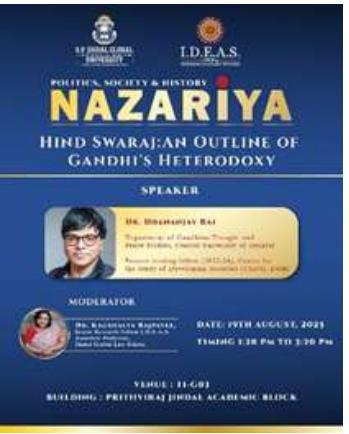
2. Research Constellation

NAZARIYA: A CRITICAL DIALOGUE SERIES 2025



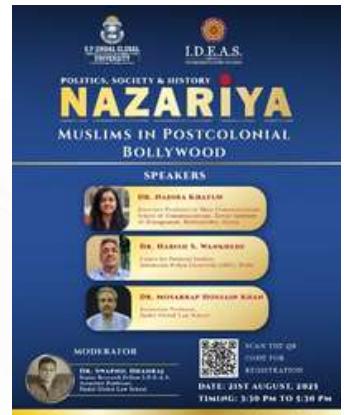
Date	Topic	Event
February		
27 Feb 2025	Mapping Feminist International Relations in South Asia: Past and Present	
March		
11 March 2025	Book talk on "City on Fire: A Boyhood in Aligarh" by Zeyad Masroor Khan	

21 March 2025	<p>State, Capital Accumulation & Institutional Trajectory of (De) Industrialization in India</p> <p>https://youtu.be/3ZGdkTxG2GE?si=RRcuUQC6S49Q1K0j</p>	
27 March 2025	<p>Algorithms and AI: Critical Perspectives</p>	
<i>April</i>		
7 April 2025	<p>Disposing Dance, Monopolizing Movements: Cultural Surplus & the New Sites of Value Extraction in South Asia</p>	
9 April 2025	<p>Entrepreneurial Dreams and Anxieties: India's Digital Self-Help Gurus and Their Followers</p>	

<p>23 April 2025</p>	<p>The Indian Farmers' Protest of 2020–2021: Agrarian Crisis, Dissent and Identity</p> <p>https://youtu.be/bPUA0k4uz0s?si=4JJhcEd4vhNMnpF4</p>	 <p>Book Talk: The Indian Farmers' Protest of 2020-2021: Agrarian Crisis, Dissent and Identity</p> <p>23rd April 2025, Wednesday 4:00 PM - 6:00 PM Bing Bang Conference Room, Pritam Singh Jindal Academic Block, T1, 1st Floor www.jgu.edu.in/naazriya naazriya@jgu.edu.in +91 993711296</p>
<p>26 April 2025</p>	<p>Psychology for Social Change: Why Do We Need a Critical Psychology of Caste?</p> <p>https://youtu.be/bPUA0k4uz0s?si=4JJhcEd4vhNMnpF4</p>	 <p>Psychology for Social Change: Why do we need a Critical Psychology of Caste?</p> <p>26th April 2025 M-07 T1 Mezzanine Floor</p>
<i>August</i>		
<p>19 Aug 2025</p>	<p>Hind Swaraj: An Outline of Gandhi's Heterodoxy</p> <p>https://youtu.be/orHbVrd0Dhw?si=L0HB-uzCTf4LAAxg</p>	 <p>NAZARIYA HIND SWARAJ: AN OUTLINE OF GANDHI'S HETEROLOGY</p> <p>SPEAKER: DR. BHARATIYA BAI Professor, Dept. of English and Foreign Languages, University of Central Punjab, Lahore, Pakistan Research Interests: 1947-54, Politics for the rights of marginalized minorities (Christian, Muslim, Dalit, etc.)</p> <p>MODERATOR: DR. KALPANA RAJPUT, Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Pritam Singh Jindal Academic Block, JGU, Noida</p> <p>DATE: 19TH AUGUST, 2025 TIME: 1:30 PM TO 3:30 PM</p> <p>VENUE: II-G01 BUILDING: PRADEEPRAJ JINDAL ACADEMIC BLOCK</p>
<p>20 Aug 2025</p>	<p>Trump's Tariff Tantrums: The Way Forward for India</p> <p>https://youtu.be/9wTegERs7qE?si=lNrIt7QMnF5F5flj</p>	 <p>NAZARIYA TRUMP'S TARIFF TANTRUMS: THE WAY FORWARD FOR INDIA</p> <p>SPEAKERS: PROF. MOHINI RAJA KHAN Associate Dean (Academic), Faculty of International Affairs, JGU, Noida PROF. IDRIS YAVALEKAR POPOLIKAR Professor & Vice Dean and Executive Director, Faculty Office of Law, JGU, Noida DR. ISRAELIKA SHARO Associate Professor, Dept. of English, Pritam Singh Jindal Academic Block, JGU, Noida</p> <p>CHAIR: PROF. DEEPMALA MODI Chair, I.D.E.A.S., Dept. of English, Pritam Singh Jindal Academic Block, JGU, Noida PROF. RAKESH KUMAR Chair, Dept. of English, Pritam Singh Jindal Academic Block, JGU, Noida</p> <p>DATE: 20TH AUGUST, 2025 TIME: 1:30 PM TO 3:30 PM VENUE: II-G02, GROUND FLOOR, PRADEEPRAJ JINDAL ACADEMIC BLOCK (II)</p>

**21 Aug
2025**

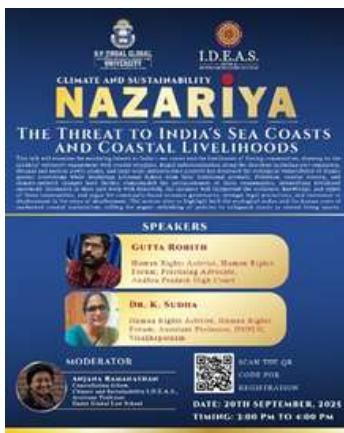
Muslims in Postcolonial Bollywood
[https://youtu.be/WQhAXrc7xHE?
si=-8ZcJC_ah603F5oD](https://youtu.be/WQhAXrc7xHE?si=-8ZcJC_ah603F5oD)



September

**20 Sep
2025**

The Threat to India's Sea Coasts and
Coastal Livelihoods
[https://youtu.be/Evwb_9qUAUk?
si=AJ8UB5ydYQs2Inw2](https://youtu.be/Evwb_9qUAUk?si=AJ8UB5ydYQs2Inw2)



October

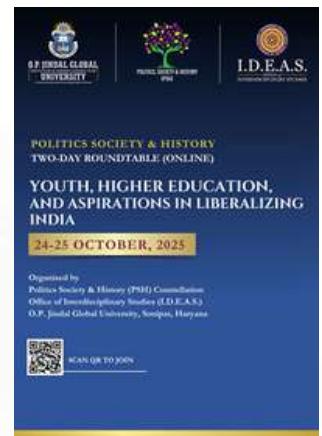
**17 Oct
2025**

Beyond the Breadline: Actionable
Steps to End Poverty Now
[https://youtu.be/JF-4ObKFrWA?
si=fSWOeo6JmczIg6Bq](https://youtu.be/JF-4ObKFrWA?si=fSWOeo6JmczIg6Bq)



**24-25 Oct
2025**

Two-day online workshop ‘Youth, Higher Education, and Aspirations in Liberalizing India’



November

**13 Nov
2025**

From Risk to Resilience: Helping People and Firms Adapt in South Asia



3. Initiatives



I.D.E.A.S.
OFFICE of
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

A. SOLIDARITIES INITIATIVE

April-May 2025: Capacity Building Workshops with Youth for Social Development

On 30 April 2025, an online capacity-building workshop was conducted in collaboration with Youth for Social Development, focusing on programme designing, capacity building, and fundraising strategies. The workshop was facilitated by Dr. Rekha Pachauri, Communication Consultant.

On 17 May 2025, a second online workshop was held for the team at Youth for Social Development on Social Media and Digital Outreach, again conducted by Rekha Pachauri

9 April 2025: Webinar on Building Feminist Solidarities Through Alliances

4 May 2025: Science Workshop at IYRC, Kapashera

November - December 2025: Planning Curriculum Workshops in collaboration with Navjyoti

Initiated and conducted meetings with Navjyoti India Foundation to assess their specific needs and explore areas of collaboration under the Solidarities initiative.

28 November 2025: Report Release: Migrant Bonded Labour in India

In collaboration with the National Campaign Committee for Eradication of Bonded Labour (NCCEBL) on a crucial study examining migrant bonded labour in India. The report documents how systemic exploitation and socio-economic vulnerabilities continue to trap thousands in cycles of bondage, making it a persistent and urgent human rights concern. This report examines the prevalence of the bonded labour system and the post-rescue condition of rescued workers. In particular, the report aims to assess the implementation of the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act 1976 (BLSAA) and the accompanying Rehabilitation Scheme (Central Sector Scheme for the Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourer 2016).

To read the report: <https://mehnatkash.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Migrant-Bonded-Labour-Report-2025.pdf>



BUILDING SOLIDARITIES THROUGH ALLIANCES
A CONVERSATION

ARTHANA DHARVA
KONKANAKA
SATHYAKI

KANCHANA
SATHYAKA
PURUSHOTTHAM

SUNITA DHARVA
SHABNA CHACKO

The need for solidarity across diverse communities is the need of the hour! Join us to learn the story of the Alliance of Feminist Collectives of various federations of Dalit, Bahujan, and Adivasi women, transgender persons, gender and sexual minorities, and sex workers anchored by four NPO partners: Best Practices Foundation, Bhumika Women's Collective, Nirantar Trust, and Solidarity Foundation. Panelists will share their vision of a feminist future where movements across diverse identities build solidarities to work towards justice and liberation for all.

The panel will discuss:

- What is feminist about grassroots solidarities?
- What does it mean for movements to care across diverse communities?
- What challenges and possibilities exist for alliances as a means of building solidarities across grassroots organisations?

can to Register

Wednesday, 9th April 2025
4 PM to 6 PM
Venue: Online
Register: <https://tinyurl.com/56nmmez2f>

www.ggu.edu.in/ideas ideas@ggu.edu.in <https://www.facebook.com/gguideas>



E & PRESS RELEASE
ember 2025

NT BONDED LABOUR IN IN

ges in the Bonded Labour System (Abolition) Act
e for Rehabilitation of Bonded Labourers 2016
, 2016, in New Delhi, India

risina Road, Delhi

Two men are seated at a table with microphones, speaking at a press conference. One man is speaking into a microphone, and the other is listening attentively.

B. MASTERCLASS

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (I.D.E.A.S.) at O.P. Jindal Global University is a university-wide platform that fosters interdisciplinary research, innovative pedagogy, and collaborative scholarship across JGU.

The **MSc. Development Practice** is a flagship program that critically examines interconnected challenges in the Global South, including jobless growth, climate change, and social inequality. The program emphasizes theoretical rigor, interdisciplinary learning, and field-based engagement to prepare students for impactful careers in development research and practice.

The I.D.E.A.S. Masterclass Seminar Series is an integral part of the program and serves as a key space for knowledge exchange. These sessions bridge classroom learning with real-world experiences in development, policymaking, academia, and social work, featuring scholars and practitioners from around the world.

Masterclasses are offered in two formats: in-person sessions on Wednesdays (3:00–4:30 PM at the Taj Mahal facility, Jindal International Academy) and online sessions on Saturdays with international experts. While core to the MSc. program, the sessions are open to other JGU students and interested participants, particularly from the Delhi-NCR region.

Together, the Masterclasses provide a vital platform for critical reflection, dialogue, and learning, helping students connect theory with practice and explore diverse pathways for driving meaningful change in development.



Dr. Mihir Shah

Distinguished Professor, Chairperson, M.A. Rural Management, School of Humanities and Social Sciences, Shiv Nadar University

Former Member of the Planning Commission, Government of India

IS LIBERALIZATION, PRIVATIZATION, AND GLOBALIZATION (LPG) THE PANACEA FOR INDIA'S MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS?

06

AUG, 2025



Dr. Maanik Nath

Assistant Professor in Economic and Social History
Utrecht University, The Netherlands

CAPITAL SHORTAGE: CREDIT AND INDIAN ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, 1920-1960

16

AUG, 2025





Dr Partha Mukhopadhyay

Senior Fellow, Center for Policy Research, New Delhi

20

AUG, 2025



WHAT IS THE ROLE OF THEORY IN DEVELOPMENT PRACTICE?



Dr. Amogh Dhar Sharma

Leverhulme Early Career Fellow at University of Oxford

30

AUG, 2025



BOOK TALK ON "THE BACKSTAGE OF DEMOCRACY: INDIA'S ELECTION CAMPAIGNS AND THE PEOPLE WHO MANAGE THEM"



Dr. Sharmila Parmanand

Assistant Professor in Gender, Development and Globalisation Department of Gender Studies, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)

06

SEP, 2025



SAME BUT DIFFERENT: CARE, DOMESTIC WORK, AND SEX WORK IN THE GENDERED POLITICAL ECONOMY



Dr. Ravi Kumar

Department of Sociology, South Asian University

17

SEP, 2025



RESKILLING AS DEVELOPMENT? THE "SKILL FIX" IN LABOUR, EDUCATION AND INDIA'S DEMOGRAPHIC QUESTION



Dr. Rathin Roy

Distinguished Visiting Professor, Kautilya School of Public Policy and Visiting Senior Fellow at ODI

19

SEP, 2025



UNEQUALISING PROSPERITY AND POLITICAL ASYMMETRY: A PENINSULAR TELLING OF THE BIG DISCORD IN INDIA'S CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL ECONOMY



Dr. Ruben Andersson

Professor of Social Anthropology, Department of International Development, University of Oxford, UK

BOOK TALK ON "WRECKONOMICS: WHY IT'S TIME TO END THE WAR ON EVERYTHING"

20

SEP, 2025



Dr. David Keen

Professor of Conflict Studies, Department of International Development, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)



Mr. JS Deepak

Group Director, Bharti Enterprises, Former Ambassador of India to the WTO, Former Secretary Telecom, GOI

TRADE WARS: THE WHY, WHEREFORE & WAY FORWARD FOR INDIA

24

SEP, 2025



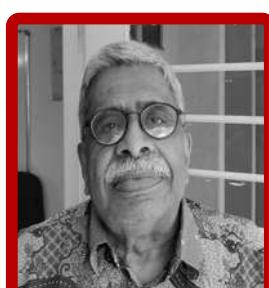
Dr. Nikhil Menon

Associate Professor of History, University of Notre Dame, USA

BOOK TALK ON "PLANNING DEMOCRACY: MODERN INDIA'S QUEST FOR DEVELOPMENT"

27

SEP, 2025



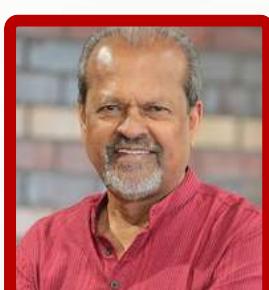
Dr. Vinod Vyasulu

Founder Centre for Budget and Policy Studies, Former Professor and Vice Dean of Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

INDIA'S 73RD AND 74TH CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS: SOME REFLECTIONS

11

OCT, 2025



Prof. (Dr.) Naresh Singh

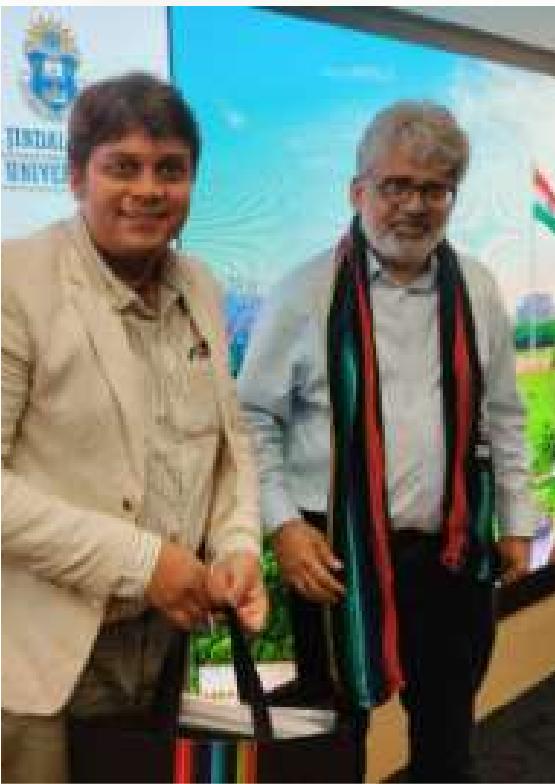
Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy and Director, Centre for Complexity Economics and Applied Spirituality for Public Policy (CEASP)

DISRUPTING CONVENTIONAL NOTIONS OF DEVELOPMENT

29

OCT, 2025





C. DATA INSIGHTS

As part of the Data Insights series, a panel study titled **“Mapping 75 Years of District Evolution in India: Understanding Administrative Fragmentation, Political Drivers, and Challenges”**

29th November 2025, from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM.

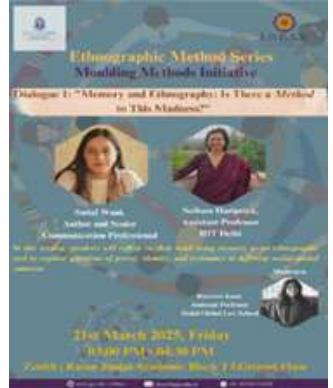
India's district map has transformed dramatically since 1950—but this quiet redrawing has profoundly shaped governance, administration, and policy research. This talk presents a systematic analysis of district change from 1950 to 2004 using new data, maps, and historical diagrams, and split-history tables from the India State Story project. It traces major waves of district proliferation—from early state formation to rapid expansions in Bihar, Tamil Nadu, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, and Assam and uncovers how federal dynamics, political incentives, identity claims, and administrative demands have driven these shifts.

The poster features the logos of O.P. Jindal Global University, DATA INTELLIGENT GEARS, I.D.E.A.S., FLAME University, and the Indian Statistical Institute. The title 'Data Insights' is at the top, followed by the subtitle 'Mapping 75 years of District evolution in India: Understanding Administrative Fragmentation, Political Drivers, and the Challenges of Panel study'. Below the subtitle is a detailed description of the talk. The 'SPEAKER' section shows a photo of Prof. Shivakumar Jolad and his bio: Associate Professor, FLAME University. The 'DISCUSSANT' section shows a photo of Dr. Shamindra Nath Roy and his bio: Assistant Director and Assistant Professor, I.D.E.A.S. The date is 29th November 2025, and the time is 11 AM - 12:30 PM. A QR code is provided for scanning.

The Panel featured **Prof. Shivakumar Jolad, Associate Professor at FLAME University**, as the Speaker, and **Dr. Shamindra Nath Roy, Assistant Director and Assistant Professor at I.D.E.A.S.**, as the Discussant. Their insights provided a nuanced understanding of how administrative fragmentation has shaped governance and policy outcomes in India.

D. MOULDING METHODS

Moulding Methods, an initiative at the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P Jindal Global University, is a platform for critical reflection and dialogue on research methodologies and how they shape social and political enquiries in social sciences. It aims to disentangle methods from the text and foreground their centrality and their bearing on knowledge production. Our attempt is to examine the process of fieldwork, a combination of bodily, emotional, and sensory labour of the researcher, and how that constitutes a foundation for the production of written texts. Over this year, we have brought together a diverse cohort of scholars, in the form of Ethnographic Method Series, Online Webinar Series and Research Methodologies workshop, to share their methodological journeys and reflect on the anxieties of their fieldwork.

Date	Topic	Event
<i>March</i>		
21 March 2025	The Ethnographic Method Series Dialogue 1: Memory and Ethnography: Is There a Method to This Madness	
<i>April</i>		
1 April 2025	Dialogue 2: Methodologies of Care: Researching Cancer and Abortion in South Asia	

**28 April
2025**

Dialogue 3: Dialogue on Affect and Sensory Methodologies: A Journey of Food and Architecture

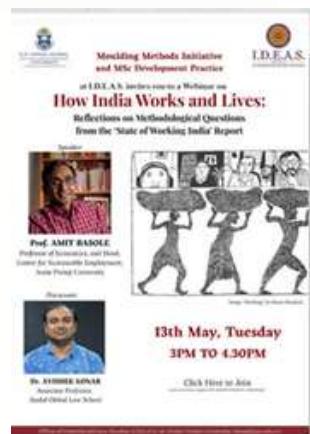


May

**13 May
2025**

How India Works: Reflections on Methodological Questions" from the 'State of Working India' Report

[https://youtu.be/lDMaoU9m2-c?
si=qc6fnPqUntEcWryb](https://youtu.be/lDMaoU9m2-c?si=qc6fnPqUntEcWryb)



October

**13-14 Oct
2025**

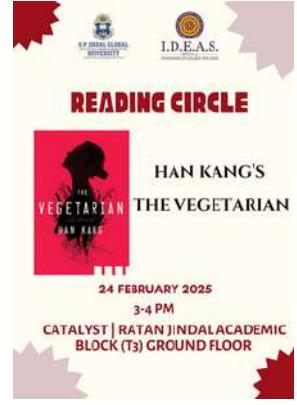
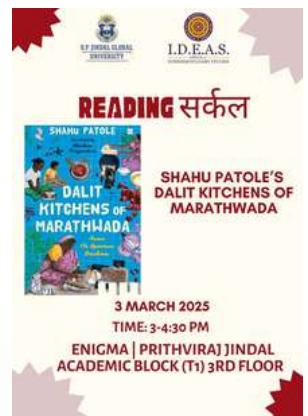
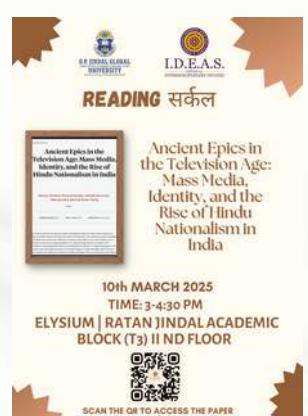
From Risk to Resilience: Helping People and Firms Adapt in South Asia

[https://youtu.be/0p_5Y7nf75E?
si=P_uQDjJ4ogkoDD3w](https://youtu.be/0p_5Y7nf75E?si=P_uQDjJ4ogkoDD3w)



E. READING CIRCLE

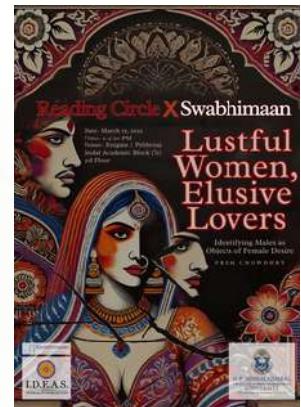
Reading Circle offers students a space to read, reflect, and engage in meaningful discussions around a wide variety of texts. Co-ordinated by Prachy Hooda, Lecturer at I.D.E.A.S. this initiative strives at encouraging open dialogue and diverse perspectives and deepen understanding across different themes and disciplines.

Date	Topic	Event
<i>February</i>		
1 Feb 2025	Han Kang's acclaimed novel The Vegetarian	 <p>READING CIRCLE HAN KANG'S THE VEGETARIAN 24 FEBRUARY 2025 3-4 PM CATALYST RATAN JINDAL ACADEMIC BLOCK (T3) GROUND FLOOR</p>
<i>March</i>		
3 Mar 2025	Dalit Kitchens of Marathwada by Shahu Patole	 <p>READING सर्कल SHAHU PATEL'S DALIT KITCHENS OF MARATHWADA 3 MARCH 2025 TIME: 3-4:30 PM ENIGMA PRITHVI JINDAL ACADEMIC BLOCK (T1) 3RD FLOOR</p>
<i>March</i>		
10 Mar 2025	Ancient Epics in the Television Age: Mass Media, Identity, and the Rise of Hindu Nationalism in India by Resul Ahmed, Paul Brimble, Akhila Kovvuri, Alessandro Saia, and Dean Yang	 <p>READING सर्कल Ancient Epics in the Television Age: Mass Media, Identity, and the Rise of Hindu Nationalism in India 10th MARCH 2025 TIME: 3-4:30 PM ELYSIUM RATAN JINDAL ACADEMIC BLOCK (T3) II ND FLOOR SCAN THE QR TO ACCESS THE PAPER</p>

March

**17 Mar
2025**

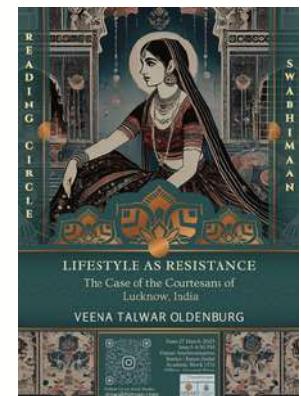
Lustful Women, Elusive Lovers: Identifying Males as Objects of Female Desire by Prem Chowdhry



March

**1 Feb
2025**

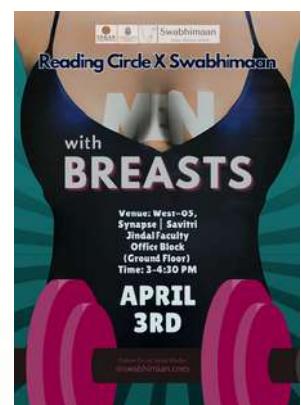
Lifestyle as Resistance: The Case of the Courtesans of Lucknow, India by Veena Talwar Oldenburg.



April

**3 Apr
2025**

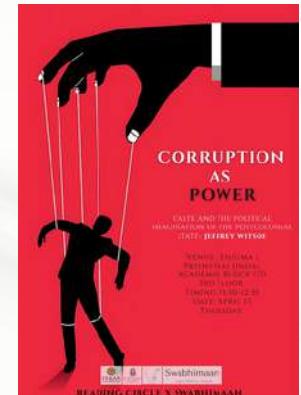
Men with Breasts by Ken Saltman



April

**17 Apr
2025**

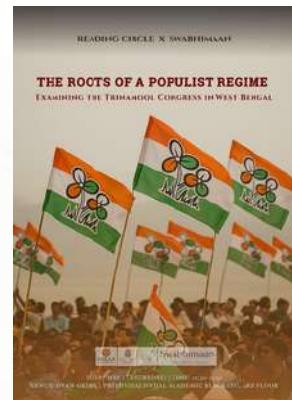
Corruption as Power: Caste and the Political Imagination of the Postcolonial State by Jeffrey Witsoe



May

**1 May
2025**

The Roots of a Populist Regime:
Examining the Trinamool
Congress in West Bengal

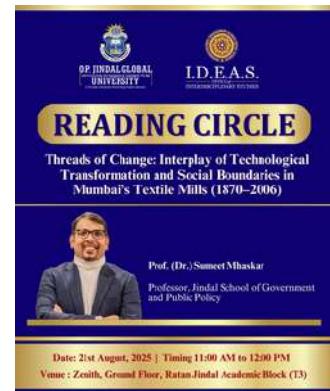


August

**21 Aug
2025**

Threads of Change: Interplay of
Technological Transformation and
Social Boundaries in Mumbai's
Textile Mills (1870–2006) with
Prof. Sumeet Mhaskar

[https://youtu.be/mZtqdVVf4K0?
si=FajOw7c8xhOIBRt](https://youtu.be/mZtqdVVf4K0?si=FajOw7c8xhOIBRt)

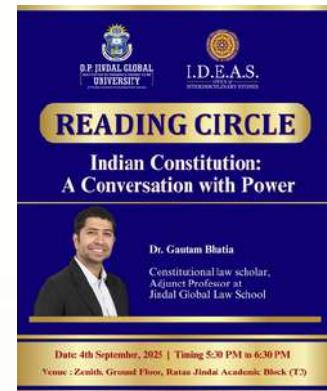


September

**4 Sep
2025**

Indian Constitution: A
Conversation with Power with
Dr. Gautam Bhatia

https://youtu.be/mptjA9TZlx?si=bLFXL_UlmJ_x2Jh



**17 & 24
Sep 2025**

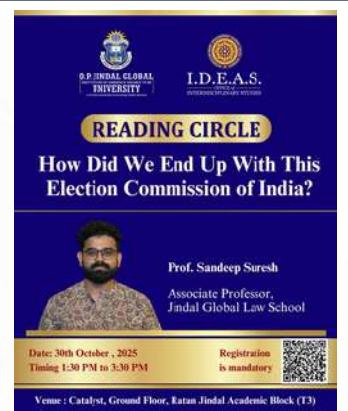
Reading texts in social science:
On method and meaning with
Prof. Gurpreet Mahajan and
Prof. Mark Philp



October

30 Oct
2025

How did we end up with this
Election Commission of India
with Prof. Sandeep Suresh

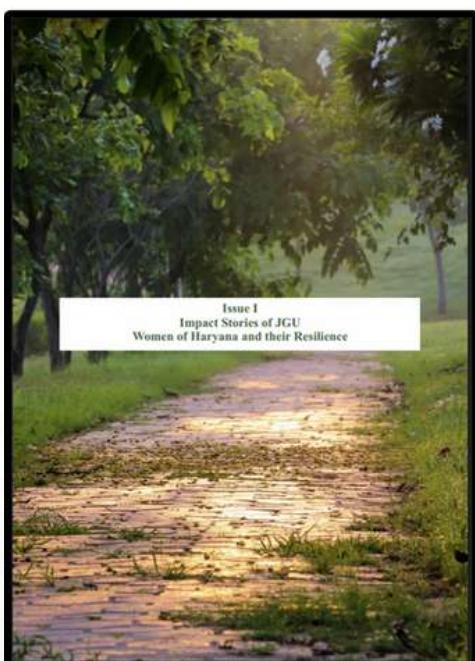
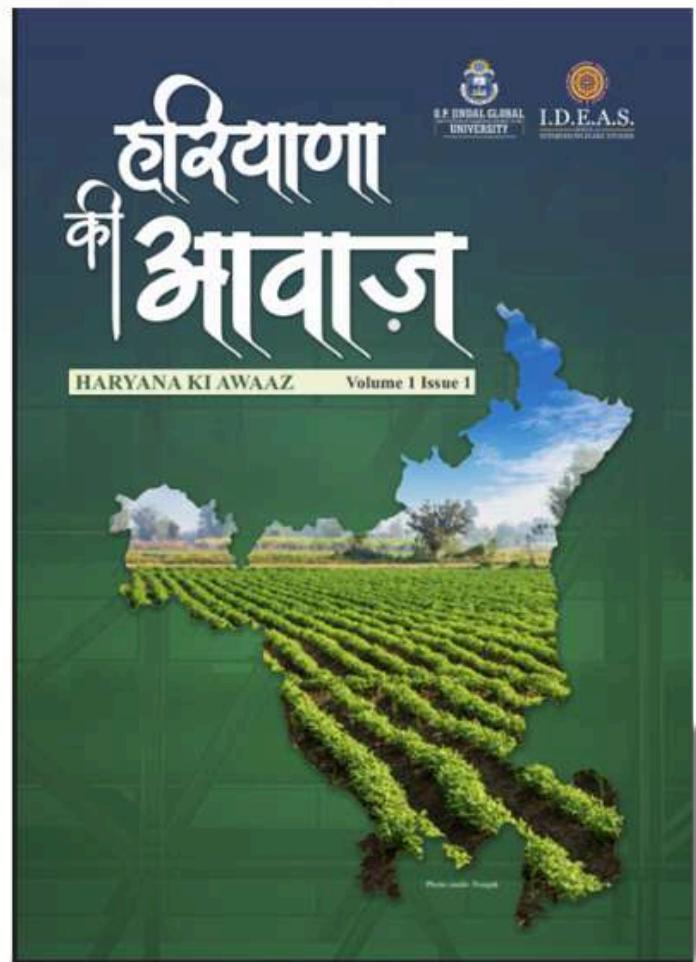


F. HARYANA KI AWAAZ

Haryana Ki Awaz (HKA) is an initiative that seeks to reclaim and redefine the story of Haryana and its people by challenging common stereotypes. Through monthly issues, HKA highlights the rich culture, diverse languages, everyday lives, and unique experiences of Haryanvis. It aims to create space for voices that are often unheard and to explore the many layers of life in the region.

The initiative started this year and has come out with two volumes over the two semesters.

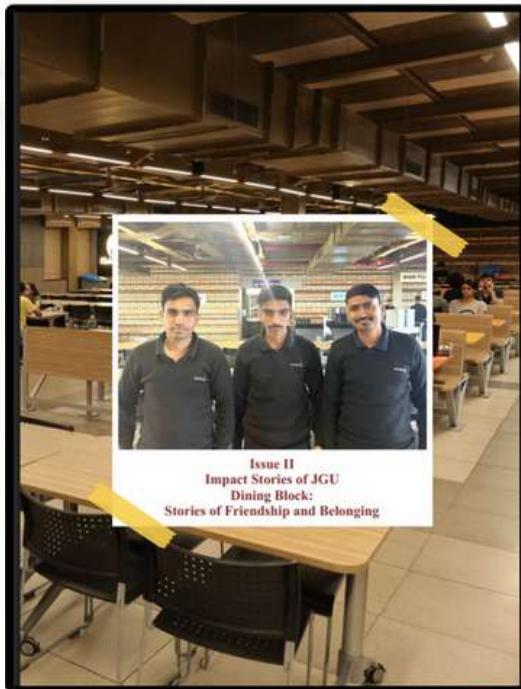
All issues are available at <https://jgu.edu.in/ideas/haryana-ki-awaaz>



Volume 1: Impact Stories of JGU

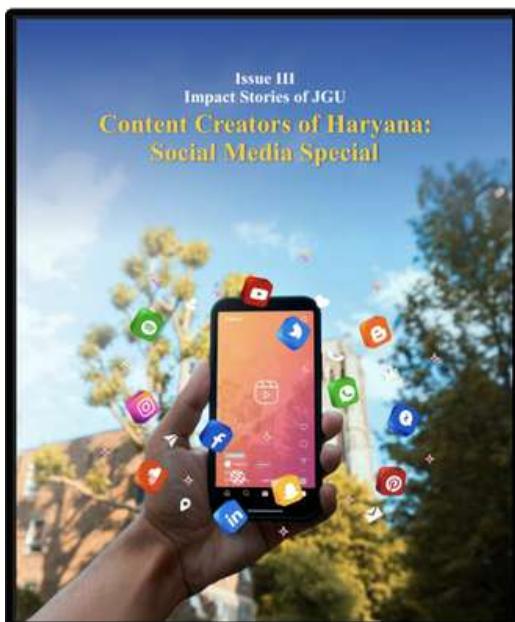
Issue 1: Women of Haryana and their Resilience

<https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+issue+1.pdf>



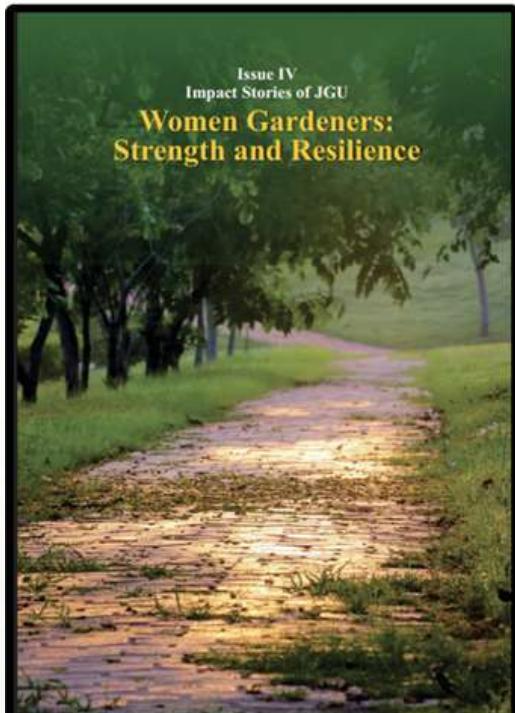
Issue 2: Dining block: Stories of friendship and belonging

<https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+Issue+2.pdf>



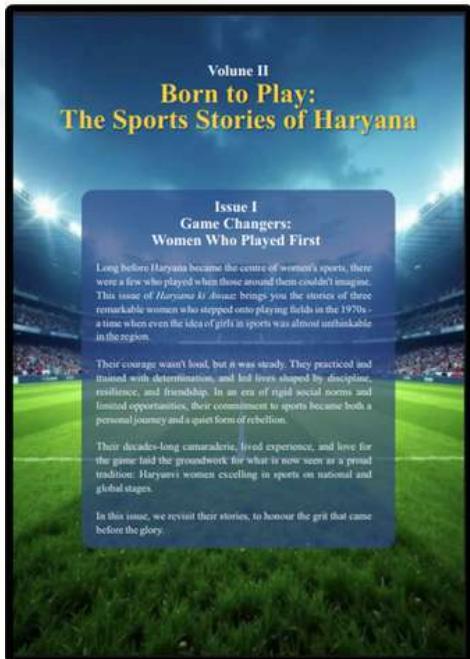
Issue 3: Content creators of Haryana: Social media special

<https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+Issue+3.pdf>



Issue 4: Women gardeners: Strength and resilience

<https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+Issue+4.pdf>



Volume 2: Born to play: Sports stories of Haryana

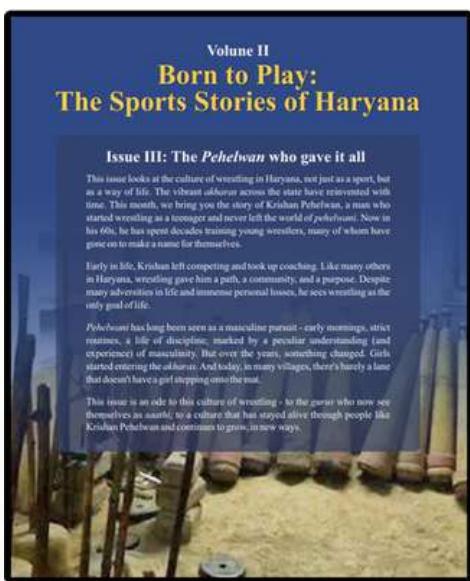
Issue 1: Game changers: Women who played first

[https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/news/ideas/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+Volume+II++Issue+1+\(Eng\).pdf](https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/news/ideas/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+Volume+II++Issue+1+(Eng).pdf)



Issue 2: Pritam Siwach special

[https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/ideas/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+Volume+II++Issue+ii+\(English\).pdf](https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/ideas/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+Volume+II++Issue+ii+(English).pdf)



Issue 3: The pehelwan who gave it all

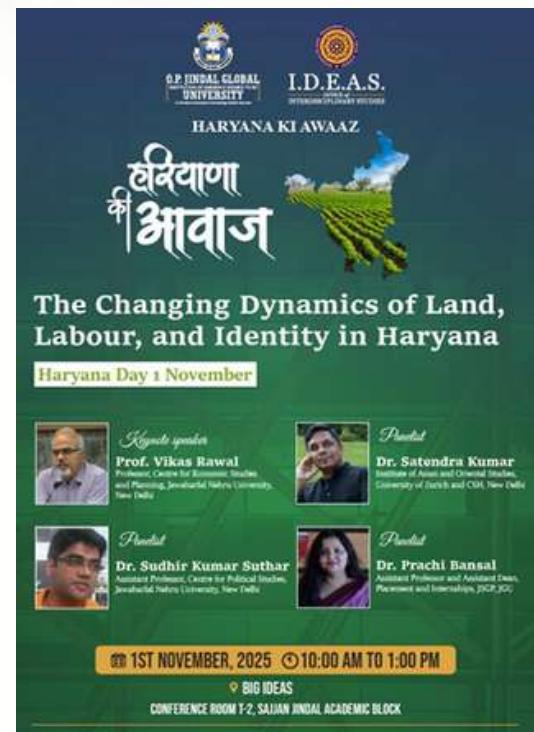
<https://jgu.s3.ap-south-1.amazonaws.com/ideas/Haryana+Ki+Awaz+-+Volume+II++Issue+3.pdf>

1st November, 2025

To commemorate the day Haryana was carved out of Punjab in 1966, Ms. Prachy Hooda, Lead, organised a panel discussion on “The Changing Dynamics of Land, Labour, and Identity in Haryana.” The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Vikas Rawal, Centre for Economic Studies and Planning, School of Social Sciences, JNU.

The panel featured the following distinguished speakers:

- Dr. Satendra Kumar, Institute of Asian and Oriental Studies, University of Zurich, and CSH, New Delhi
- Dr. Sudhir Kumar Suthar, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, JNU
- Dr. Prachi Bansal, Assistant Professor and Assistant Dean (Placement and Internships), JSGP.



The session featured a discussion with a farmer groups who talked about the changing agricultural practices in Haryana

Link: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_AzZWC7VSwc&t=4630s

G. SAMAGANA WORKING PAPER SERIES

This series of IDEAS events is a showcase of work-in-progress from each IDEAS Constellation. Sāmagāna represents the philosophy and science of uniting our thought and learning, and denotes the beginning of purposeful creation. As researchers, we juxtapose this historic word as the vision of our Working Paper Discussion series. Herein, we invite the scholarly community to engage with the ongoing research of our Fellows and Associates to help them identify new perspectives and refine the scope of their ongoing research

Date	Topic	Event
<i>April</i>		
10 Apr 2025	Socio-Political Changes and the Rise of Other Backward Classes in Bihar (1977–1989)	
23 Apr 2025	Extreme Weather Events, Child Nutrition, and Women's Work in India	

**30 Apr
2025**

Inflation Inequality in India



May

**12 May
2025**

Economic and Institutional Drivers of Indo-African Trade Relations

[https://youtu.be/QB93DU3Vvgo?
si=Zs4wRpljHE2vk356](https://youtu.be/QB93DU3Vvgo?si=Zs4wRpljHE2vk356)



Sptember

**12 Sep
2025**

Gender, Education and Aspirational Futures: Young Women and the Quest for Government Employment in North India



October

**16 Oct
2025**

The Economic Geography of dispersed Urbanisation and Rural-Urban Linkage in Global South: Evidence from India



November

**14 Nov
2025**

**Determinants of Carbon Credit
Issuances: CDM Program in India**



H. ARTISANAL ALCHEMY

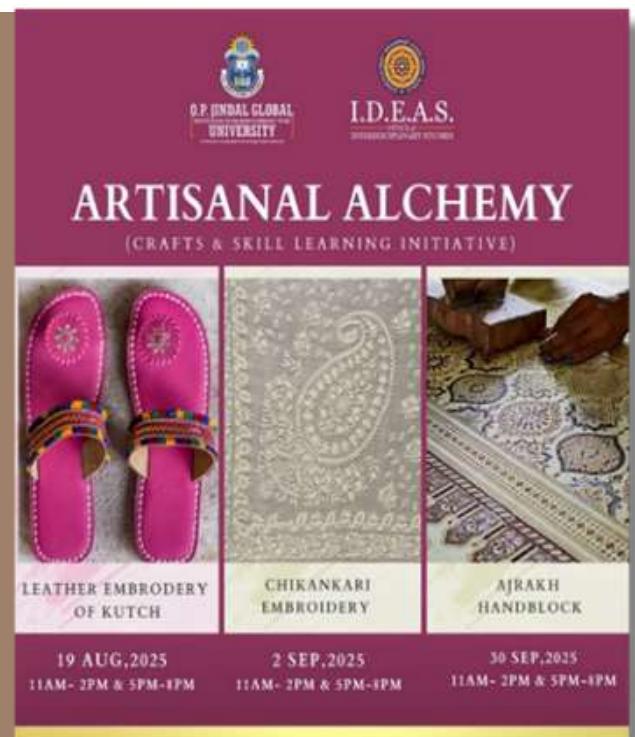
Artisanal Alchemy is a space where students are placed into the heart of tradition, where hands meet heritage and craft meets vision. In the presence of master artisans, they will learn not just technique, but the silent poetry of patience, precision, and the stories each artifact holds. This is more than just skill-building—it is a journey through time, a dance of creativity, heritage, and design.

04th April:
Rajasthani Paper Mache

24th April:
Block Printing in the Jaipur Rugs

02nd Sept,
Chikankari embroidery workshop

30th Sept:
Ajrakh Hand block





I. IDEASX

It is an online learning initiative and provides a platform for researchers, students, and curious learners to explore knowledge at the intersections of diverse fields

Workshops:

Storytelling as Research Methodologies in the Social Sciences and Humanities, conducted on 18th Oct and 25th Oct, by Julio César Díaz Calderón, trans/feminist activist-scholar, poet, data scientist, and street educator. Currently, they hold research positions at Data + Feminism Lab (MIT, USA) and CEIICH & IMATE (UNAM, Mexico).



Digital Ethnography in Qualitative Research, conducted on 13th Sept, by Dr Haripriya Soibam, Assistant Professor, Social Sciences and Humanities, IIIT-Delhi.

Understanding and Designing Household Surveys: Learning from the Human Development Survey (IHDS), conducted on 23rd Aug, by Dr. Amit Thorat, Assistant Professor of Economics, Centre for the Study of Regional Development, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Making Sense of the Economy: Demystifying Macroeconomic Data, conducted on 12th July, by Dr. Abhisek Sur, Associate Professor, JGLS and Richa Singh, Doctoral Fellow, IIM Ranchi.

Working from memory, conducted on 11th and 12th April, by Chandan Savio Gomes, filmmaker, photographer and director.

What determines people's health? conducted on 29th March, by Dr. Sunil Kaul, Founder, ANT (The Action Northeast Trust).

Writing & Publishing: Strategies and Outcomes of Professionals, conducted on 10th and 11th January, by Dr. Maina Chawla Singh, Author, Editor and Scholar in residence, School of International Service, American University, Washington DC.

Journalism and Storytelling, conducted on 3rd May, by Dr. Shalini Singh, Co-Founder, PARI

Telling India's Story Through Data: A Workshop on Sample Survey conducted on June 14, 2025, by Dr. Shamindra Roy Faculty, IDEAS, JGU and Gurkiran Singh, Senior Research Associate at Centre for Policy Research, New Delhi.

J. GRASSROOTS ACTION PROGRAM (GAP)

It is an online learning initiative and provides a platform for researchers, students, and curious learners to explore knowledge at the intersections of diverse fields

1. Workshop by GAP (Grassroots Action Program) Enhancing Social Media Content with AI Tools and Trends in Jan 2025
2. Report Launch of the Grassroots Action Program – Phase 1 on 05th April 2025
3. On 17th June 2025, the Grassroots Action Program (GAP) team launched their latest assessment report titled “Margins and Pathways: Mapping Educational Trajectories and the Role of Navjyoti in Bawana JJ Colony.
5. In September 2025 our team held a Samvad on “Child Labour and Education” with community members from JJ Bawana Colony at Navjyoti’s office, led by Ms Tahiba Banu.
4. On 30th September, 2025 community worker and volunteers from Navjyoti Foundation visited the campus of JGU and held an interaction with student associate of Grassroots Action Program.



K. MISCELLANEOUS EVENTS

February

1. Swaroop 2025: A Year in Review (14th-15th Feb 2025)
2. Curriculum Development Workshop: M.Sc. Development Practice (16th Feb 2025)

The IDEAS Office of Interdisciplinary Studies convened a Curriculum Development Workshop for the newly announced M.Sc. in Development Practice program held on 16th February 2025 at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) Global University.

3. Workshop by CLIP (Center for Learning and Innovative Practices): The Backward Design for Effective Pedagogy: From Outcomes to Instruction (20th February 2025)

March

4. Film Screening & Discussion: Trafficked and Smuggled: From Punjab to Portugal (6th March 2025)

April

5. Book Discussion: Revdi Ya Haq – Samajik Suraksha Par Ek Nazariya (16th April 2025)

6. Film Screening & Discussion: Supermen of Malegaon (16th April 2025)

The film explores themes of creativity, community, and resilience in the face of everyday struggles. Join us for this engaging session moderated by Dr. Abhijit Ghosh (JSJC) and Dr. Nayanjyoti (IDEAS).

7. Symposium: Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Populism: Theories, Concepts & Indian Realities (17th April 2025)

8. Guest Lecture: Shaping of Women as Subjects in Nationalist Discourses (21st April 2025)

9. Annual Young Scholars Workshop (24th April 2025)

May

10. Distinguished Public Lecture: Trade Policy & Its Impact on Countries, Companies, and Livelihoods (6th May 2025)

September

11. Workshop on Development & Sustainability (26th September 2025)

On 26th September, our faculty Dr. Gayatri Balu, Assistant Director and Assistant Professor and Ms. Tahiba Banu, Lecturer conducted an engaging session with students at the Department of Continuing Education and Extension, Delhi University on “Development and Sustainability: Skills and Career Prospects.”

November

12. Book Talk on ‘Handbook of Global Philosophies on AI Ethics: Toward Sustainable Futures’ on 12th November, 2025

13. M.S. Swaminathan Birth Centenary Lecture titled ‘M.S. Swaminathan’s Enduring Legacy: Sustainable Agriculture, Food Security, and Knowledge Empowerment’ on 8th November, 2025

December 20

14. IMPACT Workshop (1st-3rd December, 2025)

15. STS Conference: Co-shaping of Science, Technology and Society in India

The First STS India Network Conference in India was organised by IDEAS in collaboration with Jindal Global Law School and IIT Delhi. Over three dynamic days, the conference brought together leading scholars, researchers, and practitioners from across India and the world to reflect on the complex and evolving relationships between science, technology, and society.

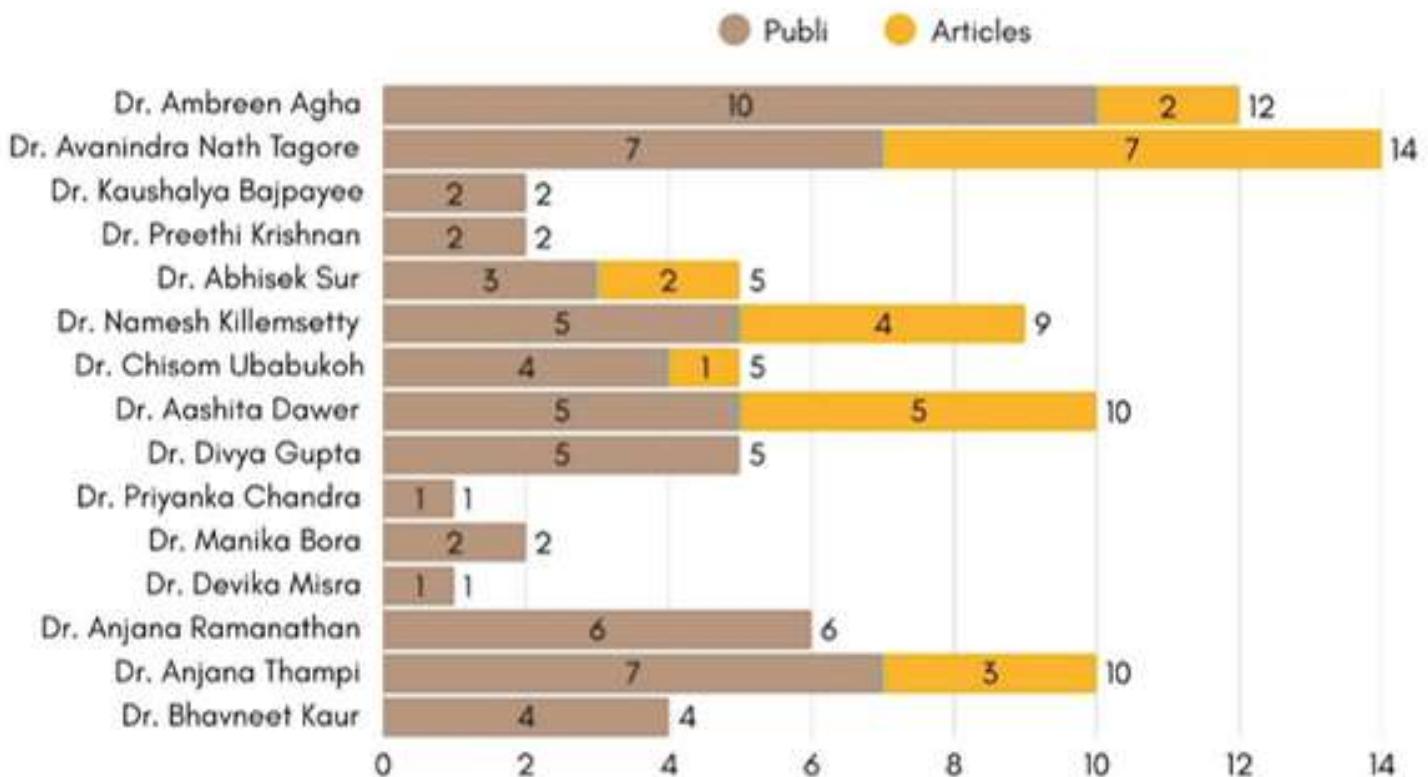


4. Research and Publications



I.D.E.A.S.
OFFICE of
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

Affiliated Faculties



Research and Publication in 2025

Senior Research Fellow



Dr. Ambreen Agha

Constellation Lead, Politics, Society and History
Associate Professor, JSIA

- Agha, Ambreen (2025) Shweta Singh and Amena Mohsin (Eds), Mapping Feminist International Relations in South Asia: past and present. India Quarterly. ISSN 0975-2684
- Agha, Ambreen (2025) How the bulldozer became a symbol of Modi's India. Foreign Policy.



Dr. Avanindra Nath Takur

Constellation Fellow, Understanding Indian Economy
Professor, JSGP

- Rajeshwari, T.S. Kavita, Thakur, Avanindra Nath and Sengupta, Indrani (2025) Does a Mother's Education Matter for Childcare in India? Evidence from Time Use Survey. Economic and Political Weekly, 60 (34). pp. 42-49. ISSN 2349-8846
- Thakur, Avanindra Nath (2025) Input Use and Socio-economic Status of Farmers : a case of paddy cultivation in India. Indian Journal of Agricultural Economics, 79 (3). pp. 686-694. ISSN 0019-5014
- Thakur, Avanindra Nath and Chaudhary, Priyanshi (2025) Employment Conditions, Structural Change, and Industrial Policy in Neoliberal India: An Enterprise-level Analysis of Employment Status, 2004–2024. Agrarian South, 14. ISSN 2321-0281
- Thakur, Avanindra Nath and Chaudhary, Priyanshi (2025) What is behind the recent rise in women's workforce participation? Ideas for India, India.
- Thakur, Avanindra Nath and Chaudhary, Priyanshi (2025) The Rise in Female Labour and Work Force Participation Rates : reality or change in methodology? The India Forum. pp. 1-6



Dr. Kaushalya Bajpayee

Constellation Fellow, Politics Society and History
Associate Professor, JGLS

- Bajpayee, Kaushalya (2025) Alternative technologies: a different road to development. In: Technologies of knowledge : Rethinking the Archive in modern South Asia. 1st ed. ed. Routledge, London, pp. 126-143. ISBN 9781003521167



Dr. Preethi Krishan

Assistant Director, IDEAS,
Constellation Lead, Justice, Urban Systems and Technology,
Associate Professor, JGLS

- Krishnan, Preethi (2025) Anganwadi as a social reproduction site : dalit feminist resistance to gender, caste and class. Contributions to Indian Sociology, 58 (3). pp. 360-385. ISSN 0069-9659



Dr. Namesh Killemsetty

Associate Director, IDEAS
Associate Professor of Public Policy
Associate Dean of Program Strategy and Academic Affairs
at the Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

- Arora, Tarun, Choudhury, Prashant Kumar and Killemsetty, Namesh (2025) Health insurance uptake in Urban India: a socio-demographic analysis using NFHS-V. Journal of Social and Economic Development. ISSN 2199-6873
- Killemsetty, Namesh and Bansal, Prachi (2025) Recognising and embracing AI in research. 360info.org.
- Bansal, Prachi and Killemsetty, Namesh (2025) To AI or not to AI in academia? <https://360info.org/>.



Dr. Aashita Dawer

Constellation Lead, Climate and Sustainability
Associate Professor, JGLS

- Dawer, Aashita (2025) Primacy of Property as Devolution of Rights : case of Women in India through the lens of inheritance laws. Asian Journal of Law and Society. pp. 1-16. ISSN 2052-9023 (In Press)

- Dawer, Aashita (2025) Creating Enemies: (Mis)Appropriating Muslim Properties. The Wire.
- Dawer, Aashita (2025) The Missing Stakeholders in India's Air Pollution Story. The Wire



Dr. Chetan Sinha

Constellation Fellow, Justice, Urban Systems & Technology
Associate Professor, JGLS

- Sinha, Chetan (2025) Decolonial Voices in Education. In: Decolonial Psychology : Academic and Activist Perspectives. Routledge, New York. ISBN 9781003492214
- Sinha, Chetan (2025) Beyond the Chains of Technology: social justice and the psychology of revolutionary education. Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science, 59 (2): 52. ISSN 1932-4502
- Sinha, Chetan (2025) The authentic leader in the neoliberal times: Development, identity dominance and the politics of “doing” in India. Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science, 59 (2). ISSN 1932-4502
- Sinha, Chetan (2025) The social context of consciousness: an integrative framework for neuroscience, psychology, and law. Integrative Psychological and Behavioral Science, 59 (1). ISSN 1932-4502

Research Fellow



Dr. Anjana Ramathan

Constellation Fellow, Climate and Sustainability
Assistant Professor, JGLS

- Anjana, Ramanathan and Sudha, K. (2025) Stewards of the Sea : empowering India's traditional fisherfolk to safeguard coastal ecosystems. Environment, 67 (05). ISSN 1939-9154



Dr. Anjana Thampi

Constellation Fellow, Climate and Sustainability
Assistant Professor, JGLS

- Thampi, Anjana (2025) Towards a gendered and green job guarantee programme in India. The Economic and Labour Relations Review. pp. 1-14. ISSN 1838-2673
- Chakraborty, Shouvik, Dey, Debanjana and Thampi, Anjana (2025) Climate Change and Livestock Holding : inequalities in adaptation and the need for localised policies. In: Contradictions of Democracy, Development and Inequality : a case of India. 1st ed. Taylor & Francis, London, pp. 150-163. ISBN 9781003527978
- Thampi, Anjana (2025) School Meals and Child Undernutrition in India. In: Development, Transformations and the Human Condition. 1st ed. ed. Routledge, London, pp. 134-147. ISBN 9781003528425

IDEAS Core Faculty



Prof. Deepanshu Mohan

Professor of Economics, Jindal School of Liberal Arts & Humanities,
Dean IDEAS & Director of CNES

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Dr. Gayatri Balu

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Dr. Shamindra Nath Roy

Assistant Director and Assistant Professor, IDEAS
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(Online)
Constellation Lead, Understanding Indian Economy

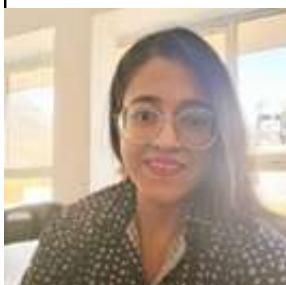
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Dr. Prachy Hooda

Lecturer, IDEAS &
Constellation Fellow, Transitional Spaces, Culture &
Media Studies

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Dr. Abhinita Mohanty

Assistant Professor, IDEAS &
Constellation Fellow, Climate and Sustainability

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Mr. Najam Us Saqib

Assistant Director, IDEAS,
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Constellation Fellow, Justice, Urban Systems and
Technology

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5. INSTITUTIONAL PARTNERSHIPS



I.D.E.A.S.
OFFICE of
INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES

VISION FOR STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS: OFFICE OF INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES (I.D.E.A.S.), OP JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

Positioning IDEAS as a Collaborative Hub

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at OP Jindal Global University positions itself at the intersection of diverse fields of knowledge within the social sciences. It aims to inhabit this transitional intellectual space, fostering research that emerges between disciplinary boundaries, where convergence of thought, practice, and expertise takes place. IDEAS occupies a unique intellectual space where disciplinary boundaries dissolve and new forms of knowledge emerge. Recognizing that the most pressing challenges of our time—from climate resilience to social justice, from technological transformation to democratic governance—demand multifaceted approaches, IDEAS seeks to build enduring partnerships that transcend conventional academic silos. Our vision is to create a collaborative ecosystem where diverse institutions, organizations, and thought leaders converge to generate innovative scholarship, develop transformative pedagogies, and produce research with tangible social impact.

The Nature of Partnership We Seek

IDEAS envisions partnerships built on mutual respect, shared intellectual curiosity, and a commitment to addressing complex societal challenges through interdisciplinary inquiry. We seek partners who recognize that the intersections between disciplines—where sociology meets environmental science, where law engages with anthropology, where economics converges with cultural studies—are fertile grounds for breakthrough insights and innovative solutions. Our ideal partnerships are characterized by reciprocity, dialogues and co-creation rather than mere collaboration. We welcome engagement with a varied set of partners like research organizations, think tanks, civil society organizations, universities, unions or even independent personas that value methodological pluralism, and are grounded in community knowledge, evidence-based policy, and intellectual risk-taking. These partnerships should enable all parties to expand their capacities, enrich their perspectives, and amplify their impact.

Navjyoti aims to develop the underprivileged segments of the society affected by crimes by gradually transcending them to an environment that is encouraging. They work towards facilitating each child and citizen with access to quality education, facilitate equal rights and dignity of all segments with an endeavour to make them employable. NIF fosters scientific programs and policies as platforms for enabling better health and nutrition to communities and aid communities to adopt better standards and envision a better life for the future generations.



Youth for Social Development (YSD) is a development organisation working with the duty bearers and rights holders to enhance the quality of life for both urban and rural underprivileged populations in the state of Odisha, India. YSD India prioritizes the well-being of resource-poor and marginalised communities, with a special emphasis on Dalit and Adivasi populations, as well as children, youth, and women, who form the cornerstone of our initiatives. Working together to avail basic services, empowering the communities on the margin and nudging the local governments and elected representatives – through research, advocacy and training – constitute the core of their approach.



Ideosync Media works towards integrating communication methodologies into development and social change programs, and to equip communities and NGOs with techniques and technology to support communities with access to information and communication skills & tools. They also work on developing communication strategies, training development workers and informing media policy to support multi-sectoral developmental initiatives by government agencies, NGOs, bilateral aid agencies and UN agencies.

The Reporters' Collective collaboratively produces investigative journalism in many languages and mediums. RC aims to report truthfully and bring out facts that the powerful prefer to keep hidden from citizens. Primarily their objective is to report on stories that put the spotlight on those in power and to shed light on how India's political economy and governance functions. The Reporters' Collective work closely with other news organisations to produce their work in different mediums and in multiple languages.



The Working Peoples Charter (WPC) network is a coalition of organizations working on issues related to informal labour in particular and labour in general. It is an independent entity not affiliated with any organization, federation or political party. The WPC is open to all organizations who are in broad agreement with the Working Peoples Charter and are working with informal labour, including in organizing, support, research, training, skilling etc., irrespective of their affiliation or sector.

Mehnatkash Association

Mehnatkash Association is a firm that focuses on the rights of gig workers, and advocates for formalizing the sector. Their work includes ensuring that the voice of the gig workers are heard by relevant stakeholders, including the public. The team works closely with registered members from the gig economy to learn more about the problems faced by them and offer solutions. They also perform advocacy demonstrations including the working group members to raise their issues. Recently, they have submitted a memorandum to the Labour Minister regarding the improvements prerequisite for their welfare. Their aim to formalize and regulate rights for the workers engaged in the gig economy.



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A Letter of Understanding (LOU) has been signed with A Trust for India's Nature (ATIN) and IDEAS on 18 July 2025. ATIN is a community science initiative working with climate change questions in the western Himalayas. The partnership seeks to enable joint working relationship on questions of socio-ecological monitoring of climate change (in the Kumaon region); participatory biodiversity research & education programs; synthesizing and making a repository of field-based pan-India research data on biodiversity; and knowledge generation and dissemination on social ecological issues.



The Roots to Branches Foundation is a not-for-profit Section 8 Company with a mandate to support and strengthen the development sector in the Northeast region. As a resource organisation, we train, incubate, handhold, mentor and collectivise to build dynamic institutions. The primary work of strengthening the development sector had been initiated in 2007 under the aegis of the ant (a rural development organisation based in Bodoland region of Western Assam), wherein the initiative was named IDEA-the ant. Roots to Branches Foundation is taking forward this journey of service and support to the voluntary sector.

IDEAS has launched an important literary initiative: the translation of Baajid, a powerful yet underrepresented voice in South Asian poetry. Led by Prof. Deepanshu Mohan and Dr. Rekha Pachauri, the project brings Baajid's philosophically rich and metaphorically intricate work to a global readership. The translation is being developed in collaboration with the Faculty of Asian and Middle Eastern Studies, University of Oxford, under the guidance of Dr. Imre Bangha, a leading scholar of South Asian and bhakti literature.



IDEAS has signed an MoU with the FLAME Centre for Legislative Action and Research, strengthening collaborative research with the Centre for Data Insights. This partnership centers on the India State Story Project—our major initiative to build and enrich historical, social, economic, and spatial datasets at the state, district, and subdistrict levels.



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