

PERIODICAL

April' 26 NEWSLETTER

I.D.E.A.S. Periodical is a monthly newsletter that brings you the latest updates on research, news, and activities from across the I.D.E.A.S. constellations. It also features important 'What's Next: Mark Your Calendar!' announcements for upcoming events. Our sections, "In Print: Voices of Our Scholars" showcase recently published scholarly work, highlighting the impactful contributions of our I.D.E.A.S. Fellows.

Here you will also find our team's contributions in knowledge generation endeavours such as op-eds, media engagements, conferences, and also learn more about their upcoming projects!

You can find more information about us at <https://jgu.edu.in/ideas/>. Feel free to get in touch with us at ideas@jgu.edu.in for more information on our current and future work, and to engage with IDEAS. To see our archived talks and lectures, subscribe to our **Youtube channel @JGU_IDEAS**



1. Events at a Glance

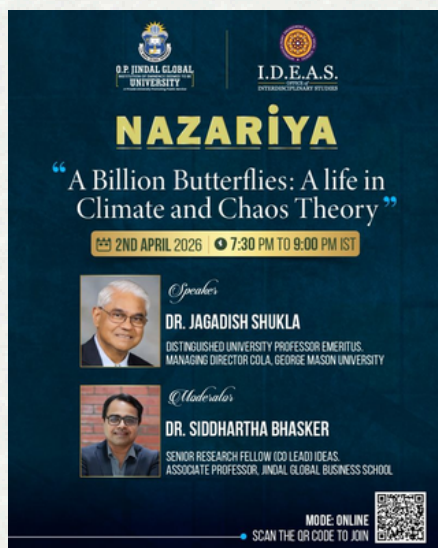
A. Nazariya Series

a.) “A Billion Butterflies: A Life in Climate and Chaos Theory”

We hosted another engaging session on 2nd April 2026. Titled “A Billion Butterflies: A Life in Climate and Chaos Theory,”.

The session featured Dr. Jagadish Shukla, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus and Managing Director of COLA, George Mason University, as the keynote speaker. Drawing from decades of pioneering work in climate science and atmospheric research, Dr. Shukla offered a compelling reflection on the interconnectedness of climate systems, the significance of chaos theory, and the urgent need for collective global action in addressing climate change. Through rich anecdotes and scientific insights, he highlighted how seemingly small environmental shifts can produce far-reaching global consequences — a reminder of the delicate balance that governs the planet’s climate systems.

The discussion was moderated by Dr. Siddhartha Bhasker, Senior Research Fellow (Co-Lead, Climate & Sustainability), IDEAS, and Associate Professor at Jindal Global Business School.



The poster is for the Nazariya series event titled “A Billion Butterflies: A life in Climate and Chaos Theory”. It features the logos of P.P. Jindal Global University and I.D.E.A.S. at the top. The event is scheduled for 2nd April 2026 from 7:30 PM to 9:00 PM IST. The speaker is Dr. Jagadish Shukla, Distinguished University Professor Emeritus and Managing Director of COLA, George Mason University. The moderator is Dr. Siddhartha Bhasker, Senior Research Fellow (Co-Lead) IDEAS and Associate Professor at Jindal Global Business School. The poster also includes a QR code and the text “MODE: ONLINE SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN”.

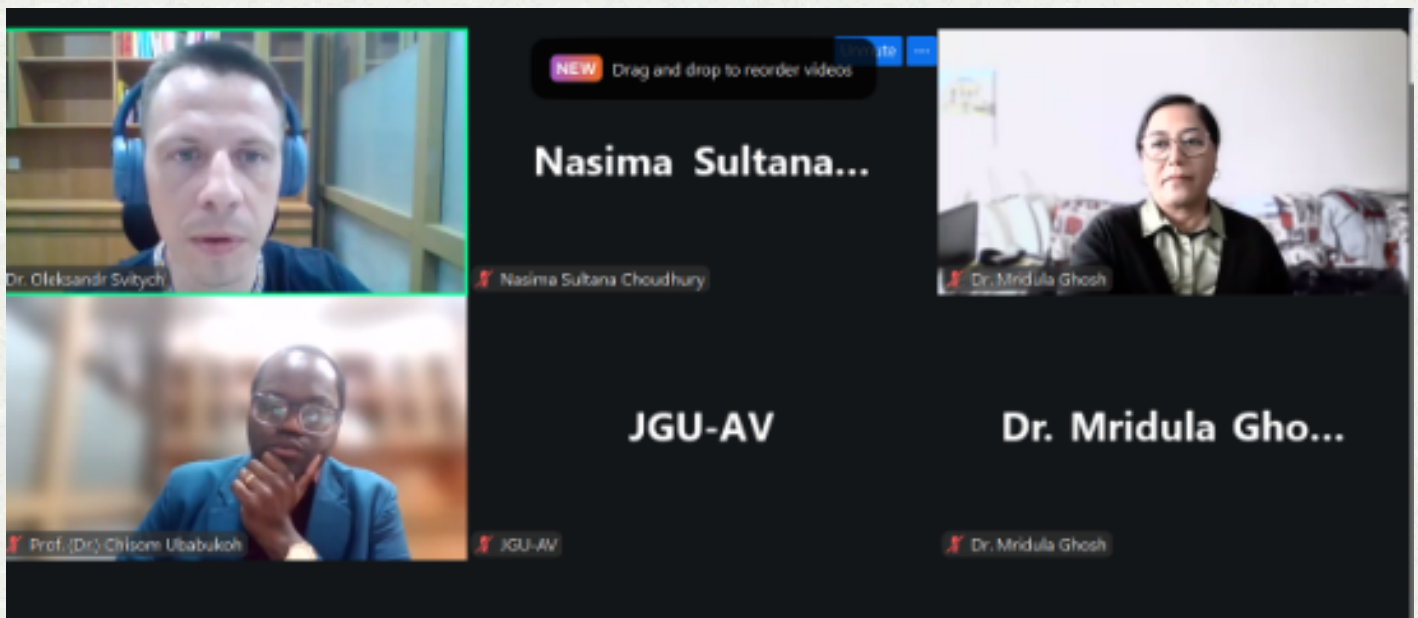
To watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uPcQDXLtm-g&t=184s>

b.) “The Ukrainian Satyagraha – What it means for the future of Europe.”

The International Politics and Development (IPD) Cluster hosted an engaging session under the Nazariya series on “The Ukrainian Satyagraha – What it means for the future of Europe.”

The session featured insightful reflections by Dr. Mridula Ghosh, who unpacked the evolving geopolitical realities surrounding Ukraine and their wider implications for Europe’s political and democratic future. The discussion was thoughtfully moderated by Prof. (Dr.) Oleksandr Svitych, Senior Research Fellow and Associate Professor, JSIA.



To watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_c8FIv9e-6o&t=2s

B. Special Lecture

a.) War in the Middle East, Economic Implications for the Global Economy & Legitimate Prospects for Peace.”

The Centre for Middle East Studies (CMES) in collaboration with the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS), organised an Online Special Guest Lecture on 4th April 2026 titled “War in the Middle East, Economic Implications for the Global Economy & Legitimate Prospects for Peace.”

The session featured Ambassador Anil Trigunayat, Former Ambassador to Jordan and Libya and Former High Commissioner to Malta, as the distinguished guest speaker. Drawing upon his extensive diplomatic experience and expertise in West Asian affairs, Ambassador Trigunayat reflected on the far-reaching political and economic consequences of the ongoing conflict in the Middle East. His lecture particularly focused on disruptions in global energy dynamics, the strategic significance of the Strait of Hormuz, and the broader implications of the conflict for international trade, regional stability, and global peace.

The session was moderated by Prof. Elizabeth Roche, Senior Research Fellow, IDEAS, and Faculty Core Coordinator, Centre for Middle East Studies, who facilitated a rich and engaging discussion throughout the event.

To watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNhCms_Dp1E&t=4249s

b.) “The Macroeconomics of Conflicts and Recovery”

The session featured a special lecture by Ms. Colombe Ladreit, Economist (EP) at the International Monetary Fund, who highlighted how conflicts generate long-term macroeconomic disruptions, impact fiscal and monetary systems, and shape global economic stability. The discussion also explored pathways to recovery, including institutional rebuilding, international cooperation, and economic policy interventions.

The event was chaired by *Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Joseph Thomas*, with enriching discussions by *Prof. (Dr.) Pooja Bhatt* and *Prof. (Dr.) Chisom Ubabukoh*.

The session was curated by Mr. Najam Us Saqib, Assistant Lecturer, IDEAS.

To watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HNhCms_Dp1E&t=4249s



c.) “Seeds of Hope and Action: Making the SDGs a Reality” (SOHA) Exhibition

The exhibition “Seeds of Hope and Action: Making the SDGs a Reality” (SOHA) was organised on 9th April 2026 by IDEAS in collaboration with the Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences (JIBS) & Bharat Soka Gakkai (BSG).

The exhibition highlighted themes of sustainability, human dignity, compassion, and global citizenship through 25 thought-provoking panels designed by Soka Gakkai International (SGI) and Earth Charter International (ECI). It encouraged participants to reflect on the importance of Sustainable Human Behaviour (SHB) and the role individuals can play in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Students, faculty members, and visitors engaged actively with the exhibition, which showcased inspiring stories of ordinary individuals creating meaningful global change through everyday actions. The Faculty Co-ordinator this was Ms Geetanjali Dhankar, Research Fellow, IDEAS and Lecturer was Ms Geetanjali, Research Fellow, IDEAS and Lecturer JIBS.



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How wonderful it is that nobody need wait a single moment before starting to improve the world.
— Anne Frank

[SOHA] SEEDS OF HOPE & ACTION

An Exhibition on Making SDGs a Reality

Organised By
IDEAS
Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences
In Collaboration With
Bharat Soka Gakkai

Date: April 9, 2026 (Thursday)
Time: 10:00 AM – 4:00 PM
Venue: Buddha Statue Area, T1 Ground Floor

INSPIRE | LEARN | REFLECT | EMPOWER | ACT & LEAD



2. Second Young Scholars' Conference

The Research Constellation “*Politics, Society and History*” organised the Second Young Scholars Workshop 2026 on “*Gendering the State: Power, Knowledge & Difference*” on 21 April 2026

Conceptualised by Prof. Ambreen Agha, Lead, Politics, Society and History and Associate Professor, JSIA, the workshop brought together an inspiring community of emerging scholars to explore how gender both shapes — and is shaped by — the structures of the state, governance, labour, mobility, memory, and lived experiences. The workshop created a vibrant space for interdisciplinary dialogue, encouraging participants to engage deeply with questions of power, identity, knowledge production, and social transformation.



3. Initiatives

A. Masterclass Series

MasterClass Series | M.Sc. Development Practice titled ***“Conflict and Crisis in West Asia: Regional and Global Implications.”***

The session brought together distinguished scholars and practitioners for a nuanced discussion on the evolving geopolitical dynamics of West Asia and their wider regional and global consequences. The panel featured valuable insights from Prof. (Dr.) Rajdeep Pakanati, Prof. (Dr.) Swasti Rao, Mr Sagar K Chourasia, and Dr. Shubhda Chaudhary.

The session was chaired by Prof. Deepanshu Mohan, DEAN IDEAS while Dr. Prachy Hooda, Assistant Professor, IDEAS served as the presenter for the event.

Link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZQzwE5KCx60&t=6s>



B. Data Insights

“Understanding and Using Complex Household Survey Data: An Introduction to CMIE–CPHS Dataset”

Held on 7 April 2026, the online session brought together students, researchers, and scholars interested in survey research, data analysis, and evidence-based policymaking.

The workshop, led by the CMIE–CPDx Team, introduced participants to the CMIE–CPHS dataset — one of India’s most significant longitudinal household survey datasets. The session explored methods of accessing, understanding, and analyzing complex household-level data related to income, employment, consumption, and savings.





In Collaboration with The Global Library, JGU

Data Insights

Understanding and using Complex Household Survey Data: An Introduction to CMIE–CPHS Dataset

This workshop intends to provide an introduction to complex and longitudinal survey data analysis using the CMIE–CPHS dataset. The Consumer Pyramids Household Survey (CPHS), conducted by Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE), is a large-scale, nationally representative panel survey that longitudinally tracks the economic well-being of households across India. It collects high-frequency data on income, employment, consumption, and savings, allowing researchers to observe changes over time. CPHS is widely used for its timely insights into household-level economic trends, especially in contexts where official data may be less frequent or delayed. This workshop will run the participants through various facets of this data, and how to extract and analyze useful information out of it.

7TH APRIL 2026

2:00 PM TO 4:00 PM IST

Presenters:
The CMIE–CPDx Team

MODE: ONLINE
SCAN THE QR CODE TO JOIN



CPDx Workshop Schedule		
Lecture Title	Topics Covered	Estimated Time
Introduction to Complex Surveys & the CPHS	- Intro to complex surveys - Sampling techniques and stratification - What the CPHS is - CPHS vs. other surveys (IHDS, NFHS, HCES, PLFS) - Why CPHS vs. other surveys - Offerings of the CPHS: indicators, unit data	30 Minutes
Structure of the CPHS	- Structure of the CPHS: POLALCPDx vs. CPHS - Offerings of CPDx: Data Download, HWDL, Papers - Household Income & Expenses - Assets, Borrowings and Savings - NSSO HCES Estimations - Interpreting estimations	30 Minutes
The Survey Design of the CPHS	- Sample vs. Population - Stratification in practice: PSUs, HR strata - What are weights - Accepted responses and subsetting - What are non-response factors - Creating adjusted weights - Sample -> population using (adjusted) weights - The survey package (R)	30 Minutes
Creating Estimations With the CPHS	- What is a survey design (survey::svydesign) - Unit IDs, adjusted weights and the data - Creating survey designs in survey - Creating a cross-tabulation with post-estimation - functions: svytotal, svymean, svyquantile and svyby - Advanced topics primer: merging, annualisation, panels, customised cut	30 Minutes

C. Reading Circle

Raising the Curtain on Women's Voices in Performance

On 23rd April 2026, we hosted a session on “Raising the Curtain: Recasting Women Performers in India.”

The session was led by Dr. Lata Singh (Retired Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies, JNU), who offered critical insights into the historical and contemporary positioning of women performers in India. Through a rich and nuanced discussion, the session explored the intersections of gender, culture, and performance, encouraging participants to reflect on the evolving narratives surrounding women in the performing arts and the challenges that continue to persist.

A special note of appreciation to our student discussant, Sk Assad Armaan, for his insightful reflections that added depth to the conversation. This session was curated by Dr. Prachy Hooda, Assistant Professor, IDEAS





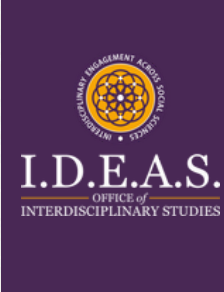
4. IDEAS Gathering

IDEAS recently hosted its first community get-together of the semester, bringing together our new fellows alongside existing members of the IDEAS family. The gathering created a warm and engaging space for interaction, collaboration, and meaningful exchanges across diverse interests and disciplines.

As our community continues to grow, we look forward to fostering stronger collaborations, deeper engagement, and many more enriching experiences together.



5. In Print: Voices of Our Scholars



In the News

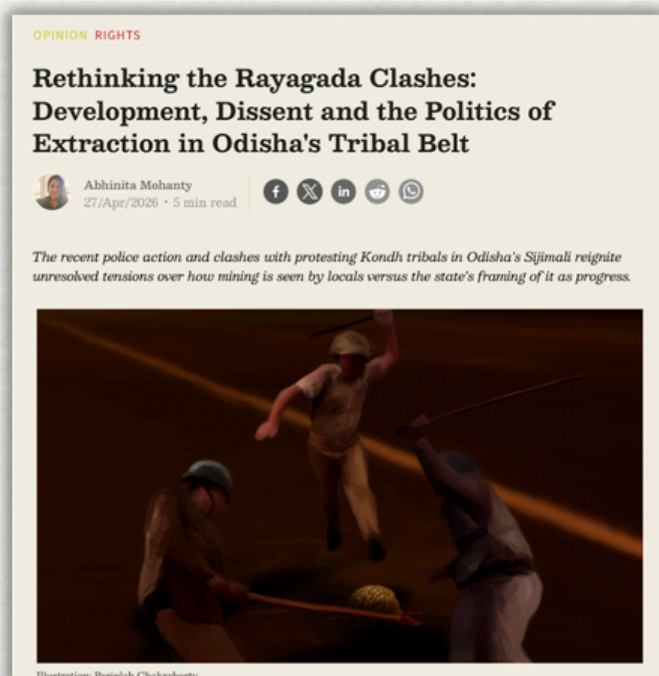


Economic and institutional determinants of India–Africa merchandise trade

This study examines the primary drivers of India's merchandise trade with 48 African countries from 2000 to 2023. It examines how economic size, governance effectiveness, regulatory quality and corruption shape bilateral trade flows within a rapidly evolving South–South economic partnership. By analysing both formal and informal institutional factors, this paper aims to clarify their relative influence on trade and provide evidence-based insights for policies that can strengthen and sustain India–Africa economic cooperation.

Prof. (Dr.) Prof. (Dr.) Chisom Ubabukoh, Senior Research Fellow IDEAS and Associate Professor JGLS

Journal of Chinese Economic and Foreign Trade Studies | 22 April, 2026



Rethinking the Rayagada Clashes: Development, Dissent and the Politics of Extraction in Odisha's Tribal Belt

The recent police action and clashes with protesting Kondh tribals in Odisha's Sijimali reignite unresolved tensions over how mining is seen by locals versus the state's framing of it as progress.

Prof (Dr.) Abhinata Mohanty, Assistant Professor, IDEAS

The Wire | 27th April, 2026

Rise in middle class vulnerability

India is lifting its people out of income-based poverty but not moving them ahead for better upward mobility and economic opportunity. A World Bank policy paper proposes shifting welfare analysis from merely counting those below the poverty line to measuring how far people are from a reasonable standard of living.

Published - April 14, 2026 08:00 am IST

DEEPANSHU MOHAN, ANKUR SINGH

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Workers walk in front of a construction site of a commercial complex on the outskirts of Ahmedabad

Rise in middle class vulnerability

India is lifting its people out of income-based poverty but not moving them ahead for better upward mobility and economic opportunity. A World Bank policy paper proposes shifting welfare analysis from merely counting those below the poverty line to measuring how far people are from a reasonable standard of living.

Prof Deepanshu Mohan, Dean IDEAS & Ankur Singh, Research Assistant, CNES

The Hindu | 14th April, 2026

EXPRESS OPINION

BECAUSE THE TRUTH INVOLVES US ALL

EDITORIALS COLUMNS

NEWS / OPINION / COLUMNS / Debate around global rankings distorts reading of India's growth story

or Premium

Debate around global rankings distorts reading of India's growth story

It is not merely superficial. A focus on position has substituted for an assessment of structure.

Written by:
Deepanshu Mohan

4 min read
Apr 23, 2026 06:13 AM IST

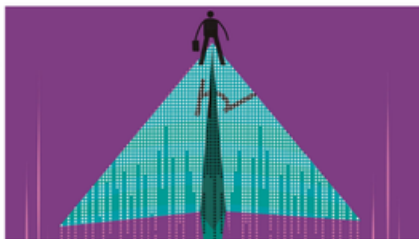
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Explanations for shifts in India's ranking often emphasise exchange rate movements. The depreciation of the rupee is cited as a key factor. This explanation is incomplete.

India's position in global GDP rankings has become a recurring site of interpretation, often invoked as a shorthand for measuring economic progress. Periods of ascent in growth performance are read as confirmation of strength, while subsequent shifts are

Debate around global rankings distorts reading of India's growth story

It is not merely superficial. A focus on position has substituted for an assessment of structure.

Prof Deepanshu Mohan, Dean IDEAS & Ankur Singh, Research Assistant, CNES

The Indian Express | 23rd April, 2026

6. Summer School 2026

Digital Humanities & Methods

From Field to Platform: Digital Methods for Ethnography, Archives & Visual Storytelling (Global South Focus)

Dates: 20th – 24th July 2026

We are pleased to announce Summer School 2026, an intensive interdisciplinary programme exploring the intersections of digital humanities, ethnographic methods, archival practices, and visual storytelling with a focus on the Global South.

This summer school aims to equip participants with innovative digital research tools and methodological approaches for engaging with communities, documenting lived experiences, and creating meaningful digital narratives.

✨ Who Can Apply?

The course is open to participants worldwide, including:

- Undergraduate Students
- Master's Students
- Early-Career Researchers

To know more: [Summer School.pdf](#)



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY | **I.D.E.A.S. OFFICE of INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES**

Summer School 2026

on the theme:

“Digital Humanities & Methods”

From Field to Platform: Digital Methods for Ethnography, Archives & Visual Storytelling (Global South Focus)

📅 20TH TO 24TH JULY 2026 | MODE: ONLINE

Eligibility
Open to students and researchers worldwide (Undergraduate, masters, and early-career researchers)

Program Fees
Indian Students: 10,000 INR
LMIC: 200 USD
International Fees (Non LMIC): 300 USD
Early Bird Discount: 10%
Total Number of Seats 50

Five-Day Online Certificate Course
Certificate will be provided to attendees

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ABOUT US

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P. Jindal Global University (JGU) serves as a university-wide platform for fostering interdisciplinary teaching, research, and community engagement across the social sciences. It brings together scholars, students, and practitioners to co-create knowledge and develop innovative responses to complex real-world challenges.

At its core, IDEAS operates as an intellectual incubator, supporting collaborative scholarship, experimental pedagogy, and research that transcends traditional disciplinary boundaries. Through its initiatives and field-based programmes, it promotes critical inquiry, applied learning, and engagement with pressing development concerns.

With a strong emphasis on interdisciplinary dialogue, global academic exchange, and community-linked research, IDEAS aims to cultivate a dynamic academic environment that connects theory with practice and advances socially relevant scholarship.



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