



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



Reading Circle

Initiative

Organised by the Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (IDEAS) at O.P. Jindal Global University, the Reading Circle offers students a space to read, reflect, and engage in meaningful discussions around a wide variety of texts. Aimed at encouraging open dialogue and diverse perspectives, the initiative helps deepen understanding across different themes and disciplines. Coordinated by Prof. Prachy Hooda, Lecturer at IDEAS, the Reading Circle hosted five sessions this semester, inviting leading scholars and academics to engage closely with texts, research, and ideas that shape contemporary debates in the social sciences.

This newsletter offers an overview of the sessions held between August and October 2025, along with the texts we explored and the discussions they sparked.



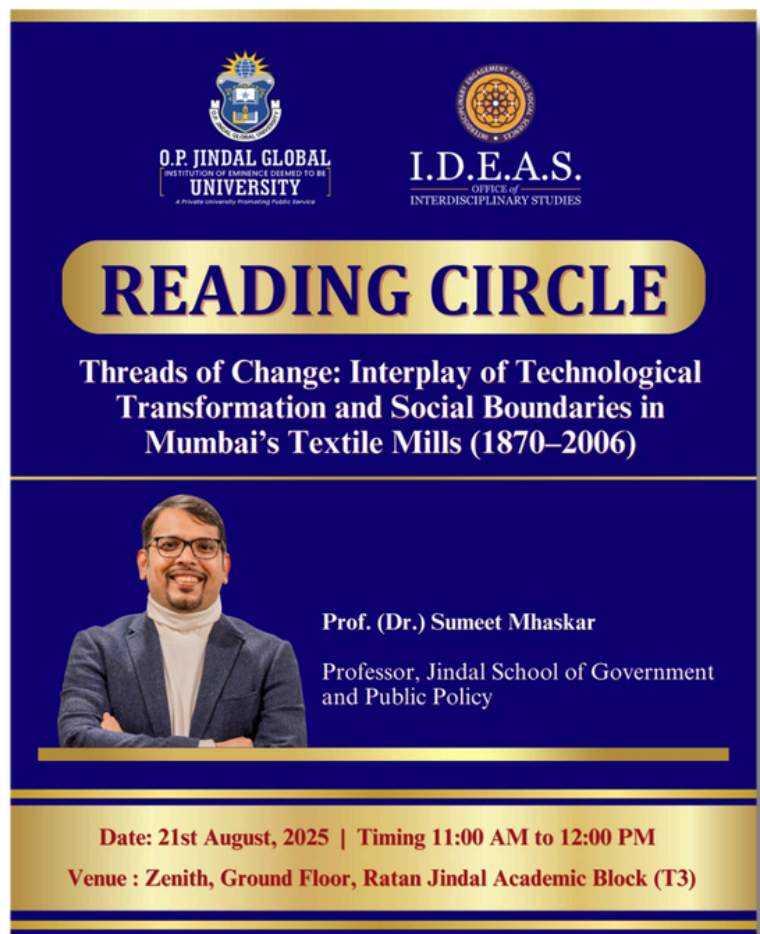
1. Caste and Occupation in Bombay (1870–2006)

Session with **Prof. Sumeet Mhaskar** Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

August 21 | 11:00 AM

Venue: Zenith, Ground Floor, T3

In this session, Prof. Sumeet Mhaskar discussed his long-term research on caste and occupation in Bombay, examining how caste hierarchies have shaped occupational choices within large-scale modern factories from the late nineteenth century to the early twenty-first century. The discussion challenged assumptions about industrial modernity erasing social divisions, showing instead how caste continues to structure labour markets, workplace mobility, and economic opportunity over time.



The poster is for a 'READING CIRCLE' event. At the top, it features the logos of O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY and I.D.E.A.S. (OFFICE of INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES). The title of the reading circle is 'READING CIRCLE' in large, bold, white letters on a dark blue background. Below the title, the subtitle is 'Threads of Change: Interplay of Technological Transformation and Social Boundaries in Mumbai's Textile Mills (1870–2006)'. A portrait of Prof. (Dr.) Sumeet Mhaskar is shown on the left. To his right, his name and title are listed: 'Prof. (Dr.) Sumeet Mhaskar' and 'Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy'. At the bottom, the date and timing are given as 'Date: 21st August, 2025 | Timing 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM', and the venue is 'Venue : Zenith, Ground Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block (T3)'.

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READING CIRCLE

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

Prof. (Dr.) Sumeet Mhaskar
Professor, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy

Date: 21st August, 2025 | Timing 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM
Venue : Zenith, Ground Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block (T3)

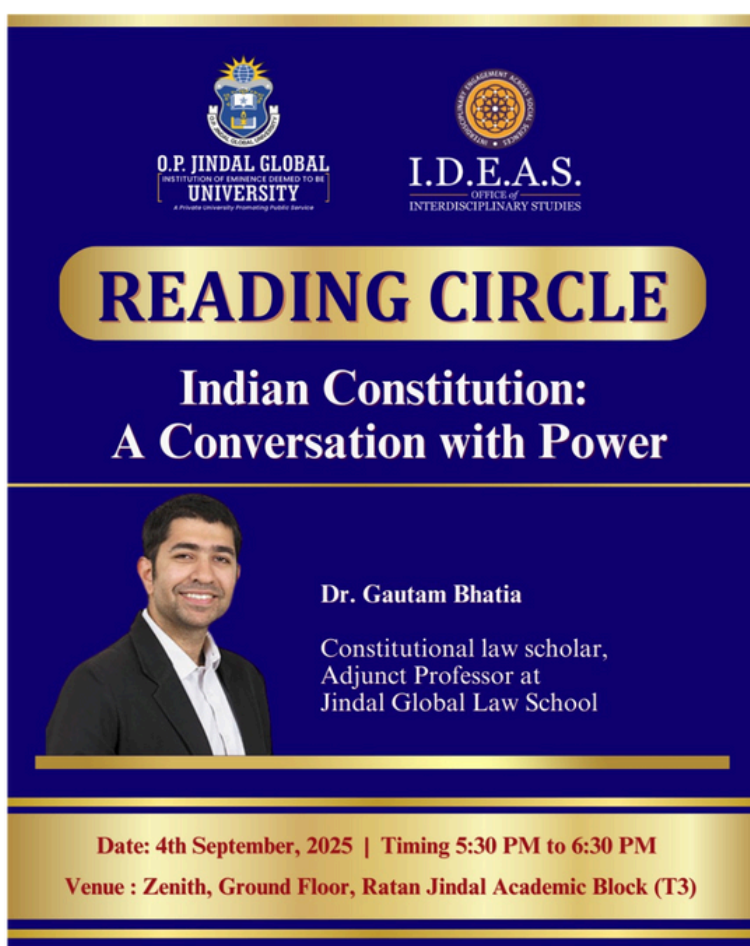
2. Indian Constitution: A Conversation with Power

Session with **Dr. Gautam Bhatia** Constitutional law scholars, Adjunct Professor at Jindal Global School

September 4 | 5:30 PM

Venue: Zenith, Ground Floor, T3

Renowned constitutional law scholar Dr. Gautam Bhatia joined the Reading Circle to discuss his book *Indian Constitution: A Conversation with Power*. The session explored how power flows through India's constitutional framework—from federalism and parliamentary authority to fundamental rights and popular sovereignty. Through close engagement with the text, participants reflected on how constitutional design shapes democratic practice and everyday political life in India.



The poster is a vertical rectangle with a dark blue background and gold borders. At the top, there are two logos: on the left, the O.P. Jindal Global University logo with the text 'O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY' and 'INSTITUTION OF EXCELLENCE DESIGNED TO BE A Private University Promoting Public Service'; on the right, the I.D.E.A.S. logo with the text 'I.D.E.A.S. OFFICE of INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES'. Below the logos, the title 'READING CIRCLE' is written in large, bold, gold capital letters. Underneath the title, the book title 'Indian Constitution: A Conversation with Power' is written in white. Below the book title is a portrait of Dr. Gautam Bhatia, a man with dark hair and a beard, wearing a dark suit and white shirt. To the right of the portrait, his name 'Dr. Gautam Bhatia' is written in white, followed by his title 'Constitutional law scholar, Adjunct Professor at Jindal Global Law School' in smaller white text. At the bottom of the poster, there is a gold banner with the date and time 'Date: 4th September, 2025 | Timing 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM' and the venue 'Venue : Zenith, Ground Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block (T3)' in dark blue text.

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READING CIRCLE

**Indian Constitution:
A Conversation with Power**

Dr. Gautam Bhatia
Constitutional law scholar,
Adjunct Professor at
Jindal Global Law School

Date: 4th September, 2025 | Timing 5:30 PM to 6:30 PM
Venue : Zenith, Ground Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block (T3)

3. & 4. Kashf Initiative × IDEAS Reading Circle

Reading Texts in the Social Sciences: Method and Meaning

Part I: How Do We Read Texts in the Social Sciences?

Keynote and Roundtable Discussion

Gurpreet Mahajan Former Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University

Date: September 18, 2025

Mode: Online (Zoom)

The first session of this two-part series featured a keynote address by Prof. Gurpreet Mahajan on Reading Texts: Approaches, Contexts, and Critique. The keynote was followed by a roundtable discussion with Dr. Christian Gilliam, Dr. Gayatri Balu, and Monika, extending the conversation to questions of method, interpretation, and critique in social science reading practices. An open Q&A with the audience concluded the session, encouraging collective reflection on how meaning is produced in academic texts.



Reading Texts in the Social Sciences: Method and Meaning

Part II: Re-reading J. S. Mill's On Liberty: Context, Concepts, Contestations

Session with **Prof. Mark Philip**

October 24

Mode: Online

In the second part, Prof. Mark Philip, Professor Emeritus at the University of Warwick, led a close reading of J. S. Mill's *On Liberty*. Situating the text in its historical and intellectual context, the session revisited its central concepts and examined the contestations surrounding liberal freedom, authority, and individuality. The discussion highlighted how canonical texts continue to invite reinterpretation in changing political and social contexts.

The poster is for an event titled "Reading texts in Social Science On Method & Meaning". It is part of the "kashf initiative" and "I.D.E.A.S. OFFICE of INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES" at "O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY". The event is "PART 2" and scheduled for "24th October 2025 | Online". The keynote address is "Re-reading J.S. Mill's *On Liberty* Context, Concepts, Contestations" by "Mark Philip". A photo of Mark Philip is shown. The date and time are "24.10.2025 2 PM IST". A QR code is provided for registration. The text "To apply please scan the QR code" is at the bottom.

kashf initiative x I.D.E.A.S. OFFICE of INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY

Reading texts in Social Science On Method & Meaning

PART 2
24th October 2025 | Online

Keynote Address

Re-reading J.S. Mill's *On Liberty*
Context, Concepts, Contestations

Mark Philip
Emeritus Professor, University of Warwick
&
Emeritus Fellow, Oriel College,
University of Oxford

24.10.2025
2 PM IST

To apply please scan the QR code

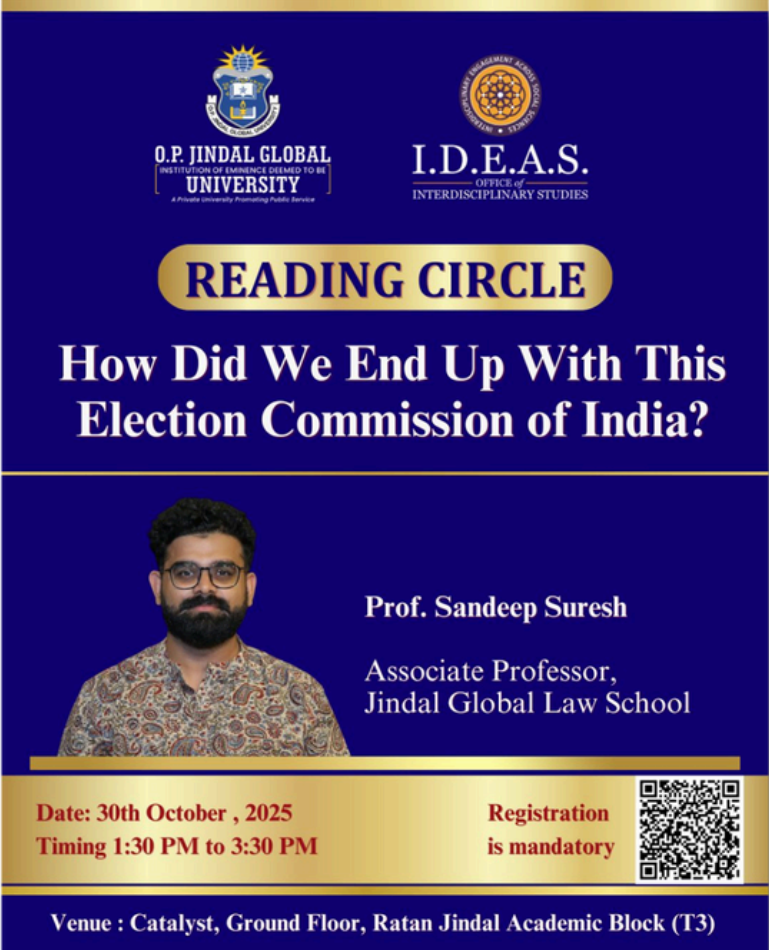
5. How Did We End Up With This Election Commission of India?

Session led by **Prof. Sandeep Suresh** Associate professor
Jindal Global Law school

October 30 | 1:30–3:30 PM

Venue: Catalyst, Ground Floor, T3

This Reading Circle session critically examined the constitutional origins and institutional design of the Election Commission of India. Planned and guided by Prof. Sandeep Suresh, the discussion engaged closely with selected excerpts from Constituent Assembly and committee debates to understand how the framers grappled with electoral independence—and where they fell short. The session offered historical insight into the roots of contemporary debates on the autonomy and effectiveness of India's electoral management body.



The poster is for a Reading Circle session. At the top, it features the logos of O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL UNIVERSITY and I.D.E.A.S. (Office of Interdisciplinary Studies). Below the logos, the text "READING CIRCLE" is written in a gold-colored box. The title of the session, "How Did We End Up With This Election Commission of India?", is prominently displayed in white. A portrait of Prof. Sandeep Suresh is shown on the left, with his name and title, "Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School", on the right. At the bottom, a gold-colored bar contains the date "30th October, 2025", the timing "1:30 PM to 3:30 PM", and the registration status "Registration is mandatory". A QR code is located in the bottom right corner. The venue "Catalyst, Ground Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block (T3)" is listed at the very bottom.

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READING CIRCLE

How Did We End Up With This Election Commission of India?

Prof. Sandeep Suresh
Associate Professor,
Jindal Global Law School

Date: 30th October, 2025
Timing 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM

Registration is mandatory

Venue : Catalyst, Ground Floor, Ratan Jindal Academic Block (T3)