



O.P. JINDAL GLOBAL
INSTITUTION OF EMINENCE DEEMED TO BE
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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, Assistant Professor at IDEAS. The Reading Circle hosted three 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 2025 and June 2026, along with the texts we explored and the discussions they sparked.



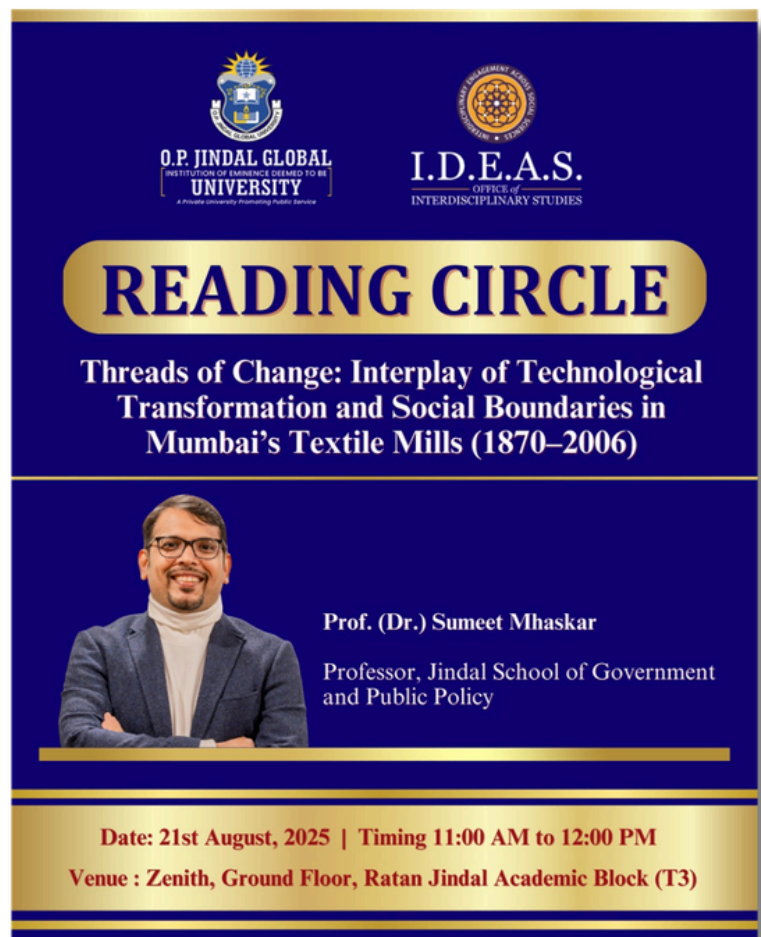
1. Caste and Occupation in Bombay (1870–2006)

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' session. 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 'READING CIRCLE' is prominently displayed in a gold-bordered box. Below it, the session title 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, with his name and title on the right. The bottom section provides the date and time: 'Date: 21st August, 2025 | Timing 11:00 AM to 12:00 PM' and the venue: '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)

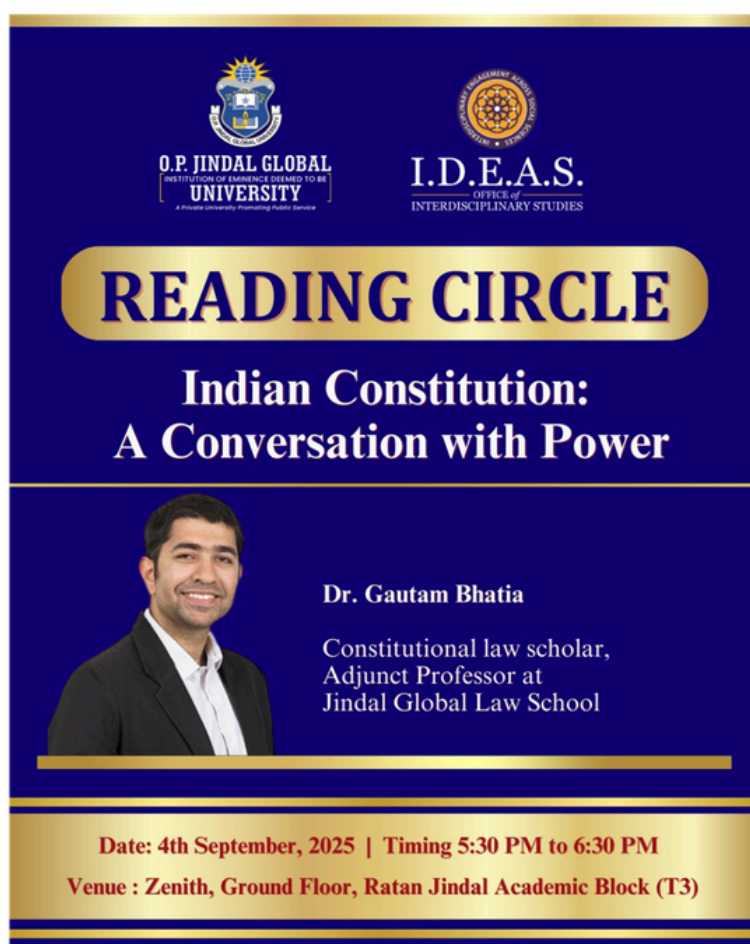
2. Indian Constitution: A Conversation with Power

Session with **Dr. Gautam Bhatia**, Constitutional law scholar, 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 tagline 'INSTITUTION OF EXCELLENCE DESIGNED TO BE A Private University Promoting Public Service'; on the right, the I.D.E.A.S. logo with the tagline 'OFFICE of INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES'. Below the logos, the text 'READING CIRCLE' is written in large, bold, gold capital letters. Underneath that, the title 'Indian Constitution: A Conversation with Power' is written in white. In the center, there 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, there is a gold horizontal band containing 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 online 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 Prof. Mark Philip is shown. The date and time are "24.10.2025 2 PM IST". A QR code is provided for registration, with the text "To apply please scan the QR code".

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

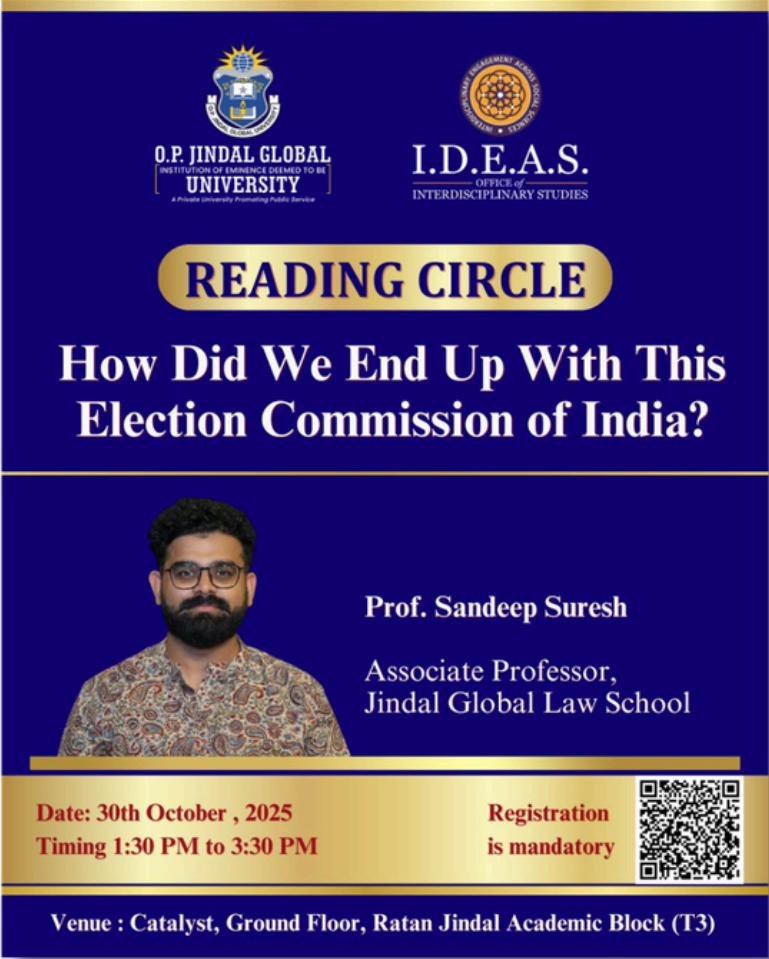
5. How Did We End Up With This Election Commission of India?

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 displayed in a gold banner. The title of the session, "How Did We End Up With This Election Commission of India?", is written in large, bold, white letters. A portrait of Prof. Sandeep Suresh is shown on the left. To his right, his name and title, "Prof. Sandeep Suresh, Associate Professor, Jindal Global Law School", are listed. At the bottom, a gold banner contains the date "Date: 30th October, 2025" and timing "Timing 1:30 PM to 3:30 PM" on the left, and "Registration is mandatory" on the right next to a QR code. The venue "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)

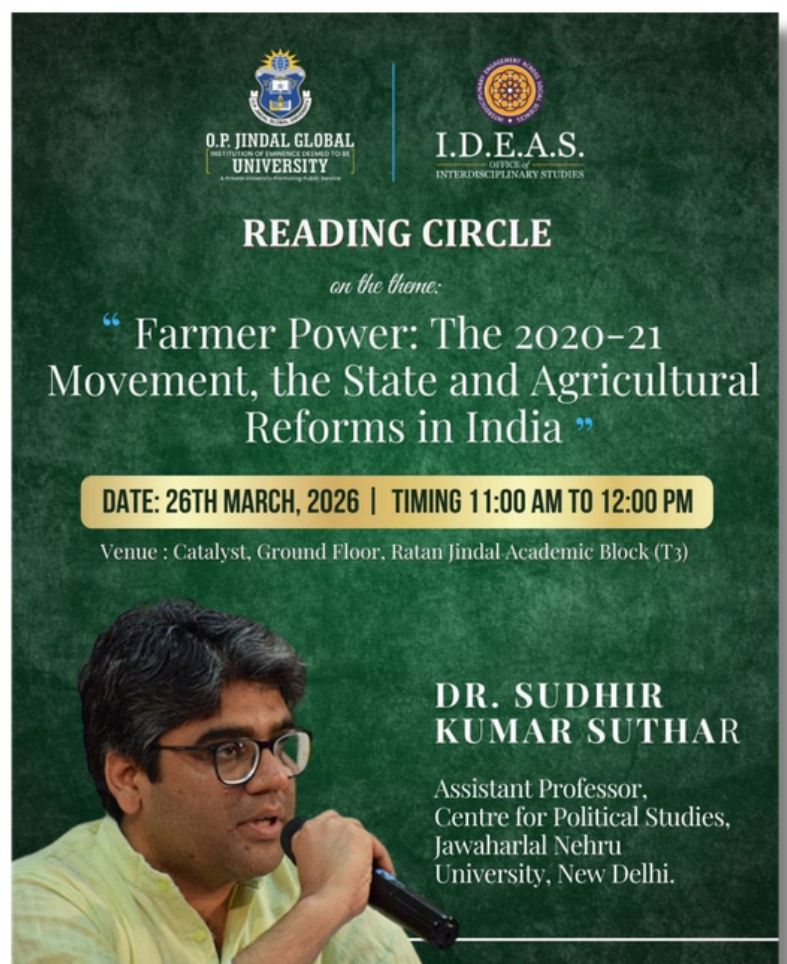
6. Farmer Power: The 2020–21 Movement, the State and Agricultural Reforms in India

Session led by **Dr. Sudhir Kumar Suthar**, Assistant Professor, Centre for Political Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi

March 26 | 11:00AM – 12:00 PM

Venue: Catalyst, Ground Floor, T3

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (I.D.E.A.S.), O.P. Jindal Global University, hosted a thought-provoking Reading Circle on “Farmer Power: The 2020–21 Movement, the State and Agricultural Reforms in India.” The session examined the landmark farmers’ movement of 2020–21 and explored questions of farmer mobilisation, state–society relations, and agricultural reforms in contemporary India.



7. Seeds of Hope & Action: An Exhibition on Making SDGs a Reality

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (I.D.E.A.S.) and the Jindal Institute of Behavioural Sciences (JIBS), in collaboration with Bharat Soka Gakkai, invite the JGU community to an inspiring exhibition titled “Seeds of Hope & Action: Making the SDGs a Reality

April 9 | 10:00AM – 4:00 PM

Buddha Statue Area, T1 Ground Floor

The exhibition encourages visitors to explore how individual choices, collective action, and a culture of peace can contribute to achieving the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through engaging visual displays and stories, the exhibition highlights themes of sustainability, human rights, gender equality, environmental responsibility, and global citizenship.

Inspired by the belief that meaningful change begins with individual action, the exhibition invites us to Learn | Reflect | Empower | Act & Lead and consider how each of us can contribute to building a more sustainable and hopeful future.



8. Raising the Curtain: Recasting Women Performers in India

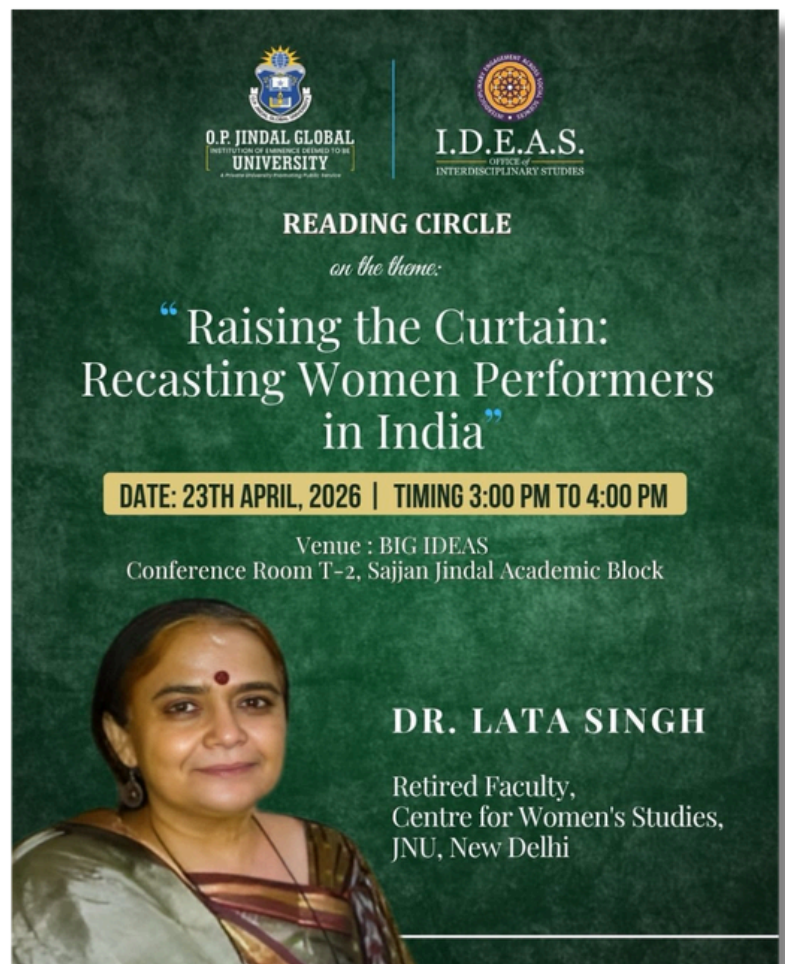
Session led by **Dr. Lata Singh**, Retired Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi.

April 23 | 3:00PM – 4:00 PM

Venue: Catalyst, Ground Floor, T3

The Office of Interdisciplinary Studies (I.D.E.A.S.), O.P. Jindal Global University, hosted a Reading Circle on “Raising the Curtain: Recasting Women Performers in India.” The session explored the experiences and representation of women performers in India, with a focus on how gender, society, and cultural practices have shaped their visibility and roles within the performing arts.

The discussion was led by Dr. Lata Singh, Retired Faculty, Centre for Women's Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi. The session provided an opportunity to critically engage with the histories and contributions of women performers while reflecting on changing representations of women in Indian cultural and performance traditions.



I.D.E.A.S. *at a* GLANCE

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6+

Member
Associates



6+

Research
Constellations

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.