

JINDAL INSTITUTE OF HARYANA STUDIES



SUMMER ISSUE
2026

Haveli Lala Chajjimal and Pibbumal, Sahukar Ambala aur Sonipat, Sonipat.
Clicked by Prof. Sukanya Sharma.



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



NEWSLETTER
VOLUME 2 ISSUE 2

CULMINATION OF THE FIRST REPRESENTATIVE PRIMARY SURVEY BY JIHS

The first primary survey of the EARTH (Ecological, Agrarian, and Rural Transformation of Haryana) project has successfully culminated, covering nearly **900 rural households** across **11 villages** in **four sub-districts**—Gohana, Ganaur, Sonipat, and Kharkhoda—of **Sonipat district**. The completion of field data collection marks a significant milestone for the project.

The survey is the outcome of nearly a year of planning and multiple rounds of survey design discussions by the primary investigators, **Prof. (Dr.) Kranthi Nanduri, Prof. (Dr.) Jannet John, and Prof. (Dr.) Mrinalini Jha**. It contributes to growing evidence on the socio-economic and ecological transformation of rural Haryana, with a particular focus on the nature of rural households' diversification—how families earn, what they do for a living, what they grow, and how they are coping with rapid industrialisation and the changing climatic conditions. The questionnaire captures a wide range of indicators, including income and consumption expenditure, capital formation, debt, cropping patterns, and

perceptions of climate change and its impact on rural livelihoods.

The groundwork for the survey began in June–July 2025, when the JIHS affiliates Prof. Nanduri, Prof. Jha, and Aniket visited the villages of Kathura, Pipli R, and Manoli to conduct Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). These conversations—with sarpanches, ASHA (Accredited Social Health Activist) workers, Anganwadi workers, farmers, local farm and non-farm businesspeople, and women—provided an early, grounded understanding of these communities and directly informed the final survey instrument. Motivated by what they heard, the team extended the survey to a broader set of villages, making it representative of the entire Sonipat district.

The survey follows a **hamlet-based spatial sampling approach**, distributing the sample proportionately across sub-districts. Within each village, the sample is designed to include agricultural households, non-agricultural households, and mixed-income households—those drawing income from both farm and



Enumerators during their training session on campus ahead of fieldwork for the EARTH primary survey.



Prof. (Dr.) Kranthi Nanduri, Prof. (Dr.) Mrinalini Jha, having Focus Group Discussions with community members in Kathura, Sonipat district.

non-farm sources. Data collection was primarily driven by **women enumerators**, who underwent three days of rigorous training on the JGU campus before entering the field, covering the survey instrument, sampling procedures, respondent selection, and non-response protocols.

EARTH project advances interdisciplinary research on rural transformation, sustainability, livelihoods, and inclusive development in Haryana. The findings are expected to contribute not only to academic scholarship but also to policy discussions on rural welfare in the state.

As part of JIHS's broader commitment to evidence-based, action-oriented research, the

Read more [here](#) 

 [LinkedIn](#)



Prof. (Dr.) Kranthi Nanduri, during Focus Group Discussion with villagers in Pipli R, Sonipat district.

DOCUMENTATION OF HISTORIC BAZAARS OF SONIPAT

17th & 18th April 2026 |
Buddha Quadrangle, JGU

On the occasion of World Heritage Day, the Jindal Institute of Haryana Studies (JIHS), in collaboration with Jindal School of Design and Architecture (JSDA), presented *Documentation of Historic Bazaars of Sonipat*—an immersive exhibition exploring the layered histories, architecture, and lived experiences embedded within Sonipat's historic marketplaces.

The inauguration ceremony was graced by distinguished dignitaries including **Dr. Veerappa Moily** (Author and Former Union Cabinet Minister for Law & Justice), and **Hon'ble Mr. Justice Madan Lokur** (Former Judge, Supreme Court of India), whose presence underscored the significance of the initiative.

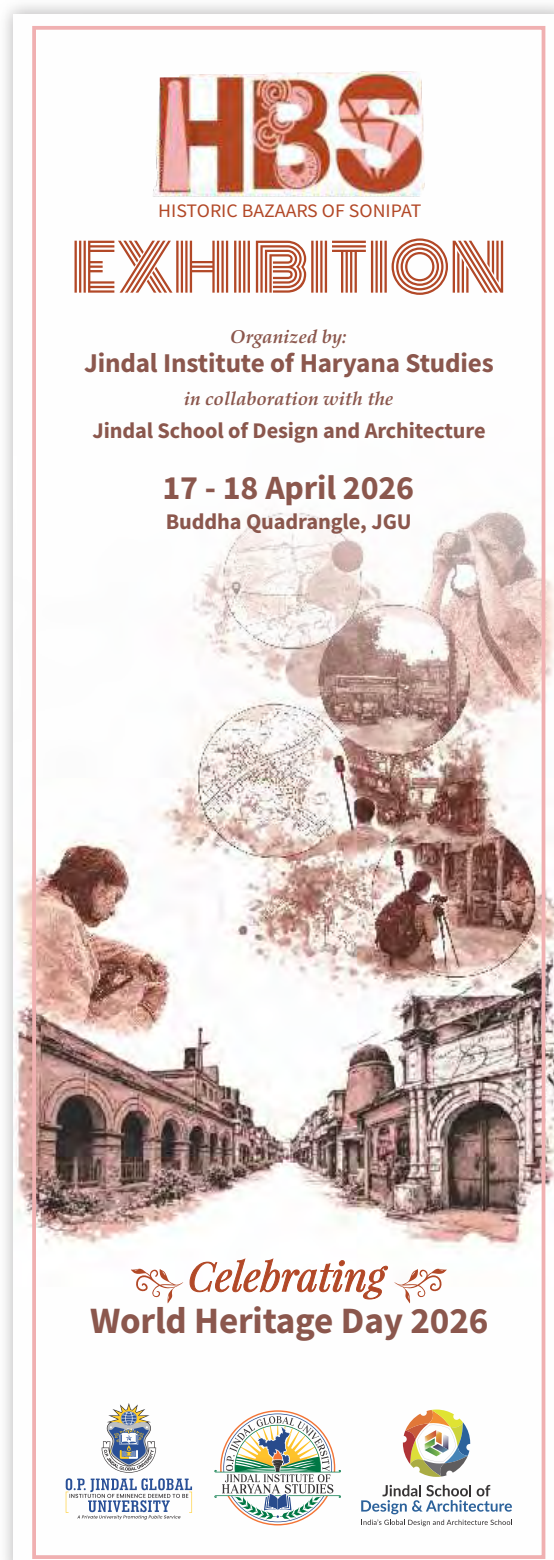
The exhibition invited visitors to step beyond the storefronts and engage with the city's vibrant merchant legacy through a multi-scalar and interdisciplinary lens.

Exhibition Highlights

- 360° Immersive Virtual Tours – Enabling visitors to digitally walk through the historic lanes of Sonipat.
- Detailed Architectural Mapping – Showcasing the intricate beauty and spatial character of historic facades.
- Oral Histories – Documenting narratives and memories of multi-generational shopkeepers.
- Hand-drawn Sketches – Capturing transformations of the cityscape over time.

The project was driven by **Prof. Sukanya Sharma**, Research Fellow (JIHS) and Assistant Professor (JSDA), along with our students - Suhaani Singhal, Harshul Mahajan, Yash Mittal, and Deepanshi.

Read more [here](#)



FROM EVIDENCE TO ACTION: LEVERAGING DISTRICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS FOR INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

28 April 2026 | JGU International Academy,
Hotel Taj Mahal, New Delhi

The Jindal Institute of Haryana Studies (JIHS) hosted a high-level panel discussion around the *Sonipat Human Development Report 2026*.

The event convened policymakers, academics, development practitioners, and members of the leadership of O.P. Jindal Global University to deliberate on the Report's findings and discuss pathways for advancing inclusive district-level development.

Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar gave the welcome address, appreciating the team for their meaningful contribution towards building a district level understanding for the state of Haryana. **Prof. (Dr.) Mrinalini Jha** briefed the audience with the highlights and key findings of the Sonipat HDR 2026. The programme was graced by **Mr. Vijai Vardhan**, Former Chief Secretary, Government of Haryana, and **Mr. Vikas Gupta**, Commissioner, Kendriya



Mr Vijai Vardhan addressing the audience.

Vidyalaya Sangathan, along with distinguished experts including **Dr. Dalal Moosa (World Bank)**, **Ms. Kanta Singh (UN Women)**, **Prof. (Dr.) Alakh Sharma (IHD)**, **Mr. Jagan Shah (ex-NIUA)**, and **Ms. Amrah Ashraf (UNDP India)**.

The event commenced with the formal Delhi release of the *Sonipat Human Development Report 2026*, followed by presentations from the chapter authors highlighting the key findings across health, education, environment, labour and livelihood, governance, spatial transformation, and basic service delivery.



Release of the Sonipat Human Development Report 2026. (L to R: Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Joseph Thomas, Mr. Jagan Shah, Prof. (Dr.) Alakh Sharma, Mr. Vikas Gupta, Prof (Dr) Suraj Kumar, Mr. Vijai Vardhan, Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar, Dr. Dalal Moosa, Prof. (Dr.) Mrinalini Jha, and Prof. R. Sudarshan.)



Prof. (Dr.) Nutan Shashi Tigga



Prof. (Dr.) Indranil Mukhopadhyay



Prof. R. Sudarshan



Prof. (Dr.) Bramha Gupta



Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Joseph Thomas



Prof. (Dr.) Manini Ojha



Prof. (Dr.) Bhuvaneswari Raman



Prof. (Dr.) Rahul Menon

Chapter authors presenting key findings from the Sonipat Human Development Report 2026 across health, education, environment, livelihoods, governance, and spatial transformation

Key Insights from the Panel Discussion

SOCIAL PROTECTION AS A CORE PILLAR

Dr. Dalal Moosa highlighted the importance of social protection as an essential component of the social contract, particularly for vulnerable populations. She emphasised the need for incorporating migrant data and simplifying reports through accessible formats and infographics.

GENDER AND PARTICIPATION GAPS

Ms. Kanta Singh reflected on the decline in girls' participation in education and sports such as volleyball in Sonipat over time. She stressed the significance of gender-disaggregated data, stronger indicators, and attention to cultural factors influencing participation.

VULNERABLE EMPLOYMENT AND DATA SYSTEMS

Prof. Alakh Sharma underscored the importance of identifying vulnerable employment and strengthening district-level primary data systems to support informed policy interventions.

SPATIAL TRANSFORMATION AND GOVERNANCE

Mr. Jagan Shah called for stronger district-level spatial planning infrastructure and enhanced roles for local governments. He also highlighted the need to examine the financialisation of spatial assets within rapidly transforming districts.

GLOBAL RELEVANCE OF HUMAN DEVELOPMENT REPORTS

Ms. Amrah Ashraf noted that with over 800 Human Development Reports produced globally, India continues to lead in the

**Mr. Jagan Shah****Ms. Amrah Ashraf****Dr. Dalal Moosa****Ms. Kanta Singh****Prof. (Dr.) Alakh Sharma**

development of sub-national HDRs, reaffirming their ongoing relevance in contemporary policy discourse.

The discussion was moderated by **Prof. (Dr.) Naveen Joseph Thomas** (Vice Dean, Jindal School of Government and Public Policy), and the entire event was conducted by **Prof. (Dr.) Nutan Shashi Tigga** (Research Fellow (JIHS), Assistant Professor (Jindal School of Banking and Finance)).

The discussion reinforced the importance of district-level evidence in shaping equitable and sustainable development pathways. The *Sonipat Human Development Report 2026* stands as a significant contribution toward strengthening inclusive governance and evidence-based policymaking in India.



Prof. (Dr.) C. Raj Kumar felicitating Mr. Vikas Gupta and Mr. Vijai Vardhan.

Read more [here](#)



JIHS affiliates with Prof. (Dr.) Alakh Sharma.

COLLABORATIVE RESEARCH

SUPPORTING DEPARTMENT OF URBAN LOCAL BODIES (DULB), GOVERNMENT OF HARYANA

A Framework for Developing the Economic Vision for Tier 2 and Tier 3 Cities in Haryana –Methodology for Building Urban Sustainability & Resilience Framework

Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns are central to Haryana's long-term economic growth, yet limited attention has been paid to whether they possess the fiscal, institutional, infrastructural, and environmental capacities needed to sustain this growth. To address this gap, the Jindal Institute of Haryana Studies' has proposed **Urban Sustainability and Resilience Framework**, for the Department of Urban Local Bodies (DULB), Government of Haryana. The framework positions sustainability and resilience as enabling conditions for achieving the aspirations of the Haryana Economic Vision 2047.

Built around four dimensions, viz., financial, economic, socio-spatial, and environmental resilience—the framework serves as a practical decision-support tool to assess implementation readiness, identify investment priorities, manage risks, and guide long-term urban transformation across Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns and their Functional Urban Regions. Moving beyond benchmarking, it focuses on implementation, sequencing of interventions, and resilience-informed investment planning.

The framework adopts a **seven-stage methodology** encompassing town identification, economic classification, resilience assessment, risk analysis, investment prioritization, intervention sequencing, and continuous monitoring. During the 12-month pilot phase, Panipat and Gohana will be



JIHS team along with Prof. (Dr.) Nitesh Bansal and Col. Vashishth with the team at DULB, Panchkula on 7 May 2026.

assessed in consultation with DULB to validate the framework before scaling it to ten Tier-2 and Tier-3 towns across Haryana. The framework will be refined through an iterative, consultative process involving DULB, state agencies, urban local bodies, industry, and other key stakeholders.

The framework was developed by **Prof. (Dr.) Bhuvaneswari Raman** (Associate Director (JIHS), Professor (JSGP) and **Dr. Dibyendu Biswas**, Post-doc Fellow (JIHS), after extensive consultations with DULB.

Read more [here](#). 

UNDERSTANDING ACCESS TO WOMEN'S HEALTH THROUGH THE WELFARE PARADIGM IN THE STATE OF HARYANA

Researching Welfare Frameworks, Maternal Health, and Policy Implementation in Haryana 2026–27 | Jindal Institute of Haryana Studies (JIHS)

The Government of India adopted the Reproductive, Maternal, New-born, Child and Adolescent Health (RMNCH+A) framework in 2013 with the aim of addressing the persistently high rates of maternal and infant mortality and morbidity in India. The framework was conceptualised to understand and reduce delays in accessing and utilising healthcare services. Over the past decade, the Government has introduced a range of welfare schemes and programmes under this framework to ensure assured, dignified, respectful, and quality

healthcare at no cost, while strengthening anti-discriminatory safeguards to prevent denial of services at public health facilities.

This collaborative research initiative between Welfare Rights and the Law Clinic-II (under the aegis of the Justice V.R. Krishna Iyer Clinic for Legal Aid) and the Jindal Institute of Haryana Studies (JIHS) seeks to examine the implementation of Central Government welfare frameworks on maternal and infant health in the state of Haryana, with a specific focus on the districts of Sonipat and Kurukshetra.

The study adopts a mixed-methods approach and will involve field research across selected villages in both districts.

Project Objectives

- To conduct a comprehensive desk review of maternal health welfare schemes implemented by the Government of India in Haryana.
- To analyse the implementation framework of RMNCH+A-linked welfare programmes in Sonipat and Kurukshetra districts.
- To document experiences of frontline healthcare workers and beneficiaries through field-based qualitative research.
- To identify implementation gaps and formulate policy recommendations for strengthening women's health welfare delivery in Haryana.

The data and knowledge generated through the field visits will contribute toward identifying institutional and implementation gaps in existing welfare frameworks while supporting evidence-based policy recommendations for improving women's healthcare delivery in Haryana.

The study is led by **Prof. Sneha Mukherjee**, Clinical Assistant Professor of Law (JGLS).

Read more [here](#).

PUBLICATION FEATURE

REFLECTIONS FROM SONIPAT'S HEARTLAND

In this blog piece, JIHS Research Associate **Aniket Raykar** writes about his experiences visiting **three villages in Sonipat—Kathura, Pipli R, and Manoli—ahead of the EARTH primary Survey.**

The blog captures what surveys often cannot: the texture of rural life as it is actually lived. Drawing on the Focus Group Discussions, conversations with ASHA and Anganwadi workers, farmers, and community members, Aniket reflects on the distinct trait of each village—one firmly rooted in agriculture, another living under the shadow of rapid industrialisation, and a third quietly diversifying its livelihood sources as the National Capital Region expands ever closer. The piece touches on concerns about water quality, soil health, changing dietary habits, and the pride communities take in their children's educational progress, particularly their daughters'.

Blog available here:

Read more [here](#).

 [LinkedIn](#)



Mr. Aniket Raykar and JIHS affiliates during the Focus Group Discussion with villagers.

HARYANA DIARIES

LIBRARIES FUELLING RURAL SUCCESS STORIES

Poojan Soni, B.Com (Hons.), Jindal School of Banking and Finance

Haryana is actively pursuing rural development with a sharp focus on its youth. Across states, Indians have always aspired for government jobs, and these jobs require them to clear competitive exams. Haryana launched a scheme – the **Atal e-Libraries Scheme** – in 2023, to support aspirants in clearing such competitive exams and securing these jobs. Under the Scheme, the Haryana government established local libraries in 985 villages of Haryana with an investment of ₹150 crores. Most of these libraries run round-the-clock enabling students to study at their convenience; this helps balance their academic, professional and personal commitments. The timings of these public spaces can vary depending on the gram panchayat and the local management. One such library located in the Gorakhpur village has already helped 40 of its regular users in securing government jobs.

These study spaces are fully air-conditioned, well-furnished, and equipped with study materials, computers, Wi-Fi, and e-learning resources to prepare for a range of government and other competitive examinations. These local facilities reduce travel time providing accessible studying spaces for all aspirants within their village. This acts as a valuable resource, especially for women. The libraries have greatly helped the youth who could not afford daily travel to cities or afford expensive study materials; supporting education and formal sector employment. The success of

these public facilities has also encouraged the emergence of many privately managed libraries; some are reportedly under construction while few are already functioning. Public libraries charge around ₹300 per person per month for maintenance, whereas private spaces generally charge ₹800. For future developments, the government aims to build more such spaces targeting over 6,225 gram panchayats of Haryana.

The idea of a state-supported public library system gained legislative recognition through the Madras Public Libraries Act, 1948, the first public library law enacted in independent India, which later served as a model for several other states. More than five decades later, the Digital Library of India (2002) marked the transition towards the digitally enabled learning. More recently, states such as Uttar Pradesh have launched large-scale government initiatives to establish digital libraries at the Gram Panchayat level, while several other states, including Haryana, have also expanded digital library infrastructure.

The scaling of village libraries reflects the growing significance of education and skill development for human capital formation in rural areas. Haryana seeks to strengthen and empower its rural youth, bridging the opportunity gap between the rural and urban areas.

Designed by Anil Kumar.



JIHS in Action in Sonipat's Heartland



JGU *at a* GLANCE



16000+
Students



1100+
Faculty



4000+
Faculty &
Administrative Staff
from 54 countries



15000+
Alumni Network
World-Wide



12 SCHOOLS



50+
Programmes

30+ Undergraduate Programmes
20+ Postgraduate Programmes
◆ Doctoral Programme



Jindal Global Law School
India's First Global Law School



JINDAL GLOBAL
BUSINESS SCHOOL
INDIA'S FIRST TRULY GLOBAL BUSINESS SCHOOL



Jindal School of International Affairs
India's First Global Policy School



Jindal School of Government
and Public Policy
India's First Public Policy School



Jindal School of
Liberal Arts & Humanities
India's First Transnational Communication School



Jindal School of
Journalism & Communication
India's First Global Media School



Jindal School of
Design & Architecture
India's Global Design and Architecture School



JINDAL SCHOOL OF
BANKING & FINANCE
INDIA'S FIRST GLOBAL FINANCE SCHOOL



JINDAL SCHOOL OF
ENVIRONMENT & SUSTAINABILITY
INDIA'S FIRST SUSTAINABILITY SCHOOL



Jindal School of
Psychology & Counselling
India's First Transdisciplinary Psychology School



JINDAL SCHOOL OF
LANGUAGES & LITERATURE
India's Global School of Language & Literature Studies



JINDAL SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH &
HUMAN DEVELOPMENT
India's First Global Health & Development School

RESEARCH

6 Research & capacity building institutes



9750+
Publications



65+
Interdisciplinary
research centres



INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATIONS



600+
Collaborations with
International Universities &
Higher Education Institutions



10
Forms
of Global
Partnerships



80+
Countries
& Regions



300+
Faculty & Student
Exchange Collaborations



160+
Countries
represented by
Students

RANKINGS & RECOGNITIONS

RANKED
35
for
LAW

RANKED
90
for
POLITICS &
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

TOP
200
for
BUSINESS &
MANAGEMENT
STUDIES

RANKED
232
for
SOCIAL
SCIENCES &
MANAGEMENT

RANKED
323
for
ARTS &
HUMANITIES

TOP
500
for
ECONOMICS &
ECONOMETRICS

INDIA'S NO. 1 RANKED UNIVERSITY

PUBLIC & PRIVATE

LAW

POLITICS &
INTERNATIONAL
STUDIES

BUSINESS &
MANAGEMENT
STUDIES

SOCIAL
SCIENCES &
MANAGEMENT

ARTS &
HUMANITIES

ECONOMICS &
ECONOMETRICS

IN THE WORLD



WORLD
UNIVERSITY
RANKINGS
BY SUBJECT 2026



TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION
SUBJECT RANKINGS 2026



TIMES HIGHER EDUCATION
SUBJECT RANKINGS 2026



Times
Higher
Education



AACSB
ACCREDITED



CONFERRED
THE STATUS OF AN
**Institution of
Eminence**
BY THE
GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

📍 Sonapat-131001, (NCR of Delhi)



🌐 www.jgu.edu.in

JGU - An Initiative of Jindal Foundation