



Director's Message

This issue of *ISIDNEWS* summarises the activities of the Institute during January-March 2026. A major highlight was are ISID hosting the 2026 WIDER Development Conference on *Green Industrialisation and Inclusive Growth in a Fractured World Order*. Other events included a policy roundtable on *Global FDI Trends in a Challenging Environment*; along with the Research Seminars on *Productivity and Policies in Post-Independence India: From Planning to Liberalisation and Trade Structure and Drivers of Intra-industry Trade in the Pharmaceutical Sector of India*. A talk, by Prof Rajneesh Narula on *Key Trends in the FDI and MNC* and two Faculty Research Workshops.

ISIDNEWS also provides updates on the research projects, and on new ISID publications, popular writings and other outreach activities of the faculty members.

As the premier national think-tank focused on industry, ISID is gearing up to support India's current emphasis on manufacturing through excellence in policy research, advocacy, capacity-building, and outreach activities. *ISIDNEWS* will keep you posted on the activities and work of the Institute.

- Nagesh Kumar

Green Industrialisation and Inclusive Growth in a Fractured World Order

WIDER DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE 2026

ISID hosted the 2026 WIDER Development Conference on *Green Industrialisation and Inclusive Growth in a Fractured World Order* in New Delhi from March 18–20, 2026. The Conference brought together leading researchers, policymakers, and practitioners to discuss how growth, governance, and global cooperation are being reshaped amid geopolitical realignment and economic fragmentation.

The conference opened with an inaugural session, featuring opening remarks by **Prof Nagesh Kumar**, Director, ISID and **Prof Kunal Sen**, Director, UNU-WIDER; **Mr Stefan Priesner**, United Nations Resident Coordinator in India; and, **Prof Tshilidzi Marwala**, Rector, United Nations University. This was followed by an inaugural address by **Mr Suman Bery**, Vice Chairperson, NITI Aayog. [click here for [YouTube](#)]

The opening was followed by a keynote lecture delivered by **Prof Eric Verhoogen**, Columbia University on barriers to industrial upgrading in developing countries. This segment, moderated by **Prof Martha Chen** of Harvard University, had remarks by two panellists, **Mr Ajay Shankar**, Distinguished Visiting Fellow at ISID and **Dr Zainab Usman** of Carnegie Endowment in the USA and open discussion with the audience. The session set the context by highlighting structural challenges in manufacturing, productivity, and energy transition financing, along with the implications of geopolitical fragmentation for development strategy. [click here for [YouTube](#)]



The Conference featured three high-level plenaries and 16 parallel thematic sessions with over 200 participants from across the world. [see [Full Programme](#)]

The first high-level plenary focused on the **Future of Global Economic Governance in a Fragmented World Order**, chaired by **Prof Deepak Nayyar**, Vice-Chairman, ISID. The speakers included **Amb. Len Ishmael** from the Policy Centre of the New South, Rabat, Morocco; **Prof Justin Lin**, Dean of the Institute of New Structural Economics at Peking University, **Dr Caren Grown**, Director of Brookings Center for Sustainable Development, **Dr Stephen Klingebiel** of the German Institute of Development and Sustainability (IDOS), Bonn, and **Prof Andrew Sumner** of King's College London. [click here for [YouTube](#)]



The theme of the second plenary was **Green Industrial Transformation in BRICS Countries**. It was moderated by **Prof Arkebe Oqubay**, British Academy Global Professor, SOAS and former Minister, Ethiopian Government. The Speakers included **Prof Nagesh Kumar**, Director, ISID; **Prof Imraan Valodia**, Pro Vice-Chancellor, Wits University, South Africa; **Prof Jose Puppim Oliveira**, Getulio Vargas Foundation, Brazil; **Dr Maxensius Sambodo**, Indonesian Institute of Sciences; and **Prof Jo Beall**, Distinguished Policy Fellow at LSE Cities. [click here for [YouTube](#)]

The third plenary focused on **Trust and Multilateralism**, moderated by **Prof Shantayanan Devarajan**, Georgetown University, with speakers namely **Prof Kaushik Basu**, Cornell University, **Dr Luis Felipe López-Calva**, Global Director, The World Bank, **Prof Patricia Justino**, Director-Designate, UNU-WIDER, and **Prof Frazana Afridi** of the Indian Statistical Institute, Delhi. [click here for [YouTube](#)]



The conference concluded with the valedictory address by **Prof S Mahendra Dev**, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to the Prime Minister. Prof Dev situated India's green industrialisation agenda within a broader strategy centred on energy security, manufacturing, employment, and inclusive growth, emphasising the role of a balanced mix of policy, innovation, and collective effort in advancing sustainable development. The session was chaired by **Prof Prajapati Trivedi**, Visiting Professor at ISID and at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. [click here for [YouTube](#)]



The deliberations in the plenaries and the parallel sessions highlighted how geopolitical realignment and economic fragmentation are reshaping growth and governance, underscoring the need to expand policy space for developing economies, reform multilateral frameworks and development finance, and strengthen domestic industrial capabilities through coordinated policy action, public investment, and inclusive just transition strategies. Overall, the conference emphasised that delivering equitable growth in an increasingly uncertain global environment requires coordinated industrial policy, stronger institutions, and deeper international cooperation. [[read more](#)]

POLICY ROUNDTABLE

Global FDI Trends in a Challenging Environment: Emerging Patterns and Implications for Asia and Developing Economies

ISID organised a Policy Roundtable on *Global FDI Trends in a Challenging Environment: Emerging Patterns and Implications for Asia and Developing Economies* on March 17, 2026. The session was chaired by **Prof Nagesh Kumar**, Director, ISID and featured a keynote presentation by **Dr Amelia U Santos-Paulino**, Chief, Investment Research Section, UNCTAD, Geneva. Distinguished panellists included **Dr Pritam Banerjee**, Head, Centre for WTO Studies, Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi; **Prof Pravakar Sahoo**, NITI Aayog; and **Dr Danish A Hashim**, Chief, Ease of Doing Business, MNCs & GVCs, Confederation of Indian Industry (CII).

The discussion highlighted major shifts in the global FDI landscape amid geopolitical tensions, macroeconomic uncertainty, and supply chain restructuring. It noted a decline in FDI flows to several developing economies, alongside a shift towards technology-driven and efficiency-seeking investments, with India emerging as an important destination for ICT and data-related inflows. The roundtable emphasised the need to move from investment promotion to facilitation through policy alignment and digital integration, while also addressing regional disparities and improving the ease of doing business through institutional reforms. It concluded that



strengthening domestic capabilities and maintaining macroeconomic stability are essential for navigating the evolving global investment environment. The YouTube link to the session is available [here](#). [\[read more\]](#)

RESEARCH SEMINARS

Productivity and Policies in Post-Independence India: From Planning to Liberalisation



ISID organised a Research Seminar on *Productivity and Policies in Post-Independence India: From Planning to Liberalisation* on March 6, 2026. **Dr Abdul A Erumban**, Assistant Professor, University of Groningen, The Netherlands, presented his study on India's productivity and policy evolution (1950–2024), from import-substitution and licence raj to post-1990s liberalisation and service-led growth, assessing implications for labour productivity, total factor productivity, and structural transformation. The study highlighted persistent constraints, including limited industrialisation, informality, and human capital gaps, resulting in uneven productivity gains, particularly in manufacturing. The discussion emphasised coordinated policy action, greater investment in technology, R&D, and skills, and underscored emerging challenges such as artificial intelligence and climate risks. The seminar was moderated by **Dr Mahua Paul**, Assistant Professor, ISID, with distinguished panellists including **Prof Arup Mitra**, South Asian University; **Prof Dibyendu Maiti**, Delhi School of Economics; and **Dr R Rijesh**, Assistant Professor, ISID. The seminar concluded with an engaging discussion and Q&A session with participants. The YouTube link to the session is available [here](#). [\[read more\]](#)

Trade Structure and Drivers of Intra-industry Trade in the Pharmaceutical Sector of India



ISID organised a research seminar on *Trade Structure and Drivers of Intra-Industry Trade in the Pharmaceutical Sector of India*, on January 30, 2026 which brought together leading academics and experts to discuss India's evolving pharmaceutical trade dynamics. The presentation was made by **Dr Adrija Ganguly**, Consultant at the Asian Development Bank Institute (ADB), who analysed India's pharmaceutical trade over 1993–2023, focusing on intra-industry trade (IIT), global value chain integration, and production-side drivers using econometric methods. Moderated by Dr Isha Chawla of ISID, the discussion was enriched by expert insights from **Prof Manoj Pant**, Visiting Professor, Shiv Nadar University; **Mr K M Gopakumar**, Senior Researcher and Legal Adviser, Third World Network; and, **Dr Reji K Joseph**, Associate Professor, ISID, who offered critical perspectives on methodological issues in IIT measurement, heterogeneity in R&D intensity across pharmaceutical segments, data consistency concerns, and the strategic implications of global supply chain dependencies, particularly with respect to APIs and export competitiveness. The YouTube link to the session is available [here](#). [\[read more\]](#)

ISID RESEARCH WORKSHOPS

Key Trends in the FDI and MNC Research

Prof Rajneesh Narula, OBE, Director of the Dunning Centre for International Business, at Henley Business School, Reading University, UK and a renowned expert on international business, visited ISID on January 29, 2026. He delivered a talk on the key trends in the research in international business/ FDI and MNC research and interacted with the ISID faculty and research students.



Faculty Research Workshops



ISID organised two research workshops on February 26, 2026 and March 27, 2026. The sessions were chaired by **Prof Aditya Bhattacharjea**, Visiting Professor at ISID. Faculty members presented their ongoing research and completed project reports, fostering rich academic dialogue and feedback. Those who made presentations of their draft working papers include: Dr Satyaki Roy, Dr Santosh Kumar Das, Dr K Seenaiiah, Dr Anjali Tandon, Dr Shailender Kumar Hooda, Dr Ajit Kumar Jha, Sangeeta Ghosh, Dr Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, and Dr Mahua Paul. The Working Papers have since been issued and listed elsewhere.

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

Research Programmes/Projects

New

Green Transition, Innovation Efforts and Sustainability Reporting: A Study of Large Manufacturing Firms in India

A Minor Research Project, sponsored by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), has been initiated at ISID from April 2026 onwards. As India is the third-largest emitter of greenhouse gases globally at present, there is an urgent need for manufacturing firms to address challenges related to decarbonisation, energy transition and sustainability. The study focuses on appraising the recent green transition practices and sustainability efforts by large manufacturing companies in India in view of the data inadequacies in corporate sustainability reporting at firm level. It aims to examine the environmental consciousness, performance, and innovation efforts of approximately 500 of India's largest manufacturing firms in recent years, using firm-level data disclosed under the Business Responsibility and Sustainability Reporting (BRSR) framework. The trends in corporate environmental reporting and performance across key indicators, and current sustainability practices will be analyzed. Dr Swati Verma, Assistant Professor, ISID, is the Project Director. The duration of the project is 12 months starting from April 2026 to March 2027.

Towards Resilient GVCs to Promote Fair and Equitable Trade: BRICS Indian Presidency 2026

Resilient GVCs to Promote Fair and Equitable Trade is one of the themes covered by the Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI) under the BRICS Indian Presidency 2026. CGETI has approached ISID to serve as the knowledge partner for this theme.

This project aims to facilitate deliberations among the BRICS Members to arrive at an understanding on making global value chains (GVCs) resilient to promote fair and equitable trade. Under the project, ISID will support CGETI under India BRICS Presidency on the GVC theme including through the preparation of an Issues Note on the theme in the BRICS context, a detailed background paper, analysing the trends and patterns in the GVCs and the participation of BRICS countries. ISID will also support the CGETI secretariat in preparation of the Zero Draft Negotiating Text on shared understanding on GVCs among the BRICS countries and will backstop the negotiations, besides policy advocacy on the theme. The ISID team for the project includes Prof Nagesh Kumar, Dr Reji Joseph and Dr Isha Chawla. The project time frame coincides with the term of the Indian Presidency viz., January to December 2026.

ISID PUBLICATIONS

Policy Briefs



On the Idea of Industrial Policy

This brief is based on the text of the Industrial Development Association (IDRA) Commencement Day Lecture delivered by Professor Deepak Nayyar, at the



The WTO E-Commerce Moratorium: Border Taxes and Digital Trade Governance in the Age of Artificial Intelligence

The upcoming WTO Ministerial in Cameroon may focus significantly on making the customs duties Moratorium on

Special ISID@40-IDRA Session held on October 29, 2025. It reflects on the critical role of industrial policy in countries that are latecomers to industrialization and development. In doing so, it draws upon what we can learn from economic history and economic analysis, to consider what makes for the difference between success and failure. In conclusion, it suggests that industrial policy will continue to matter even in the profoundly changed global context.

digital products permanent. However, it is still unclear which products are included under this Moratorium. This policy brief argues that the primary beneficiaries are likely to be US and Chinese AI monopolies, which could dominate the global market while avoiding border taxes. Such a measure would deprive other countries of essential tax revenues from AI, which is expected to play a crucial role in both cross-border value flows and national economies. This situation threatens national economic sustainability and, consequently, political sovereignty.

Working Papers

- Santosh Kumar Das, Credit Constraint and the Limitation of the Industrial Financing Architecture in India, WP304, February 2026.
- Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, Sushil K Rai, What Drives MSME Resilience? Firm-Level Evidence from Developing Economies during COVID-19, WP305, February 2026.
- Satyaki Roy, New Technology, Cognitive Labour and the Structural limits of Capitalist Development: Lessons from Past Industrial Revolutions, WP306, February 2026.
- Bhushan Praveen Jangam, Badri Narayan Rath, Seenaiiah Kale, Does the Participation of Global Value Chains Promotes the Innovation and Technological Change? WP307, February 2026.
- Anjali Tandon, Recent Approaches for Decarbonisation of India's Iron and Steel Sector, WP308, March 2026.
- Ajit Jha, Rahul Ranjan and Sushant Kumar, Women-owned Enterprise and Their Efficiency: Evidence from the Jeevika Programme in Bihar, WP309, March 2026.
- Sangeeta Ghosh, Informality and the Dynamics of Continuity and Change: A Cluster-based Study of Man-made Fabric and Apparel Industry in Surat, WP310, March 2026.
- Mahua Paul, Unlocking Green Transition in Indian Organised Manufacturing, WP311, March 2026.
- Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, Prakash Singh, Durairaj Kumarasamy, Financial Accessibility and Firm Performance: Do Domestic MSMEs Deserve Greater Attention than Foreign-Owned MSMEs? WP312, March 2026.
- Net Social Cost of GHG Emissions by Large Manufacturing Firms of India: An Approximate Estimation, Swati Verma, WP313, March 2026.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Akhilesh Kumar Sharma and Atul Sarma (2026), "[Do Social Protection Programmes Impact Income Distribution? Evidence from India](#)," *Policy Studies*, pp. 1–22.
- Ramaa Arun Kumar (2025), "[India's Strategy for Self-Reliance in Manufacturing Sector in the Post Pandemic Era: Trade Perspective](#)," in Prof Madhubrata Satpathy (Ed) *Crisis to Resilience: Contemporary Economic Perspective*, Walnut Publication, India, United Kingdom, USA.
- K Seenaiiah (2026), "[Role of Natural Gas in the Path of Energy Transition: Some Evidence from Asia-Pacific](#)," *Asian Economics Letters*, Vol. 7, Early View, February 28.
- Satyaki Roy (2026), Review of *Wives and Widows at Work: Women's Labour in Agrarian Bengal, Then and Now*, by Deepita Chakravarty and Ishita Chakravarty's, Orient Blackswan Pvt. Ltd., 2023. *Indian Journal of Gender Studies*, Vol. 33, No. 1, pp. 106–109, February.

Popular Articles/ISID in NEWS

- Nagesh Kumar (2026), "[Budget 2026 Must Aim to Fix the Weak Link in India's R&D Ecosystem](#)," *Business Standard*, January 7.
- Nagesh Kumar (2026) "[Growth-Inflation Data Will Determine MPC's Future Actions](#)," interviewed by Manojit Saha, *Business Standard*, January 4.
- Nagesh Kumnar (2026) "[Budget Should Back R&D, Create Long-Term Funding Institution: MPC Member \(interview\)](#)," *Business Standard*, January 19.
- Nagesh Kumar (2026) "[Provide incentives in Budget for R&D, create specialised fin institution for long-term funding: MPC member Nagesh Kumar \(PTI interview\)](#)," *Economic Times*, January 19.
- Nagesh Kumar (2026) 'MPC Unanimous On Status Quo: RBI MPC (interviewed by CNBC TV18', https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GPIkQH_bZyA
- Nagesh Kumar (2026) "Middle East conflict poses near-term challenges to Indian economy: RBI MPC member" *The Economic Times*, March 5.
- Ajay Shankar (2026), "[Beyond the 'Paracetamol' of PLI: How the Budget Can Rewrite India's Manufacturing Story](#)," *Basis Point Insight*, January 30.
- Anjali Tandon (2026), "[Leveraging Services for Building Capabilities: The Case for Integrated Industrial Strategy in India](#)," *The Policy Edge*, February 18.
- Reji K Joseph (2026), "[Biopharma Strategy Needs Regulatory Focus](#)," *Financial Express*, February 20.
- Reji K Joseph (2026), "[Make in India to Transform India's Pharmaceutical Sector](#)," *Optima: The Annual Economic Outlook*, Department of Economics, Daulat Ram College, University of Delhi, pp. 32–35.
- Ramaa Arun Kumar (2026), "Reinventing the Synergies in the India–South Korea CEPA for the Textile and Apparel Sector," *Apparel Times*, Apparel Export Promotion Council Magazine, January.

- Ajit K. Jha participated in a budget discussion on Sansad TV, 1 February 2026.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xIFYmXLSixo>
- “Green Transition Will Require Shakeup of Fiscal Architecture: Suman Bery,” by Dhruvaksh Saha, *Business Standard*, March 18, 2026.
- “Green Industrial Push ‘Strategic Necessity,’ Says EAC-PM Chairman,” by Himanshi Bhardwaj, *Business Standard*, March 21, 2026.

Industry Matters

[IM Weekly Issue – January 02, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – January 09, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – January 16, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – January 23, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – January 30, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – February 06, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – February 13, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – February 20, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – February 27, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – March 06, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – March 13, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – March 20, 2026](#)

[IM Weekly Issue – March 27, 2026](#)



Outreach and Contributions to External Events

Nagesh Kumar, Prof & Director

- Delivered Prof P Mohanan Pillai Memorial Lecture on “Multinational Enterprises, GVCs and India’s Export Competitiveness: Theory, Evidence and Policy” at the Centre for Development Studies (CDS), Trivandrum on March 30, 2026.
- Delivered a presentation on Towards a Manufacturing-led Transformation in India, at the International Seminar on "Rethinking Development: Discourses and Inclusive Pathways" in honour of Professor Deepak Nayyar, organized by ISLE at Symbiosis International University, Lavale, Pune from January 17-18, 2026.
- Initiated the discussion on Productivity, Trade, Connectivity, and Industrial Development at the ICSSR-ADB Strategic Partnership Workshop on Viksit Bharat @2047 and Asia’s Future Prosperity: Shared Vision, Shared Pathways held on March 11, 2026 held at ADBI headquarters in Tokyo, Japan.
- Chaired the Session on The Changing Global Landscape of Trade and Investment at the RIS Brainstorming for 14th Ministerial Conference of the WTO, January 30, 2026.
- Addressed the inaugural session of the Conference on "Strengthening Legal and Regulatory Architecture for Growth of MSMEs" organized by the FISME, in association with the Friends of MSMEs in Parliament on January 6, 2026.
- Participated in the 59th Meeting of the RBI’s Monetary Policy Committee during February 4-6, 2026 at the RBI headquarters in Mumbai.
- Addressed the panel on “India’s Investment Landscape: Issues, OFDI, and Challenges.” at the Report Launch on India’s outward FDI, organized by Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), in partnership with Centre for WTO Studies (CWS), IIFT, at IHC on March 13, 2026.
- Chaired the Session on The Industrial Policy at a Crossroad: WTO Rules and Development Constraints, at the RIS Brainstorming for 14th Ministerial Conference of the WTO, February 11, 2026.
- Attended Fourth Meeting of CII Economic Affairs Council 2025-26 on February 17, 2026.
- Attended the 2nd and 3rd Screening Committee Meetings (SCM) - [Series 2026], for Recognition of in-house R&D Units (RDI) and SIROs on February 25 and March 23, 2026, respectively, DSIR, Ministry of Science & Technology.
- Participated in the Virtual Meeting of the Boston University Global Development Policy Center Non-Resident Fellows & Senior Fellows on February 25, 2026.
- Chaired the V V Giri Memorial Lecture on Harnessing Technology for Sustainable Growth and Human Development, delivered by Dr Sachin Chaturvedi, Vice-Chancellor of Nalanda University, at the 66th ISLE Conference held at Symbiosis University, Pune on January 20, 2026.
- Moderated a session on ESG Aligned Finance & Governance at the International Conference on ESG Transversality for a Sustainable Water–Energy–Health–Environment Nexus, organised by the India Water Foundation and UNESCAP on March 6, 2026.
- Attended the presentation of the RBI’s Quarterly Projection Model (QPM), online, on January 23, 2026.
- Participated in the First Meeting of the BRICS CGETI Working Group hosted by the Department of Commerce, on March 17, 2026.

Satyaki Roy, Associate Professor

- Participated as a Panellist in the UNU-IIGH webinar on “*Extractive Finance Reaches the Hospital Ward – Patterns of Financialisation and Impacts of Corporatisation of Healthcare – An Indian Case Study with Global Dimensions*,” organised by the United Nations University International Institute for Global Health (UNU-IIGH), on January 30, 2026.
- Presented a paper titled “New Technology and Employment: Structural Challenges in Knowledge Intensive Technology Development under Capitalism,” and served as Discussant in Technical Session 1.4 at the 66th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics, organised by Symbiosis School of Economics, Pune, from January 19–21, 2026.
- Presented a paper titled “Financialisation of Health Care Services in India,” at the Symposium on Health Financing in West Bengal, co-organised by the Amartya Sen Research Centre and O P Jindal Global University, held at Pratichi Trust, Kolkata, from February 13–14, 2026.
- Delivered four lectures under the IDEAS Global Classroom as part of the Advanced Certificate Programme on “Research in Political Economy,” organised by the International Development Economics Associates (IDEAS), Delhi, on March 11, 13, 18, and 25, 2026.
- Served as Discussant in the session on “Macro and Industrial Policies,” at the UNU-WIDER Development Conference on *Green Industrialisation and Inclusive Growth in a Fractured World Order*, hosted by UNU-WIDER in partnership with ISID, in New Delhi from March 18–20, 2026.

Reji K Joseph, Assistant Professor

- Served as Discussant in the parallel session on “Migration, Trade and Technology,” at the WIDER Development Conference 2026 on *Green Industrialisation and Inclusive Growth in a Fractured World Order*, held in New Delhi, on March 18–20.
- Participated in the review meeting on preparations for the First BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI), chaired by the Commerce Secretary, representing ISID as Knowledge Partner (with Dr Isha Chawla), at the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, New Delhi, on March 12, 2026.

Shailender Kumar Hooda, Assistant Professor

- Delivered a lecture on “Large-Scale Survey Data: Application and Working” during the *Data to Policy Workshop 2026*, organised by the Delhi School of Economics (DSE), the Delhi School of Public Policy & Governance (DSPPG), and the Institution of Eminence (IoE), University of Delhi, from March 16–19, 2026.
- Delivered lecture on “Model Specification and Diagnostic Testing”, on February 11, in a workshop on “Quantitative Economics and Its Applications in Social Sciences” organised by Department of Economics, Guru Jambheshwar University of Science & Technology, Hisar, Haryana between February 7-11, 2026.

Anjali Tandon, Associate Professor

- Delivered a session on “Database on Indian Economy (DBIE)” at the workshop on *Industrial Analysis Using ASI Unit-Level Data*, organised by the Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur, from February 2–6, 2026.

Isha Chawla, Consultant

- Participated in the review meeting on preparations for the First BRICS Contact Group on Economic and Trade Issues (CGETI), chaired by the Commerce Secretary, representing ISID as Knowledge Partner (with Dr Reji K Joseph), at the Department of Commerce, Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Government of India, New Delhi, March 12, 2026.
- Presented and deliberated on the subject “Priority III: Resilient Global Value Chains (GVCs): Pathways to Stable and Inclusive Trade,” representing ISID as Knowledge Partner, at the Department of Commerce, New Delhi, March 12, 2026.
- Participated in the 1st BRICS 2026 CGETI meeting (India Chair), Session 3: “Resilient Global Value Chains (GVCs): Pathways to Stable and Inclusive Trade,” representing ISID as Knowledge Partner (with Prof Nagesh Kumar), at the Department of Commerce, New Delhi, March 17, 2026.

Beena Saraswathy, Assistant Professor

- Joined the Editorial Board of *The Antitrust Bulletin*.
- Presented a co-authored paper (with K Pushpangadan) titled “Static and Dynamic Competition and Economic Growth in the Context of Aghion’s Study: Evidence from India” at the Conference on *Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy*, organised by the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, March 19–20, 2026.
- Delivered a lecture on “Women in Research and Business: Thoughts on International Women’s Day,” at the International Women’s Day Interactive Workshop, organised by the Department of Land Resources, Ministry of Rural Development, Government of India, March 11, 2026.
- Participated as a Panellist in the seminar on “Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme in the Manufacturing Sector,” organised by the Birla Institute of Management Technology, Delhi NCR, February 28, 2026.

Swati Verma, Assistant Professor

- Served as the Plenary Speaker in the session titled “Greening Industry, Fuelling Growth via ESG Partnerships for Sustainability” at the International Conference on *ESG Transversality for a Sustainable Water–Energy–Health–*

Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, Assistant Professor

- Presented a paper titled "Macro-economic Impact of Adoption of New Technologies on Indian Economy: An Analysis Using CGE Modelling Framework," and served as Discussant in the technical session titled "Education, Employment and Labour Markets," at the *66th Annual Conference of the Indian Society of Labour Economics*, organised by Symbiosis School of Economics, Symbiosis International (Deemed) University, Pune, from January 19–21, 2026.
- Served as External RAC Member for a PhD scholar at the School of Behavioural and Social Sciences, Manav Rachna International Institute of Research and Studies, in a meeting held virtually on January 28, 2026.
- Delivered a lecture as Resource Person on "Introduction, Extraction and Working with ASUSE Data," at the 5-Day Intensive Residential Workshop on *Databases on the Indian Economy*, organised by the Centre for Social Innovation & Impact (CSII), Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida, in collaboration with the Uttar Pradesh–Uttarakhand Economic Association (UPUEA), on January 31, 2026.
- Participated as an expert in the Roundtable Discussion on "MSME Competitiveness & Digital Interoperability," organised by FISME and Friends of MSMEs in Parliament, held at the Constitutional Club of India, on February 12, 2026.

Ajit Kumar Jha, Assistant Professor

- Delivered a lecture on Research Methods and Methodological Issues in Survey in University Department of Economics, T.M. Bhagalpur University, Bihar on January 16, 2026.
- Delivered a lecture on National Seminar on Rise of Female Entrepreneurship in Bihar: Sectoral Presence and Its Significance on January 17, 2026 in T.N.B. College Bhagalpur, Bihar.
- Delivered a lecture on Labour Force Statistics—methods, indicators, and unit record data extraction—on January 30, 2026, at Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida during a 5-day workshop on "Databases on the Indian Economy."
- Served as an external examiner for the viva-voce of fourth-year students in the Department of Economics at Sri Venkateswara College, University of Delhi, on January 6, 2026.

Ramaa Arun Kumar, Assistant Professor

- Served as Resource Person at the Five-day Intensive Residential Workshop on *Databases on the Indian Economy*, jointly organised by the Centre for Social Innovation & Impact (CSII), Jaipuria Institute of Management, Noida, and the Uttar Pradesh–Uttarakhand Economic Association (UPUEA), from January 27–31, 2026.
- Served as Discussant in the thematic session on "South-South Trade and Investment," at the UNU-WIDER Conference on *Green Industrialisation and Inclusive Growth in a Fractured World Order*, jointly organised by UNU-WIDER and ISID, held in New Delhi from March 18–20, 2026.
- Co-supervised Mr Jamshed Haidery, Research Scholar, Department of Finance and Business Economics, South Campus, University of Delhi, for his PhD thesis titled "Trade Performance of Landlocked Developing Countries: A Case Study of Afghanistan," presented at the final viva held online on February 25, 2026.

Sangeeta Ghosh, Assistant Professor

- Presented a paper titled, "MSMEs under GST: Documenting a Journey," at the National Conference on *Socio-Economic Implications of GST: Introduction and Reforms*, at the Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad, March 6–7, 2026.

PhD Students Corner

- Mayank Makkar, PhD Scholar, ISID, presented a paper titled "Credit Choices under Constraints: Formal, Informal, and Co-Funding Effects on MSME Productivity in India" at the *11th Annual International Conference of the Department of Commerce*, Delhi School of Economics, held during January 23–24, 2026. The paper received the Best Research Award in the 'Strategy, Business Transformation and Entrepreneurial Innovation' technical session.
- Mayank Makkar, PhD Scholar, ISID, presented a paper titled "Market Dominance and Firm Conduct: Evidence of a Non-Linear Relationship in the Indian Manufacturing Sector" at the *11th National Conference on the Economics of Competition Law*, organised by the Competition Commission of India (CCI), held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi, on March 16, 2026.
- Sanjana, PhD Scholar, ISID, presented a paper titled "Investment Stagnation in India: A Demand-Side Perspective" at the Conference on *Emerging Issues in the Indian Economy*, organised by the Centre for Development Studies, Thiruvananthapuram, during March 19–20, 2026.

Visitors/ Bilateral Meetings

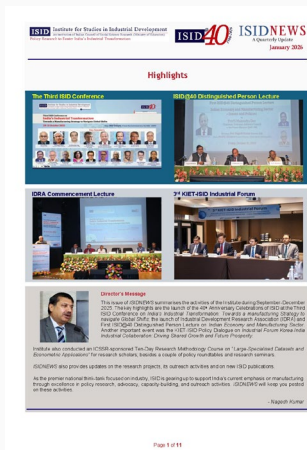
Visitors

- Prof Shuji Uchikawa, School of Economics, Senshu University on January 5, 2026.
- Dr Sachin Sharma, Director-General, RIS, on January 12, 2026.
- Dr Nishan de Mel, CEO, Verite Research, Sri Lanka, on March 5, 2026.
- Dr Amanda Rowlatt, Board Member, ODI Global on February 23, 2026.
- Mr Vineet Nahata, Member Central Board of Trustees of EPFO and Shri Sanat Kumar, Chief Economist, PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industry on March 23, 2026.
- Prof Kunihiko SHINODA, National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, on March 25, 2026.

Bilateral Meetings of the Director

- Meeting with Amb. Nagma Malik, Ambassador of India in Tokyo, along with the Member-Secretary, ICSSR, at the Embassy of India, Tokyo on March 12, 2026.
- Meeting with Amb. Sudhakar Dalela, Secretary (ER), Ministry of External Affairs on February 12, 2026.
- Meeting with Dr Praveen Mahto, Principal Economic Adviser, DPIIT, Government of India on February 17, 2026.
- Online Meeting with Mr Sergio Lugares, Coordinator, Italian Observatory on India, CeSPI on February 18, 2026.
- Meeting with Mr Shimano, Director, South Asia in the Japanese Ministry of Economy, Trade and Industry (METI), Tokyo on March 10, 2026.
- Meeting Prof Yume Yamaguchi, Director, Institute for Advanced Studies of the United Nations University (UNU-IAS), Tokyo on March 10, 2026.

Past Issues



ISID Institute for Studies in Industrial Development

Policy Research to Foster India's Industrial Transformation

4 Vasant Kunj Institutional Area, New Delhi - 110070, India

Follow Us



ISIDNEWS: © ISID 2026

Editorial Team: Dr Swati Verma, Dr Akhilesh Kumar Sharma, Dr Surya Tewari; Layout & Design: B Dhanunjai Kumar.

To unsubscribe please [click here](#)