

National Conference
Operational Dynamism of Industrial Clusters in India

MARCH 12-13, 2026

Sponsored by: Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR), New Delhi, Ministry of Education, Govt. of India

Venue: Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (IDSJ), Rajasthan – 302004, India

Conference Programme

Background

Industrial clusters play a significant role in promoting regional economic development by generating employment, enhancing industrial competitiveness, and fostering innovation through close linkages among firms, suppliers, and supporting institutions. In India, clusters exist across a wide range of sectors from traditional industries such as handicrafts, textiles, and agro-processing to modern sectors including pharmaceuticals, electronics, and automobile components and are largely dominated by Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs). These clusters benefit from agglomeration economies that encourage knowledge sharing, specialisation, and productivity improvements; however, they also face several challenges such as limited access to finance and technology, inadequate infrastructure, skill shortages, environmental concerns, and increasing competition in global markets. In the context of rapid technological change, shifting global value chains, and evolving policy frameworks, understanding the operational dynamics of industrial clusters has become essential for designing effective strategies that support innovation, sustainability, and inclusive growth. In this backdrop, the national conference on “**Operational Dynamism of Industrial Clusters in India**” aims to bring together scholars, policymakers, and practitioners to examine the functioning, performance, and policy environment of clusters and to generate evidence-based insights for strengthening cluster development in India.

Conference Themes:

1. Evolution and Institutional Development of Industrial Clusters
2. Growth, Performance and Competitiveness of Industrial Clusters
3. Innovation, Technology Adoption and Industry 4.0 in Clusters
4. MSMEs and Entrepreneurship Development in Industrial Clusters
5. Sustainability, Policy Support and Future of Industrial Clusters.

Patron

Dr. Motilal Mahamalik

*Director [I/C]
Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (IDSJ)*

Convenor

Dr. Varinder Jain

*Assistant Professor
Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur (IDSJ)*

About the Institute

Established in 1981 as an autonomous organization, IDS Jaipur is supported by the Indian Council of Social Science Research (ICSSR) and the Government of Rajasthan. It aims to understand development processes and challenges, focusing on the problems faced by marginalized sections and hinterlands. It has a multi-disciplinary approach in its research activities and provides a platform for various stakeholders to discuss developmental issues. The Institute emphasizes the study of growth processes, the impact of public interventions like poverty reduction and employment generation programs, and participatory efforts by voluntary organizations.

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Conference Programme

Day-1 [March 12, 2026]

Registration

9:30 am to 10:00am

Inaugural Session

10:00 am to 11:30 am

- Welcome Address** : **Dr. Motilal Mahamalik**, Director(I/C), IDS, Jaipur
- About the Institute** : **Dr. Harchand Ram**, Faculty member, IDS, Jaipur
- Keynote Address** : **Prof. Keshab Das**, Visiting Professor with the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi
- Chair Address** : **Dr. Arvind Mayaram**, Chairperson IDSJ Governing Board
- Vote of Thanks** : **Dr. Golam Rabbani**, Faculty member, IDS, Jaipur

High Tea

11:30 am to 12:00 pm

Technical Session – 1

12:00 pm to 1:00pm

Session Chair: **Dr. Varinder Jain**, Assistant Professor & Secretary(I/C), IDS Jaipur

1	Nature and Structure of Industrial Clusters in Uttarakhand: An Institutional Support Analysis, MSME Dynamics and Regional Development , Dr. Shahpar Shareef, Department of Urdu, Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani Discussant: Dr. Harchand Ram, IDS, Jaipur
2	Land Utilisation, Revenue Streams and Growth Trajectory: A Case Study on Mahindra SEZ Jaipur , Dr. Sudhir, D., Faculty, Department of Public Administration, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur Discussant: Dr. Subrata Dutta, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad
3	Issues of Competitiveness in the Onion Dehydration Industry: A Cluster Study from Bhavnagar District, Gujarat , Dr. Subrata Dutta, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad Discussant: Dr. Baldev Singh Shergill, Punjabi University Guru Kashi Campus, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab

Lunch

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm

Technical Session – 2**2:15 pm to 3:15 pm****Session Chair: Dr. Motilal Mahamallik, Director, IDS, Jaipur****Co-Chair: Dr. Premkumar, Assistant Professor, IDS, Jaipur**

4	Operational Dynamics and Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Artisanal Clusters: An Empirical Study of the Shantiniketan Leather Goods Sector, Dr. Tiyasa Mishra, Academic Associate, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad Discussant: Dr. Rudra Narayan Mishra, GIDR, Ahmedabad
5	Self Employed Workers in Sample Industrial Clusters: Autonomous but Insecure, Dr. Varinder Jain, Institute of Development Studies, Jaipur Discussant: Dr. Golam Rabbani, IDSJ
6	Operational Dynamism and Firm Upgrading in Informal Food Processing Clusters in India, Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, Consultant, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, UP Discussant: Ms. Nishat Jameel, Govt. P.G. College, Sambhal

Tea Break**3:15 pm to 3:30 pm****5th Prof. Surjit Singh Memorial Lecture****3:30 pm to 5:15 pm****Title: Changes and Changelessness Long-Term Patterns in India's Regional Economies****Speaker: Prof. R. Nagaraj, formerly Professor in Economics, IGIDR, Mumbai****Chair: Prof. Shobhita Rajagopal, formerly Professor, IDS, Jaipur****High Tea****5:15 pm to 5:45 pm****Dinner.....8:00pm****Day-2 [March 13, 2026]**

Technical Session – 3**10:00 am to 11:20 am**

Session Chair: **Dr. Baldev Singh**, Punjabi University Guru Kashi Campus, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab
 Co-Chair: **Dr. D. Sudhir**, Faculty, University of Rajasthan, Jaipur

7	<i>A Comparative Analysis of Sustaining Structure and Growth of Traditional Footwear “Punjabi Jutti” Manufacturing Cluster: Evidence from Patiala and Malout</i> , Mr. Satnam Singh, Department of Economics Punjabi University. Patiala Discussant: Ms. Amrita Sarmah
8	<i>Electronics Manufacturing Clusters in India: Dynamics of Policy, Ground Realities, and Developmental Implications</i> , Mr. Vaibhav Gaur, Research Associate, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohiya National Law University, Lucknow Discussant: Dr. Tiyasa Mishra, Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad
9	<i>Role of Place in Spatial Concentration of Skills and Sustained Economic Identity Within the Firozabad Glass- Bangle Cluster</i> , Dr. Anjali Mittal, Department of Architecture, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi Discussant: Dr. Rudra Narayan Mishra, GIDR

Tea Break**11:20 am to 11:40 am****Technical Session – 4****11:40 am to 1:00 pm**

Session Chair: **Prof. Subrata Dutta**, Sardar Patel Institute of Economic and Social Research, Ahmedabad

Co-Chair: **Dr. Harchand Ram**, Faculty Member, IDS, Jaipur

10	<i>Cluster Development in Assam</i> , Ms. Amrita Sarmah and Mr. Dhritiraj Sarma Discussant: Mr. Satnam Singh, Senior Researcher, IDSJ
11	<i>Patola Cooperatives in Sundarnagar, Gujarat: Selected Case Studies</i> , Dr. Rudra Narayan Mishra, Assistant Professor, Gujarat Institute of Development Research Discussant: Dr. Anjali Mittal, School of Planning and Architecture, New Delhi
12	<i>Operational Dynamism and Firm Upgrading in Informal Food Processing Clusters in India</i> , Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, Consultant, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, UP Discussant: Dr. Sudhir, D., Rajasthan University, Jaipur
13	<i>Industrial Cluster Policy and Regional Development: Evidence from Himachal Pradesh</i> , Ms. Radhika Vaidh, Research Scholar, Eternal University & Dr. Manjinder Kaur, Department of Economics, Eternal University Discussant: Ms. Fayza Shahid, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi

Lunch Break**01:00 pm to 02:00 pm**

Technical Session – 5**2:00 pm to 3:40 pm**

Session Chair: **Dr. Rudra Narayan Mishra**, Assistant Professor, Gujarat Institute of Development Research

Co-Chair: **Dr. Golam Rabbani**, Assistant Professor, IDS Jaipur

14	<p>Knowledge Diffusion through Informal Contacts and Absorptive Capacity: Firm Level Empirical Evidence from Three Industrial Clusters in Indian Punjab, Dr. Baldev Singh Shergill, Department of Social Sciences Punjabi University Guru Kashi Campus, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab & Ms. Kamaldeep Kaur, Researcher, Department of Economics, Punjabi University, Patiala, Punjab</p> <p>Discussant: Dr. Shahpar Shareef, Department of Urdu, Uttarakhand Open University, Haldwani</p>
15	<p>From Brass to Beyond: Adaptation, Competitiveness, and Policy Readiness of MSMEs in the Moradabad Metalcraft Cluster, Ms. Fayza Shahid, Research Scholar, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia, New Delhi and Prof. Shahid Ahmed, Department of Economics, Jamia Millia Islamia</p> <p>Discussant: Varinder Jain, IDSJ</p>
16	<p>The Economic Contribution and Operational Dynamism of the Brush Manufacturing Industrial Cluster in Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh, Ms. Nishat Jameel, Department of Commerce, Govt. P.G. College, Sambhal and Dr. Jeet Singh, Department of Commerce, Govt. P.G. College, Sambhal</p> <p>Discussant: Dr. Ranjeet Kumar, Giri Institute of Development Studies, Lucknow, UP</p>

Tea Break**3:40 pm to 4:00 pm****Valedictory Session****4:00 pm to 5:00 pm**

Welcome Address: **Dr. Motilal Mahamalik**, Director, IDS Jaipur

Chair: **Prof. Keshab Das**, Visiting Professor with the Institute for Human Development, New Delhi

Valedictory Address: **Dr. Varinder Jain**, Faculty member, IDS Jaipur

Conference Report: **Ms. Radhika Vaidh**, Research Assistant, IDS Jaipur

Vote of Thanks: **Dr. Premkumar**, Faculty member, IDS Jaipur

High Tea**5:00 pm to 5:30 pm**

Dinner.....8:00pm
