Complexity, evidence and action: insights from accounting, business and finance

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Abstract

The June 2026 issue brings together five articles from accounting, business and finance that share a common concern: how to make sense of complex systems, whether energy transitions, stock markets, digital services, scholarly communication or corporate boards, and what to do with what is learned. The contributions draw on a range of methods, from panel econometrics and volatility modeling to bibliometric analysis, altmetrics and systematic review. Together, they show that average effects and single indicators can hide important differences across contexts, market conditions, and institutional settings. The issue underscores the value of combining methods and perspectives and highlights gaps in geographic coverage and theoretical diversity that future research can address. It offers academics, policymakers, and practitioners evidence to inform sustainable, informed decision-making.

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1. Opening remarks

It gives us great pleasure to present Volume 5 Issue 2 of the International Journal of Accounting, Business and Finance (IJABF), the official journal of the Indian Accounting Association (IAA) Patna Branch. As the journal moves through its fifth volume, we continue to receive work that is methodologically robust, empirically grounded, and relevant to policy and practice.

2. IJABF Volume 5 Issue 2

The June 2026 issue brings together five articles that, although drawn from different corners of accounting, business and finance, share a common concern: how do we make sense of complex systems, whether energy transitions, stock markets, digital services, scholarly communication or corporate boards, and what should we do with what we learn?

The first paper, Sahu and Prusty (2026), presents a timely study of renewable energy consumption, financial assistance, and eco-economic sustainability in developing countries. Using a panel of 107 developing economies over 2000–2023 and combining fixed-effects, random-effects, and two-step system GMM estimators, they find that renewable energy consumption reduces CO_2 emissions but is associated with lower GDP per capita. Foreign direct investment and green finance strengthen the emissions-reducing effect, yet they also deepen the negative growth association. The authors read this as evidence of short-run adjustment costs, not as a rejection of the long-run case for renewables. The message for policymakers is a sober one: financing the transition is necessary, but it is not sufficient unless it is accompanied by infrastructure, technology and absorptive capacity.

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The second paper, by Ganguly and Bhunia (2026), turns to the Indian equity market and examines how inflation, crude oil prices, exchange rates, foreign institutional investment (FII), and gold prices relate to the BSE Sensex, using monthly data from 2000–01 to 2024–25. Rather than relying on a single technique, they combine ARDL bounds testing, Granger causality, quantile regression, ARCH, GARCH, EGARCH, and Markov switching regression. The bounds test supports a long-run cointegrating relationship, with FII emerging as the only statistically significant long-run determinant. Quantile regression shows that inflation weighs more heavily on the Sensex in weaker market states, while crude oil, gold, and FII flows matter more in stronger ones. The volatility models document clustering, persistence, and asymmetric responses, and the regime-switching results point to distinct bull and bear states. The paper is a reminder that average effects can hide a great deal.

The third paper, Dubey and Dangi (2026), maps the landscape of e-service quality through a bibliometric review of 681 Scopus-indexed documents from 2002 to 2025, covering more than 32,000 citations. They document a sharp rise in output, especially in the last decade and around the COVID period, and they identify influential articles, authors, institutions, and countries. Keyword co-occurrence, author co-citation, and bibliographic coupling reveal the field's thematic structure, ranging from scale development and TAM-based adoption models to satisfaction, trust, and loyalty. The authors also point to gaps: evidence from Africa and Latin America is sparse, and emerging contexts such as fintech apps, quick commerce, and AI-driven services remain under-theorized.

The fourth paper, Siddiqui et al. (2026), takes a different view of research mapping. Instead of reviewing only what has been written on Islamic banking, they examine how that research is seen, read, and shared. Drawing on 225 ABDC-indexed articles from 78 journals (1986–2024) retrieved from the Dimensions database, they pair normalized citation impact with Mendeley readership and Altmetric Attention Scores. Citation impact correlates strongly with Mendeley readership ($\rho = 0.753$) and moderately with normalized altmetric attention ($\rho = 0.632$). X and Mendeley emerge as the dominant platforms, with Mendeley readers drawn largely from students and lecturers. Bibliographic coupling yields five thematic clusters. The central argument, that no single indicator captures research visibility, is one that journals and institutions, including our own, would do well to heed.

The issue concludes with the last paper, in which Bhati and Shrivastav (2026) present a TCCM-based systematic review of corporate governance and green innovation, covering 213 articles published between 2015 and 2025. Following PRISMA, they synthesize the literature by theory, context, characteristics, and methodology. They report that board diversity, independence, and environmental expertise tend to support green innovation, while ownership structure, CEO power, and ESG disclosure matter in ways that depend on institutional quality and industry. The review also surfaces important imbalances: the evidence base is heavily concentrated in China, quantitative designs and single-theory explanations dominate, and qualitative and multi-level approaches are scarce.

Reading these five papers together, we identified three themes that stood out to us. First, context and conditionality. The strongest findings here are conditional ones. Renewable energy lowers emissions, but its economic effects depend on financing conditions. Macroeconomic variables move the Sensex differently in bull and bear markets. Governance mechanisms drive green innovation differently across institutional settings. In each case, an average effect would

have told only part of the story. We encourage authors to treat heterogeneity as a finding in its own right and to design studies that can detect it.

Second, the value of triangulation. Several papers in this issue deliberately combine complementary methods, whether GMM with fixed and random effects, ARDL with quantile and regime-switching models, or citations with readership and altmetrics. Triangulation does not make a study immune to criticism, but it makes conclusions more credible and exposes where they are fragile.

Third, a healthy self-awareness about evidence. Three of the five papers are review or mapping studies, and each is candid about the limits of its data: a single database, a restricted journal list, or a corpus dominated by one country. These are not weaknesses to be hidden. Declared limits allow readers to judge how far a result extends and point directly to the next study to be done.

Siddiqui et al. (2026) deserve special mention because they speak to the work we all do. Citations accumulate slowly and unevenly, and they say little about who is actually reading and using our work. Readership and online attention provide complementary signals, and the authors rightly stop short of treating either as a substitute for the other. As a journal, we will continue to encourage authors to share their work responsibly, deposit it in open repositories, and accompany it with clear summaries so that it reaches students, practitioners, and policymakers.

The research agendas in this issue are rich. They call for studies that disaggregate renewable energy and green finance by type, income group, and institutional setting; for volatility and regime analysis that brings in additional macro-financial drivers and sectoral indices; for e-service quality research in AI-enabled and fintech contexts; for dissemination studies in other fields and across multiple databases; and for qualitative, longitudinal, and multi-level work on how governance operates inside firms. We invite scholars working on these questions to consider IJABF as a home for their research.

3. Concluding remarks

We thank the authors for entrusting us with their work and for responding constructively to review comments. We are grateful to the anonymous reviewers for their time and rigor, and to the editorial team for the care that goes into every issue. We also thank the IAA Patna Branch and our readers for their continued support and encouragement.

We hope you find this issue informative and thought-provoking, and we look forward to your submissions and feedback.

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