



INDIAN
SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC
POLICY

ISPP NEWSBYTE

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Letter from the Founders



LUIS MIRANDA



PARTH SHAH

We hope this newsletter finds you in good health and spirits. With immense pleasure and profound gratitude, we bring you the April-June 2023 edition of ISPP Newsbyte. We are filled with an overwhelming sense of pride and accomplishment for the journey we have embarked upon to shape the leaders of tomorrow.

When we envisioned the Indian School of Public Policy, our dream was to create a democratised platform where aspiring changemakers could come together, get equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to address the complex challenges of our time. With this quarter, we delivered on the community engagement part of our vision. We surprised ourselves by wildly increasing community participation through new outreach efforts while also attracting a new audience of public policy enthusiasts. We now boast of an impressive 42% rise in the participation rate from audiences external to our scholar community.

ISPP has been on a search for its new Dean. The Search Committee has already identified individuals of excellence, and the Selection Committee's processes are underway. We look forward to the new leadership to take ISPP to new heights.

We are so very excited to welcome our fifth batch starting at the end of July. This year's revamped curriculum includes multiple courses, elective domains, workshops, and labs that will shape their academic capabilities.

From the beginning, we have set out to foster a vibrant community transcending borders, ideologies, and backgrounds. Our commitment to diversity and inclusion has inspired and enabled our graduates to become influential leaders, making meaningful contributions across samaaj, sarkaar and bazaar. Their successes reaffirm our belief in the power of education to transform lives and catalyse positive change.

Moving forward, our commitment to excellence remains resolute. Once again, thank you for being a part of this incredible journey.



A BUZZING QUARTER

In the last three months, the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP) took centre stage as an active hub of intellectual and practical engagements in public policy. In keeping with ISPP's mission to foster knowledge, innovation, and meaningful dialogue, we effectively organised a series of initiatives to elevate the significance of public policy in the public discourse and created a conducive platform for insightful discussions and collaborative endeavours.

HIGHLIGHTS: ISPP Policy Parliament SANSAD 2023

With great enthusiasm, the scholar-run flagship event, Sansad 2023, took off with a thought-provoking discussion on the topical theme: "**Innovation, Digital Economy and Competition Concerns: What is the better trade-off for India?**" Passionate teams from over 20 top educational institutions, alongside working professionals and think tanks in India, came together to deliberate and draft a model Digital Competition Bill which was directly shared with policymakers.

The event was nothing short of exceptional, featuring distinguished panelists including **Mr. Shailesh Pathak** (Secretary General, FICCI) as the Chief Guest, **Mr. Sachin Goyal** (Joint Director, Competition Commission Of India), **Mr. Augustine Peter** (Founder, AP Regulatory Law Practice and Former Member, CCI), **Dr. Archana G. Gulati** (Professor of Practice at ISPP and Former Joint Secretary, Digital Communications at the NITI Aayog), **Prof. Krishna Ladha** (Professor at ISPP), and **Ms. Modhulika Bose** (Counsel, P&A Law Offices).

Participants delved into the challenges and opportunities presented by India's dynamic digital economy, urging them to ponder on the ideal balance between fostering innovation and ensuring fair competition in this tech-driven era.



A BUZZING QUARTER

HIGHLIGHTS: **WOMEN IN PUBLIC POLICY**

As part of ISPP's vision to democratise public policy education and engagement, we realise how crucial women's participation is in decision-making and leadership for achieving gender-inclusive growth and governance. The aim is to encourage, attract, engage, educate, amplify and celebrate women in public policy through community engagement, promotional platforms, and education programmes to foster and encourage inclusive policymaking and governance.

As a first step to what could take the shape of a larger collective - **'WIPP - Women In Public Policy'**, we organised our first dialogue series on the theme,

**"Leading the Change: Women in Public Policy
How far have we come? Where do we want to go?"**

The audience participated in a thought-provoking discussion led by an illustrious panel of leading ladies in the policy space - **Dr. Shamika Ravi** (Member, Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister), **Devanshi Vaid** (Co-Founder, India Development Review), **Sowmya Karun** (Lead, Public Affairs at Google), **Kanksshi Agarwal** (Founder, Netri Foundation), **Parikrama Chowdhry** (Senior Policy Manager at J-PAL), **Ayushi Gupta** (Consultant, World Bank and Community Representative, Women in Economics & Policy), and **Sumeet Sandhu** (Head of Development at ISPP).



Dr. Shamika Ravi, Ms. Kanksshi Agarwal, and Ms. Sumeet Sandhu

The panelists were delighted to hear young men in the audience raise questions about **how men could support women in the workplace** by amplifying their voices.



A BUZZING QUARTER

HIGHLIGHTS: **WOMEN** IN PUBLIC POLICY

"I often find myself to be the only woman in a room where critical decisions are made. When you are soft, you are overlooked. When you are bold, it is interpreted as aggression and it often falls on women to find that fine balance between the two."

Soumya Karun, Lead, Public Affairs at Google India

"Before one moves to higher order things, one must take stock of how infrastructural shortcomings, like lack of toilets, affects women's participation in the labour force."

Dr. Shamika Ravi, Member, Economic Advisory Council of the Prime Minister

The comprehensive and engaging dialogue covered a host of topics, including the lack of basic facilities such as toilets in offices to higher-order issues such as building networking skills and opportunities, developing reading and analytical skills, and underutilisation of women in policy at the grassroots.

The panel also deliberated on significant challenges women continue to face in pursuing public policy careers and attaining high-level positions. Panelists emphasised the need for better representation of women in public policy which would lead to more effective and inclusive policies. Ways to encourage more young women to pursue public policy careers were also discussed. The discussion also highlighted the role intersectionality plays in women's experiences in public policy, and how it could be addressed.



Left to Right: Ms. Ayushi Gupta, Ms. Soumya Karun, Dr. Shamika Ravi, Ms. Sumeet Sandhu, Ms. Kankshi Agarwal, Ms. Devanshi Vaid, and Ms. Parikrama Chowdhry

A BUZZING QUARTER

HIGHLIGHTS: Hosting The Behavioural Insights Team

On June 24, ISPP hosted **Mr. David Halpern** from **The Behavioural Insights Team** - a UK-based ground-breaking pioneer in behaviour change economics. Informally known as the "**Nudge Unit**", The Behavioural Insights Team is a global social purpose organisation that generates and applies behavioural insights to inform policy and improve public services, following nudge theory.



Mr. Luis Miranda, Mr. David Halpern and Professor Karan Arora at the ISPP campus

Using social engineering, as well as techniques in psychology, behavioural economics, and marketing, the purpose of the organisation is to influence public thinking and decision making in order to improve compliance with government policy and thereby decrease social and government costs related to inaction and poor compliance with policy and regulation. The Behavioural Insights Team has been headed by British psychologist Mr. David Halpern since its formation in 2010.

At ISPP, Mr. Halpern was accompanied by Dr. Rory Gallagher, Managing Director of the Behavioural Insights Lab for Australia and Asia-Pacific. As expected, our scholars were delighted when this event was announced, and we saw a full house in terms of participation. Since behaviour change features prominently in the LokNeeti and PDM curricula, ISPP scholars were already acquainted with behaviour change concepts. Hence, Mr. Halpern's session went beyond the basics, providing deep insights into the subject. His talk enriched scholars' knowledge and understanding, better equipping them with valuable tools and perspectives to effect positive societal change.



Highlights of events

From April to June 2023, the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP) embarked on a remarkable journey of outreach events, embodying our vision of democratising public policy education and fostering impact across diverse audience segments.

With strategic planning and dedication, we tailored our outreach efforts to resonate with various groups. We sought to engage college graduates, such as those from prestigious institutions like **Lucknow University**, and mid-senior career professionals through a series of enriching policy workshops. In addition, we fostered partnerships with influential industry players like the **Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI)**.

To bring the essence of public policy closer to people's hearts, we branded all online sessions as "**Policy & You**". These sessions were thoughtfully curated, touching contemporary topics like "Towards a Smarter India: The Importance of Smarter Cities" and "Exploring Public Policy Communications in India." **The response was overwhelming, with 221 active participants out of 531 registrations, boasting an impressive 41.7% participation rate.** Our approach struck a chord with the target audience, as they found value in gaining insights and contributing to vital policy discussions.

Meanwhile, our physical events took on the identity of "**ISPP Policy Relay**," making their way to cities like **Mumbai, Bengaluru, Lucknow and our campus in New Delhi**. These dynamic gatherings comprised **11 interactive sessions in the form of workshops, panel discussions, and book talks**. The topics addressed ranged from "Mapping the Frontier for Land Reform in India" to "Careers in public policy across samaaj, sarkaar and bazaar," and "Why Economics is Important for Public Policy".

Interestingly, both online and offline events indicated significant interest in the session focused on careers in public policy. This enthusiasm reinforces our belief that people are genuinely passionate about bringing about positive change through impactful policymaking.



Highlights

The Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) in partnership with ISPP, convened a roundtable dialogue on **"Sustainability in Global Value Chain Management: Balancing Environmental and Economic Goals"** at the ISPP campus. Prominent experts and stakeholders engaged in a profound discussion on maintaining harmony between environmental preservation and economic imperatives in the global value chain.



The workshop **"Bridging the Gap: Data, Evidence, and Behavioural Economics in Policy Making"** held at ISPP received high praise. Led by Ms. Nandita Banerjee (LokNeeti faculty) and Mr. Karan Arora (CEO of Behavioural Economics and Science Team)) and ISPP Adjunct faculty, it covered topics like nudging, evidence, and data use in policymaking.



We kickstarted the thrilling "Policy & You 2.0" series with Assistant Professor Vincy Davis, who introduced approximately 55 participants to the topic of **"Exploring Public Policy Communication in India"** through an engaging and enlightening webinar.

A second "Policy & You 2.0" session featuring Professor O.P Agarwal was delivered on **"Towards Smarter India: The Importance of Smart Cities in India"**. Approximately 40 participants took part in the session.

Renowned economist, author, and historian **Mr. Sanjeev Sanyal** visited the ISPP campus to discuss his book "Revolutionaries: The Other Story of How India Won Its Freedom."





Highlights

An engaging panel discussion took place at the ISPP campus on **"Mapping the Frontier for Land Reform in India: An Empirical Analysis"** presented and moderated by Professor Nimai Mehta, a member of the ISPP Advisory Council and a Professor at American University,

In another "Policy & You 2.0" session at ISPP, Professor Amir Ullah Khan, a highly regarded faculty member specialising in health policy, captivated the audience with a compelling discussion on "Rethinking Gender Differences in the Indian Healthcare System."

ISPP and **The Policy Square**, a joint venture of **Public Policy India** and **YLAC**, collaborated to host a multi-site outreach event on 10th June 2023 in **New Delhi** (at the ISPP campus), **Mumbai**, and **Bengaluru** on the **theme "Careers in Public Policy"**. The event's primary objective was to engage and inspire young students, early to mid-level professionals, and individuals interested in pursuing a career in public policy. The discussions focused on opportunities in government, corporate and civil society organisations.



Glimpse from ISPP and The Policy Square's joint event in Mumbai titled "Careers in Public Policy"



Mr Rajeev Kapoor, Former Director, Lal Bahadur Shastri National Academy of Administration (LBSNAA), with the ISPP team in Lucknow

ISPP remains steadfast in its commitment to shaping a brighter future through public policy education, fostering collaborations with partners like The Policy Square and Young Leaders for Active Citizenship (YLAC), and empowering individuals to drive social change.

As we move forward, we carry the optimism and energy generated by these events, fuelling our determination to drive positive transformation on a grand scale.



Brilliant minds shaping our path

ISPP Academic Advisory Council

Chaired by Dr. Vijay Kelkar, Former Chairman 13th Finance Commission, ISPP boasts of an accomplished academic council, including prominent policy experts, practitioners, industry leaders and scholars representing leading academic institutions, including the **Blavatnik School of Government - University of Oxford, Harris School of Public Policy - University of Chicago, The Fletcher School - Tuft's University, and Columbia University** among others.



Shekhar Shah

Vice-Chairman, ISPP
Academic Advisory Council
Former Director-General,
National Council of Applied
Economic Research



Jessica Seddon

Senior Fellow, Yale
Jackson School of Global
Affairs



Jyotsna Puri

Associate Vice President at
International Fund for
Agricultural Development
(IFAD), UN.



Nimai Mehta

Sr. Professorial Lecturer,
Department of Mathematics
and Statistics, American
University



Aseem Prakash

Professor of Public Policy and
Deputy Director, Tata Institute
of Social Sciences, Hyderabad



Ajay Shah

Co-Founder, XKDR Forum,
and Former Professor,
National Institute for Public
Finance and Policy



Michael Greenstone

Milton Friedman
Distinguished Service
Professor in Economics,
Harris School of Public
Policy, University of Chicago



Bhaskar Chakravorti

Dean of Global Business,
The Fletcher School, Tufts
University



Shubhashis Gangopadhyay

Dean, ISPP
Founder Director, India
Development Fund



Gerard Alexander

Associate Professor,
Department of Politics,
University of Virginia



Niranjana Rajadhyakshya

Executive Director -
Research and Strategy,
Artha Global



Susan E. Mayer

Professor Emerita & Former
Dean, Harris School of Public
Policy, University of Chicago



Brilliant minds shaping our path

A closer look at the ISPP Academic Advisory Council



Vijay Kelkar

Chairman,
ISPP Academic Advisory Council
Former Chairman,
13th Finance Commission
Padma Vibhushan, 2011

“

New challenges for our country have come up in the last 30 years, and the new challenges are due to the growing global climate and environmental stress and consequent existential challenges to our planet. These now require greater attention, and we need policy reforms to make our growth green. More knowledge, better analysis and greater decentralisation will lead to the design of knowledge-based policies.

”



Arvind Panagariya

Professor of Economics,
Columbia University
Former Vice Chairman, the NITI Aayog

“

ISPP trains youngsters to drill down into the well of existing knowledge quickly, bring out what existing comparables exist, and effectively communicate that to the policymaker. This particular skill requires much education, for which you need an understanding of international trade, microeconomics, and macroeconomics. The power of global trade is enormous, and you need to understand and appreciate it.

”



Maya Tudor

Associate Professor of Government
and Public Policy, Blavatnik School of
Government, University of Oxford

“

Understanding the conditions under which post-colonial states were able to create both democratic and stable regimes is critical to political scientists and policy-makers alike.

”



Training experts at the NITI Aayog



ISPP collaborated with the NITI Aayog to conduct a full-day session on public policy, which was part of a three-day induction-cum-orientation training programme. This programme aimed to benefit newly appointed individual consultants, young professionals, and flexipool officials, including those from Atal Innovation Mission (AIM) and Development Monitoring & Evaluation Office (DMEO).

On June 15th, approximately 40 participants gathered at the NITI Aayog premises to attend two enlightening lectures by renowned ISPP faculty members **Professor Pronab Sen** and **Professor Krishna Ladha**, along with **Mr. S. K Sadhu**, Deputy Secretary at the NITI Aayog.



Prof. Sen and Prof. Ladha with S K Sadhu, Deputy Secretary (CM/Training/Accounts) at the NITI Aayog

The first session was titled "Art and Science of Public Policy", where Prof. Sen focused on the complexities of formulating effective policies that address society's diverse challenges.



A happy picture captured with the NITI Aayog team and ISPP professors.

In the second session, Prof. Ladha explored how game theory intersects with public policy, sharing valuable insights on utilising game theory principles to design policies that support collective welfare.

Engagement with the NITI Aayog did not end here, as the Young Professionals continue to be associated with ISPP. They often attend our events, including the Policy & You and Tea & Policy sessions.

Stories of Change: Alumni

UMESH JADHAV

Project Lead at International Innovation Corps



Born and raised in the arid city of Himayat Nagar, Maharashtra, Umesh's life began against all odds. Hailing from a humble agrarian family, Umesh was fortunate to have a father who defied the norms and became the family's first graduate. His father's experience as a primary school teacher was pivotal in firing young Umesh's desire to contribute to nation-building and to instil the importance of education in him.

However, tragedy struck when, at 16, Umesh lost his father, his idol, to a road accident. His gravely injured mother was bedridden for six months. Soon after, he lost his grandmother. Umesh, the middle child, had to step in to support his family, including his younger sister's education, while keeping up with his studies. These incidents took a toll on his final exam results, but the ever-determined Umesh was admitted to an engineering college in Nagpur, where he studied IT. During this period, he volunteered with NGOs following Gandhian principles and philosophy.

His determination inspired his mother to pursue her graduation, leading to the mother and son graduating together in 2014.

After college, he worked with the American firm, AT&T, but by now, he had firmly caught the development sector bug. Two years in, he transitioned to a rural NGO based in Gadchiroli, where he focused on tribal health. This was the turning point that reaffirmed his commitment to the development sector. After six years of working, Umesh knew this was the path he wanted to take, but he needed to formalise his education in public policy. Through first-hand experience, he realised the importance of good policy planning and implementation. All he needed now was to find sponsors willing to invest in him.

Stories of Change: Alumni

UMESH JADHAV

Project Lead at International Innovation Corps



Fortunately, Umesh discovered ISPP. He was drawn to ISPP due to the incredible faculty members and curriculum, but his dreams could only be fulfilled with the generous scholarship that was offered to him. At ISPP, Umesh thrived in his interactions with scholars and faculty members, adding value to class discussions in more ways than one, thanks to his professional and personal experiences.

At every step of the way, Umesh remained socially active and helped out whoever approached him for help. He now works with the University of Chicago Trust's IIC Fellowship, which allows him to work with government actors in the field of public health in Lucknow.

For Umesh, education is more than a means for personal growth. It is a vehicle for long-term empowerment and community development. He firmly believes that by investing in human resources, one can see returns on investment for a lifetime. He remains committed to giving back to the community in any way he can. Umesh is a living testament to the power of what financial aid can do to uplift not just an individual but a whole family and beyond.

“Public policy is an instrument for large scale impact. So if one is able to support a few socially committed professionals who would otherwise not be able to make it due to lack of resources, then it would be a gamechanger for all.”

Umesh holds deep gratitude towards ISPP for equipping him with the knowledge and skills essential for success in the development sector.

Stories of Change: Alumni

PANKHURI JAIN



Consultant at The World Bank



Pankhuri Jain began her career journey at the ISPP, where she underwent transformative training and gained exposure to industry experts.

At ISPP, Pankhuri delved deep into the intricacies of the policy space, building a strong foundation for her future endeavours. This education opened doors to exciting opportunities, leading her to secure the highly coveted Legislative Assistants to Members of Parliament (LAMP) Fellowship.

As a LAMP Fellow, Pankhuri had the honour of working closely with a Member of Parliament from the North-East region. This experience exposed her to the unique challenges faced by tribal communities in that area. Motivated by her passion for positive change, she utilised her parliamentary knowledge and tools like zero hours, question hours, and Private Member's Resolutions to actively address pressing issues such as healthcare, sanitation, and unemployment in Meghalaya and other parts of North-East India.



Pankhuri's journey from ISPP to the LAMP Fellowship and eventually becoming a World Bank Consultant equipped her with a unique blend of academic knowledge and practical experience. Armed with this powerful combination, she has embarked on her mission to create a more inclusive and equitable society by addressing critical policy issues.

Pankhuri receives the Alumni Award 2023 from
Dr. Suman Bery, Vice Chairman of the NITI
Aayog and ISPP Founding Dean, Professor
Shubhashis Gangopadhyay

Stories of Impact: Scholar

KARUNA REANG



Karuna, a native of Tripura in Northeastern India, has a solid social science background. She graduated from Stonehill College in Boston and majored in International Relations with concentrations in International Relations and Healthcare Administration. Her fervent interest lies in health and education policies, and she has actively collaborated with grassroots organisations to bridge gaps in these areas, both in India and the US.

Driven by a passion for promoting inclusive growth, Karuna dedicated her efforts to working with particularly vulnerable primitive groups (PVTGs) in her home state of Tripura. Her unwavering commitment to lifelong learning brought her to the PGP programme at ISPP. This experience further nurtured her thirst for knowledge, encouraging learning beyond the traditional classroom setting.

Recently, Karuna completed an Immersive Learning Project with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs. In collaboration with the Government of India's Mission Karmyogi, she was pivotal in developing an innovative online platform to enhance competency-based capacity building for government officials.

With her academic accomplishments, hands-on experience with grassroots organisations, and the successful implementation of the online platform, Karuna continues to make significant strides towards achieving her aspirations.



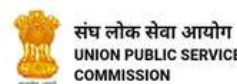
Karuna also moonlights as an ISPP Ambassador as she interacts with incoming candidates for the batch of 2024, giving them a detailed glimpse of the ISPP experience she received.

Stories of Impact: Scholar

GUNJITA AGRAWAL



ISPP Scholar, Class of 2023 & UPSC-26 Rank Holder



Gunjita's journey stems from her nuclear family with ancestral ties in Madhya Pradesh's Morena District. Her father, the first engineering graduate in their village, moved to Bhopal seeking better opportunities. Her upbringing instilled values of independence and responsibility while nurturing her remarkable penchant for extracurricular activities.

Her early and active participation in the National Services Scheme set her on a career path in public policy, administrative services, and development.

To pursue her aspirations, Gunjita chose the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP) for academic training while preparing for the highly competitive UPSC examination. The Policy Praxis Lab at ISPP provided her with invaluable opportunities to analyse complex public policy issues from various perspectives. Under the mentorship of Prof. Krishna K Ladha, she navigated challenges within and beyond the institution, growing both professionally and personally.

Throughout her journey, Gunjita found inspiration from luminaries like Dr. Shubhashis Gangopadhyay, the Founding Dean, Director and Co-founder Mr. Parth Shah, and Chairperson & Co-founder, Mr. Luis Miranda, who shared inspiring leadership insights. Balancing academics with civil services exam preparation, she received unwavering support and guidance from Mr. Dhruva Mathur, Academic Coordinator and her batchmates, forming a reliable community at ISPP.

Grateful for the values instilled at ISPP, Gunjita emphasises the importance of academic integrity and honesty, essential traits for any future policymaker. She envisions ISPP as a transformative force in India's public policy landscape, even in its formative stage.

With her unwavering determination nurtured by family and honed at ISPP, Gunjita now embarks on a promising future, brimming with opportunities to effect positive change and make a lasting impact on society.

“

"If the world inside you is at peace, you would stop looking for outside approval. Be your own witness, hold yourself high, and spread kindness",

”



ISPP faculty and family congratulate Gunjita on-campus.



Meet the ISPP Career Advisory Council



Ajay Khanna

Professor of Practice &
Advisor- Careers, ISPP



Rajneet Goswami

Global Head – Corporate
Affairs,
Tata Consultancy Services



Manash Neog

Co-founder & Director,
Chase India



Gaurav Gupta

Global Managing Partner,
Dalberg



Namrita Jhangiani

Partner, Egon Zehnder



Mathias B. Pontoppidan

Managing Partner, Pontoka



Vishwanath Ts

Director General, PAFI &
Co-founder, RV
Vekommunicate



Rohit Kumar

Co-founder, The Quantum
Hub



Kanchan Lall

Director of Partnerships &
Operations, The Education
Alliance



Shubha Ganguly

Director, India Operations,
IDinsight



Manisha Tulli

Senior AVP & HR Lead,
Invest India



Shriya Sethi

Director, Centre for Social
Impact, McKinsey & Co.

ISPP placements: Batch of 2023



SAFAI KARMACHARI ANDOLAN

A movement for elimination of manual scavenging



To support or connect ISPP scholars with career opportunities, please contact **Urvashi Shahi**, Head - Placements, Partnerships & Strategic Alliances at urvashi@ispp.org.in



LET'S CONNECT!



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