

NEWS BYTE

JULY-SEPTEMBER, 2023



INDIAN
SCHOOL
OF PUBLIC
POLICY

VISION

*Democratise public policy and
build capacity across Samaaj,
Sarkaar and Bazaar*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

1. Letter from the Founders	01
2. ISPP's new Dean - Dr O P Agarwal	02
3. Message from the Dean	03
4. Making Public Policy Education Accessible	04-05
5. ISPP Impact - The last 4.5 years	06-07
6. Convocation Ceremony - Class of 2023	08-09
7. Welcoming Class of 2024	10-11
8. Launch of Alumni Bar Association	12
9. ISPP Ambassador Programme	13
10. Constituency Catalyst: Immersive Learning Engagement with MLA	14
11. New Programme in Executive Education - Understanding Government	15
12. Fun on campus - ISPP Badminton League 2023	16

LETTER FROM THE FOUNDERS



LUIS MIRANDA



PARTH SHAH

We are very excited to bring the July-September 2023 newsletter to you, as we complete yet another action-packed quarter.

This quarter kickstarted with the announcement and appointment of our new Dean - **Dr O P Agarwal**, after a 5-month strenuous global search process. We are elated to hand over the reins of our now 4.5-year-old institute, which is growing exponentially, to Dr Agarwal, fondly known as OP. He brings with him enriching experience across samaaj, sarkaar, and bazaar, as well as **pronounced leadership skills and values**.

Over the past 4.5 years, ISPP has strived to make quality public policy education accessible to aspiring professionals, regardless of their financial backgrounds. We firmly believe in the power of education to drive social change, having awarded **Rs. 5.2 crores in financial aid** since our inception to marginalised yet talented scholars, advancing their pursuit of knowledge. We hope to take this movement forward to drive further impact in truly **democratising public policy education and societal transformation**.

The Class of 2023 graduated with a grand convocation ceremony, graced by **Dr Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson - NITI Aayog**, as our chief guest, who left a lasting impression on our scholars, as they stepped into the practical policy ecosystem.

The Class of 2024, was welcomed with engaging orientation weeks and establishment of a dynamic **Scholars Council**. Furthermore, we launched our **Alumni Bar Association**, which is now strong with an alumni network of 285 scholars, as well as the **ISPP Ambassadors Programme**, offering an immersive experience in policy communication.

A highlight of the quarter is the **Constituency Catalyst Programme**, a unique, transformative initiative in collaboration with a serving MLA. Here, ISPP scholars will get an opportunity to play a key role in fostering greater collaboration across development stakeholders and policy implementation to maximise the growth potential of the MLA's constituency, under the esteemed mentorship of **Dr Anup Wadhwan**, former Commerce Secretary to the Government.

We are proud of how far we have come, but we also realise how far we have to go. We value your partnership in nurturing future public policy leaders, addressing both local and global challenges to contribute towards nation-building.

ISPP'S NEW DEAN - DR O P AGARWAL



Dr O P Agarwal

IAS (Retd.)
Former CEO, WRI India
Former Executive Director, Institute of
Infrastructure Management, Indian School of
Business

Dr O P Agarwal brings with him rich experience across the realms of samaaj, sarkaar, and bazaar. Prior to his association with ISPP, he had been the India Country Director of the World Resources Institute and the CEO of its Indian arm, WRI India, playing a pivotal role in taking WRI India to great heights. Dr Agarwal has also served as the Executive Director at the Institute of Infrastructure Management at the Indian School of Business (ISB) and previously chaired the U.S. Transportation Research Board's Committee on Transportation in Developing Countries.

Fostering excellence in policy education, we proudly welcome our new DEAN

He also worked with the World Bank for 6 years as its Global Urban Transport Advisor in Washington, D.C.

Dr O P Agarwal was a member of the Indian Administrative Service from 1979 to 2007. He held several positions with the Central Government and the State Government of Assam, including Joint Secretary (Training) to the Government of India in the Ministry of Personnel and Training from 2000 to 2005 and Joint Secretary (Urban Transport) in the National Ministry of Urban Development from 2005 to 2006.

He holds a Ph.D. in Transport Economics from the Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi, two Master's degrees in Transportation and Technology Policy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, USA, and a Bachelor's degree in Electrical Engineering from the Indian Institute of Technology, Chennai.

ISPP is delighted to have Dr O P Agarwal spearheading the next leg of its journey.



MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

Dear Friends,

After dedicating several decades to working in the government within the Indian Administrative Service, I now find myself observing the workings of government, both at the national and state levels, from a different vantage point here at the Indian School of Public Policy. This unique perspective has given me a renewed sense of purpose and a deeper understanding of the challenges our society faces and the public policy concerns that transcend borders; it is a global challenge.

Yet, even amidst these challenges, I remain profoundly optimistic about the potential of governance to improve the lives of our people, not just in India but across the world. This optimism is reinforced daily as I witness the incredible work being done by the scholars, alumni, and faculty of the Indian School of Public Policy, a few glimpses of which are showcased in this newsletter.

In my years of experience, I have come to realize that two fundamental qualities define successful careers in public policy: an unwavering focus on people and a firm belief in being able to improve their well-being in the years ahead. These qualities are embodied by our scholars in the Public Policy and Development Management (PDM) programme at ISPP. Intellectual honesty, a hunger for evidence, familiarity with a range of analytical methods, and an urge to find solutions amidst the complexities of real-world problems are some of the characteristics that define our scholars. The rigorous one-year PDM programme equips them to understand intricate issues and devise tangible solutions. They leave ISPP ready to apply their knowledge in the real world, poised to deliver meaningful results.

ISPP's commitment to diversity and inclusion is unwavering. We firmly believe that the most effective policies emerge when individuals from diverse backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives collaborate to tackle complex issues. As Dean, I am enthusiastic about the immense potential that ISPP embodies. Our institution is more than a seat of learning; it is a crucible where a new generation of informed, compassionate, and visionary policy leaders is forged. We strive to instill in our scholars a sense of responsibility, ethical conduct, and an unwavering commitment to the greater good.

I extend a warm invitation to visit our new campus or explore our revamped website virtually. Witness the excitement as the Indian School of Public Policy continues its journey to make the world a better place. We are deeply grateful for your continued interest in our mission, and we eagerly anticipate forging strong partnerships that will propel us toward a future where effective and ethical policy-making reigns supreme.

With utmost optimism and enthusiasm,

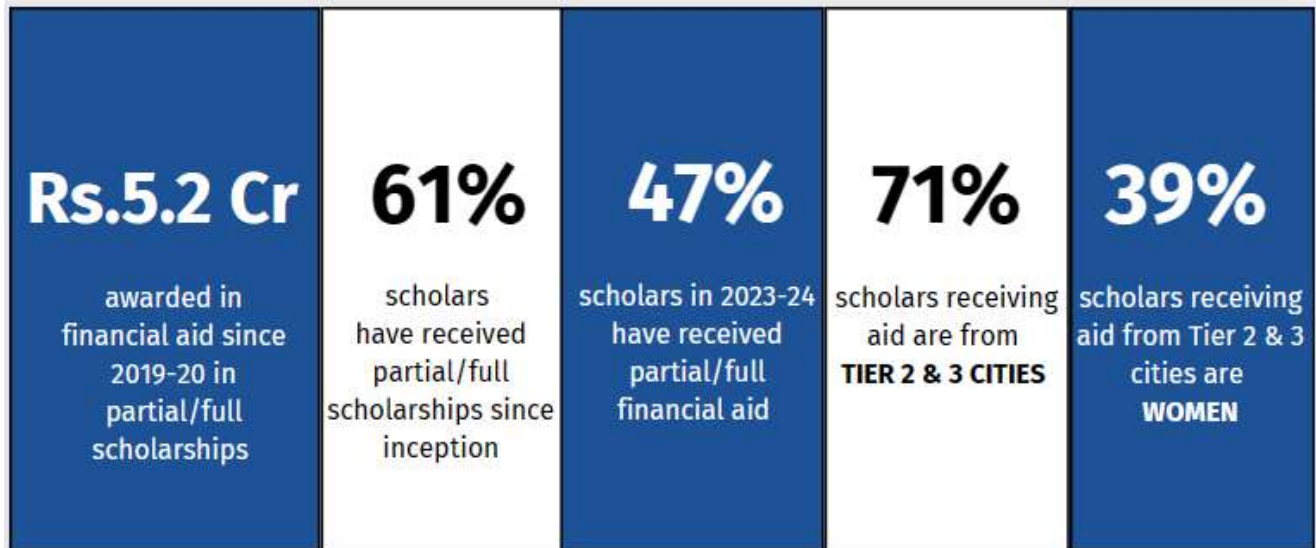
Dr O P Agarwal
Dean, Indian School of Public Policy

MAKING PUBLIC POLICY EDUCATION ACCESSIBLE & AFFORDABLE

At ISPP, we believe that **Academic Excellence and Inclusion are interdependent**. ISPP's financial aid programme has been a critical factor in advancing public policy education in India. Over four years, we have provided merit-based need-based financial assistance to **61% of our scholars**, ensuring that high-quality education is accessible to deserving students, regardless of their socio-economic circumstances.

STATE WISE FINANCIAL AID AWARDED

States	Representation
Maharashtra	17%
New Delhi	16%
Uttar Pradesh	14%
Bihar	6%
Haryana	6%
West Bengal	5%
Madhya Pradesh	4%
Telangana	4%
Karnataka	3%
Rajasthan	3%



Financial aid statistics from the past 4 years



MARGINALISED
SOCIO-ECONOMIC GROUPS



TIER-2 & TIER 3 CITIES



GENDER MINORITIES

**Focus areas to
ensure inclusivity
and equal
representation of
diverse groups**



Making Public Policy Education Accessible & Affordable

Meet some of our financial aid recipients



Shilpa Batra

Ms Shilpa Batra, a single mother of two, has always been passionate about educating women and children. With a deep interest in public administration, environment, and land reforms, she was determined to achieve her goal of "public welfare using education as a medium" through technology, strategic research, and planning.

Based on her scores in the admissions process and her financial need, she was recommended for financial aid. To ensure her commitment to public policy, she was assigned to an academic team member to develop a research output on education policy. Finally, based on the quality of that output, she was awarded a 100% scholarship.

Following her academic engagement with ISPP, Shilpa is currently serving as a Senior Consultant with EY for Government and Public Sector Services.

Mr Chinmay Dandekar, an engineer from Mumbai, shifted his focus from UPSC exams to public policy education. He discovered ISPP, affiliated with CCS and connected with renowned mentors, which transformed his understanding of India's policy landscape. ISPP's network connected him with influential figures in the field, and a generous scholarship motivated his transformative journey, despite his modest background and being the first in his family to study outside Maharashtra.

After ISPP, Chinmay achieved many 'firsts', including a placement at the Janaagraha Center for Citizenship and Democracy and the launch of a YouTube channel simplifying policy topics in Hindi. As the Head of Democracy and Organization at the Patrika Foundation, he credits ISPP for shaping his journey and providing knowledge, opportunities, and unwavering support.

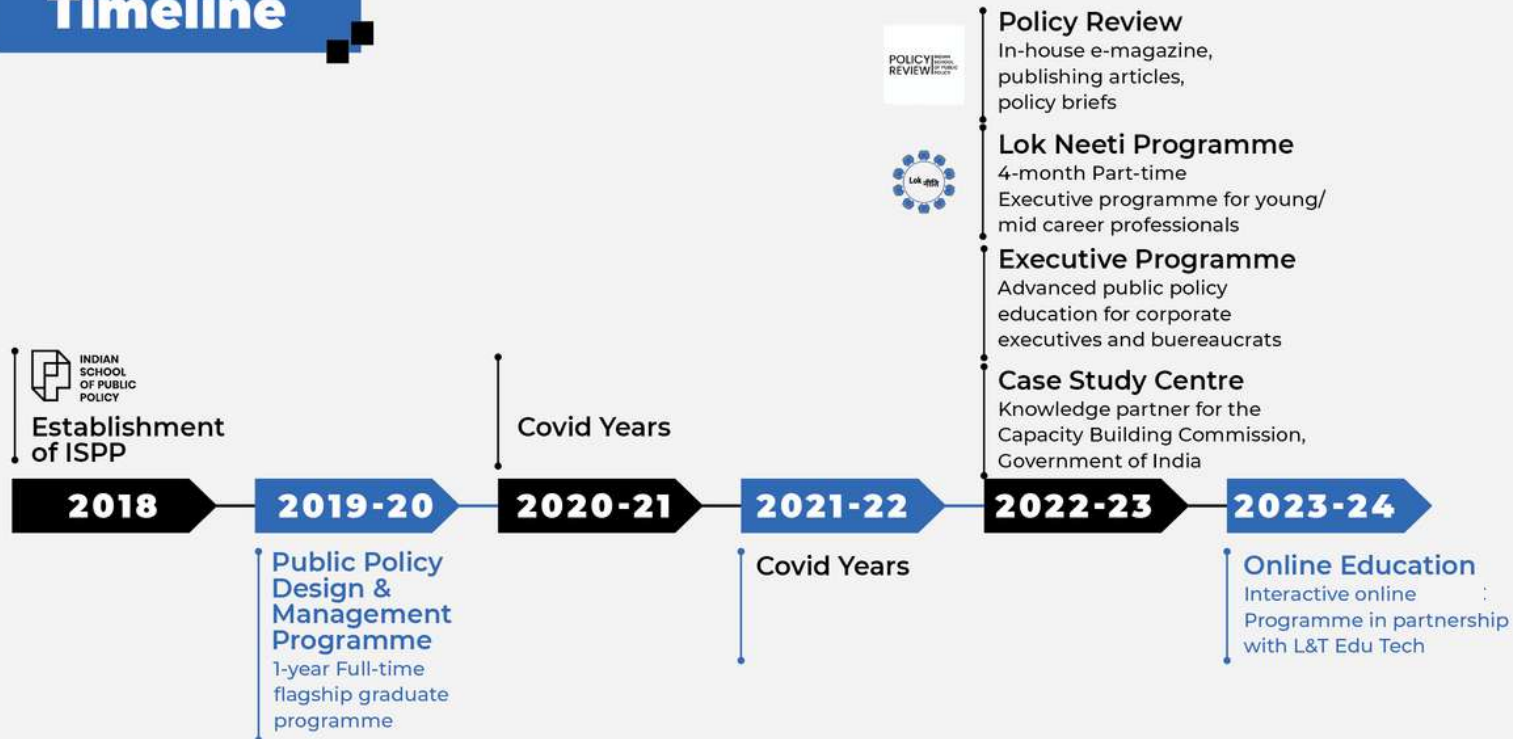


Chinmay Dandekar

ISPP's Impact

The last 4.5 years

Timeline



In line with our vision, ISPP offers five key academic programmes:

- 1. Post Graduate Programme in Policy, Design & Management:** ISPP's flagship 1-year course, currently in its fifth year with a batch of 49 scholars.
- 2. LokNeeti:** Targeted at working professionals, this 4-month hybrid programme is an intensive capsule course on the essentials of public policy.
- 3. Executive education programmes:** These are customised to meet specific corporate and government officials' training requirements.
- 4. Public Policy for Young Professionals:** A 21-hour Massive Open Online Course on Public Policy designed in partnership with Larsen & Toubro Edutech for young professionals.
- 5. Knowledge partnership with Capacity Building Commission (Gol):** A research and training collaboration with the Capacity Building Commission for Mission Karmayogi, Gol's capacity-building initiative for civil servants. Along with developing capacity-building modules, ISPP's Case Study Centre is working closely with the Commission to develop cutting-edge public policy case studies for training civil servants.

ISPP's Impact

The last 4.5 years

In a short span of 4.5 years, ISPP has educated close to **1000 people** - 334 scholars, 40 business executives, and 450 Government officials, across 4 academic programmes.

Impact In Education



334 Scholars

*full time + part
time programmes
on campus*



490 Executives

*across government
bodies, corporates
and non-profits*



**80+ students
Online Ed
Programmes**

launched in 2023



**Case Study Centre
in collaboration with**



*launched in 2023 to
train civil servants*

Significant strides have been made in external engagement through various offline events, workshops and online engagement via various platforms.

Impact In Engagement



686 Participants

**15+ On-ground Policy
Events**

*Policy commons, Policy
Relay, Book Talks, Policy
Workshops, Policy
Hackathon*



**1522
Participants**

10+ Online events

*Policy Workshops, Policy Talks,
Exclusive Sessions on emerging
careers & higher education in
Public Policy*



**2,00,000
Users**

Website Engagement

*Interaction with the significant
website user base utilizing the
platform as the voice to ISPP's
growth, engagement,
admissions and many more.*



**44,000
followers**

Social Media reach



CONVOCATION CEREMONY CLASS OF 2023



The Convocation Ceremony for the Class of 2023 of our flagship Postgraduate Programme in Policy Design and Management (PDM) was successfully conducted on the 15th of July, 2023, at the Dr Ambedkar International Centre, New Delhi.

In attendance were **Dr Suman Bery, Vice Chairperson of the NITI Aayog** as the chief guest and **Ms Vinita Sethi, President, Public Affairs Forum of India and SVP & Chief Public Affairs at the Apollo Hospitals Group** as the guest of honour

Former dean Dr Subhashis Gangopadhyay gave the welcome address, while the founders Dr Parth J. Shah and Mr Luis Miranda, as well as chief guest Dr Suman Bery, shared profound insights and words of inspiration.

The culmination of the event witnessed the valedictorian Mr Shivam Tandon representing the cohort's aspirations and Dr Pronab Sen giving his final words of wisdom to the scholars.

The culmination of dreams, the start of a legacy in the making, with the promise of nurturing future policy leaders.



CELEBRATING EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS WITH SCHOLAR'S AWARDS

Academic Awards

- **Dean's List:** Shivam Tandon (class valedictorian), Akash Mishra (2nd position), Sanjula Wanigasekera (3rd position)
- **Best Capstone:** Shivam Tandon and Sanjula Wanigasekera
- **ISPP Ambassador Award:** Anshuman Chaudhary
- **ISPP Spirit Award:** Musharraf Aamir
- **ISPP Torchbearer Award:** Anshuman Chaudhary



Certificates of Appreciation for the Scholar's Council

- **Speaker:** Anshuman Chaudhary
- **Academic Representatives:** Akanksha Jha, Raghuvarayan and Shalu Sapnani
- **Career Representative:** Abhishek Sood, Aprajita Morya, Shiksha Dahiya, Shivam Tandon, Shristy Singh, Richa Gupta and Unnati Sharad.

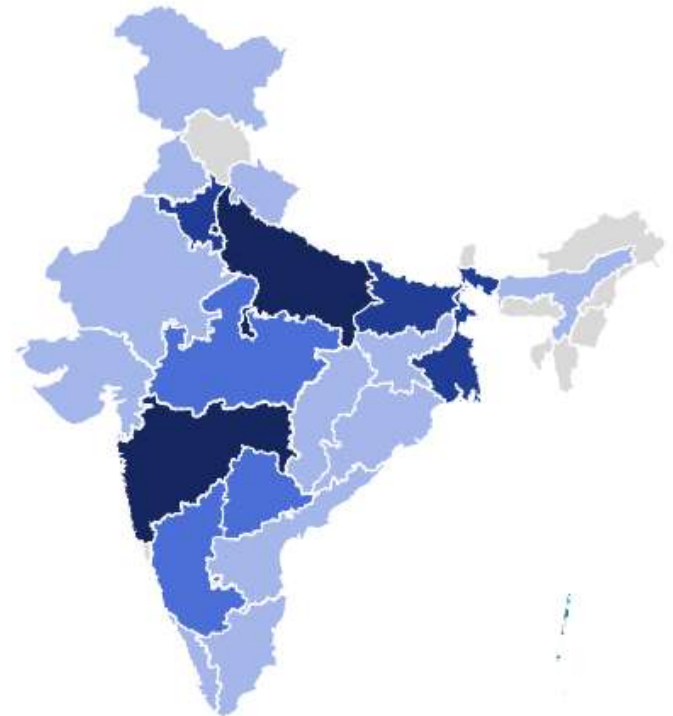
- **Leadership in Scholar Council award:** Shivam Tandon
- **Certificates of Appreciation for the ISPP Policy Review:** Nehal Gaur, Parth Chaturvedi, Kritika Yadav, Musharraf Aamir, Ramaa Mohan, Aswathy S, Amrutha Valli, Jay Gohil, Sanjula Wanigaseker and Akanksha Jha
- **ISPP Alumni Award:** Pankhuri Jain from the class of 2022



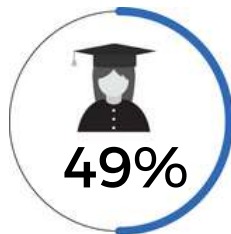
WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2024

Knowing the Cohort

Our latest cohort represents numerous cultures and backgrounds, making it one of our most diverse cohorts till date. Our cohort of 49 scholars has a gender ratio of 1 : 0.9 and represents 16 states and 1 union territory.



FEMALE
SCHOLARS



MALE
SCHOLARS

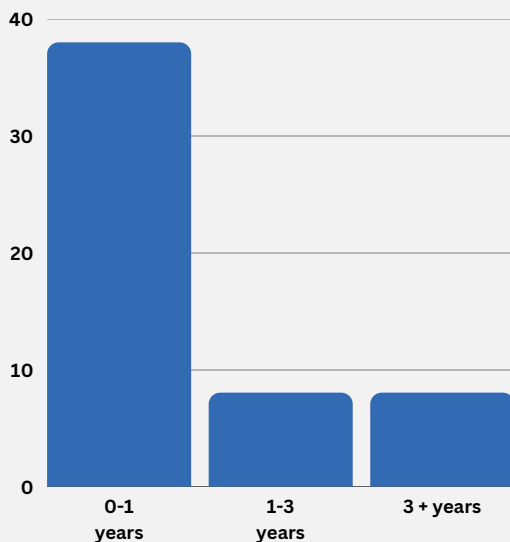
16 STATES, 1 UT

36%
PG DEGREE

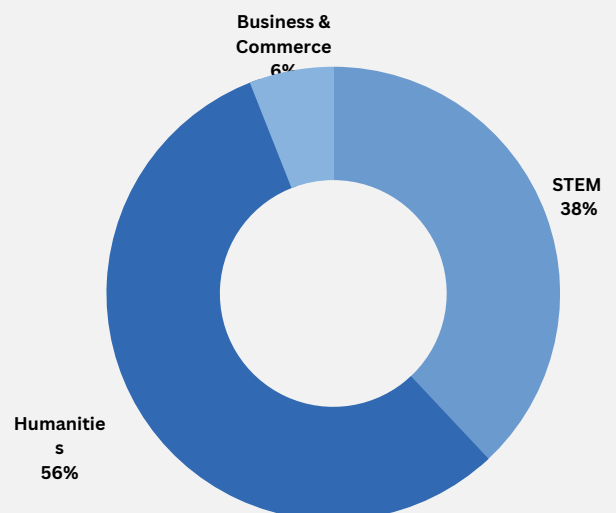
4%
INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE

12%
CERTIFICATE COURSES

WORK EXPERIENCE



SCHOLAR BACKGROUND



WELCOMING THE CLASS OF 2024



Orientation Week

We welcomed the class of 2024 of our Postgraduate Programme in Policy Design and Management (PDM) in the last week of July. The scholars journey at ISPP were kicked off by a commencement lecture by **Mr Shekhar Gupta, Editor-in-Chief for The Print**. He lit the path for our incoming class of 2024, enlightening them on the essence of policymaking – understanding the context behind policies and their creation during the conversation with our scholars Mr Atman Joshi & Ms Mayuri Anegondi from the new cohort. The scholars were also familiarised with the idea and inception of the institution by our co-founders **Dr Parth J Shah and Mr Luis Miranda**.

The week was an amalgamation of glimpses of what their year at ISPP would be like, with deep dives into the various aspects of policy education they would be studying over the course of the year, as well as exciting guest lectures from industry leaders and public policy veterans such as **Mr Rameesh Kailasam**, President & CEO of IndiaTech.org as well as, **Dr Stefanie Haeffele and Dr Jayme Lemke** from the Mercatus Center at George Mason University.

Scholar's council

As our new scholars settled in, ISPP conducted elections for the Scholar's Council for the academic year 2023-24. The elected council members are:

1. **Speaker:** Snehal Thakre
2. **Academic Representatives:** Sri Janaki Lakshmi Aruna, Omkar Dhanke and Adwithiya Pachisia
3. **Careers and Placements Representatives:** Prakhyat Mathur, Vaibhav Sindhi, Harshita Miglani, Mayank Raj, Aastha and Kumaraguru Pandian

LAUNCH OF THE ALUMNI BAR ASSOCIATION

We are absolutely thrilled to announce the inception of the **Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP) Alumni Association** —a vibrant and dynamic community celebrating the collective journey of our esteemed alumni.

Our alumni community stands as a testament to the resounding success of our programmes. Our **PDM** alumni community is **171 members** strong, while our **LokNeeti** programme has produced **114 distinguished scholars**.



GOVERNING BOARD

- Luis Miranda (Chairperson & Co-founder)
- Parth J Shah (Director & Co-founder)
- O P Agarwal (Dean)
- Krishna K Ladha (Professor)
- Ram Kamesh (Assistant Dean- Executive Education & Outreach)
- Urvashi Shahi (Head- Career Services & Alumni Engagement)
- Jay Gohil (Communication & Outreach Director)
- Rubal Bansal (Learning and Development Director)
- Saurabh Mishra, (Community Engagement Director)
- Mansi Srivastava (Institutional Relations Director)
- Sahana A (Fundraising and Finance Director)

COUNCIL

- Jay Gohil (PDM '23)
- Rubal Bansal (LokNeeti March '23)
- Saurabh Mishra (PDM '22)
- Mansi Srivastava (LokNeeti September '23)
- Sahana A (LokNeeti May '22)

BATCH OF ALUMNI REPRESENTATIVES (BAR)

- Shashank Mishra (PDM '20)
- Tushar Goel (PDM '20)
- Sachin Wayal (PDM '21)
- Priyanka Tibrewal (PDM '21)
- Anviti (PDM '22)
- Vyoma Dadhich (PDM '22)
- Kumar Nihal (PDM '23)
- Ambuj Sharma (PDM '23)
- Sumit Aggrawal (LokNeeti May '22)
- Jasmine Kaur (LokNeeti May '22)
- Adarsh Ashok (LokNeeti December '22)
- Ananya Khanna (LokNeeti December '22)
- Amit Gupta (LokNeeti March '23)
- Sourabh Babel (LokNeeti March '23)
- Pradeep Kumar Goshetty (LokNeeti September '23)



ISPP AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME



The **ISPP Ambassadors Programme** has been meticulously crafted to offer participants an immersive and multifaceted experience in the realm of policy communication. Our program will have the unique opportunity to delve into the intricate world of **policy communication**. By expanding their skill sets to encompass branding, marketing, and digital communications, our program ensures that they are well-prepared to **navigate the multifaceted challenges of the contemporary policy landscape**.

The scholars will gain hands-on experience in crafting and disseminating messages that are not only impactful but also resonate effectively with diverse audiences.

The areas in which they would be working are **social media management and analytics, website content management and analytics, brand management outreach support, counselling and multimedia content creation**.

The **Ambassadors for the academic year 2023-24** are Mr Kishor Avhad, Mr Atman Joshi, Mr Jose Deepak T T, Ms Leah, Miriam George, Ms Nallammal Sobana, Mr Omkar Namdev Dhanke, Mr Prayash Chhetri, Mr Preet Singh Gusai, Ms Rishika Gaur, Mr Shreshth Sinha, Ms Sristy Agarwal and Ms Shreya Pathak.



CONSTITUENCY CATALYST: IMMERSIVE LEARNING ENGAGEMENT WITH MLA

ISPP is proud to announce the launch of the **Constituency Catalyst Programme**, designed to support constituency-level representatives (Members of Legislative Assemblies) in the development of their regions. The programme aims to identify growth drivers for their constituencies and provide support in designing appropriate coordination and implementation plans to help achieve defined growth driver goals.

The 1st chapter of this unique and noteworthy programme has been launched in collaboration with **MLA Mr Arvind Bellad** from the Hubli-Dharwad West constituency in Karnataka.

ISPP scholars will play a key role in fostering greater collaboration across development stakeholders and policy implementation to maximise the growth potential of the MLA's constituency.

Arvind Bellad, MLA
Hubli-Dharwad West Constituency



A team of **4 scholars from the class of 2024 of PDM** have been assigned to work on the constituency, as part of their Immersive Learning Engagement (ILE), under the esteemed mentorship of **Mr Anup Wadhwan**, Senior Fellow at ISPP and former Commerce Secretary, Government of India.



Kishor Avhad



Nallammal Sobana



Prakhyat Mathur



Rishika Gaur



Anup Wadhwan
Former Commerce Secretary, GOI
IAS (Retd.)
Independent Director, Yubi

The scholars taking on this ILE will perform the following key activities:

- Map the development landscape** of the selected constituency. This would include mapping actors, institutes, their functions, goals, and points of intersections.
- Analyse and identify “growth drivers”** or high leverage points in the constituency for future intervention.
- Identify possible points of contradictions** in planning and operational systems connected to the growth drivers.
- Support in designing appropriate coordination plans** to help achieve defined growth driver goals.

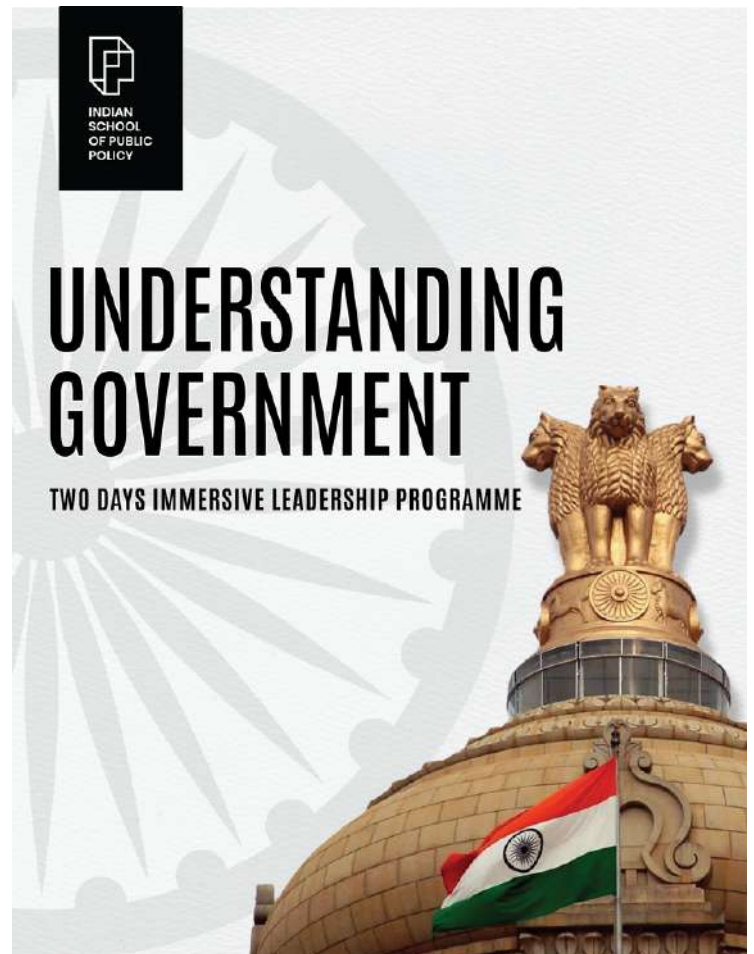
The engagement will serve as a synergistic relationship between stakeholders of Indian public policy landscape and the new-age policy professionals in the making.

UPCOMING PROGRAMME IN EXECUTIVE EDUCATION - UNDERSTANDING GOVERNMENT

ISPP is set to launch a new Executive education programme titled “**Understanding Government**” - designed to address critical challenges that are often faced when working with the government. Over two days, participants will cover four courses that begin with an ‘**Introduction to Indian public policymaking**’ and cover various aspects ranging from **governance** to **policy-making** and **building effective partnerships with the government**. The programme has been designed by **individuals who have served in the government** and have participated extensively in policymaking and governance processes. They have brought together their tremendous knowledge and insights on the Indian governance structures to design a course that blends the use of theory and practice to offer actionable learning outcomes.

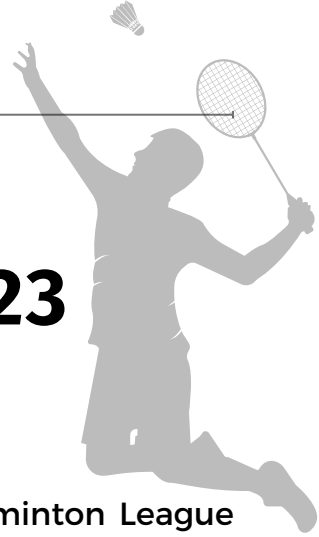
The programme will cover topics such as **Structure and Framework of Public Policy, Governance in India, Economic Policymaking in India & How does Government decide on investments**, in order to provide participants with a holistic view of various facets of policy making, pertaining to the government specifically.

This Executive Education programme is aimed at building local capacity in effective policy formulation and implementation amongst public policy/government relations divisions of large corporates, business unit heads of smaller corporates, heads of NGOs and think tanks, heads of academic institutions, representatives from industry associations and associations of civil society.



FUN ON CAMPUS

ISPP BADMINTON LEAGUE'23



We kicked off the ISPP Badminton League 2023 on campus recently, and the energy was electrifying! Nine teams battled it out showcasing their skills and teamwork.

The teams that participated in the IBL were:

1. Pokemon 2. Garuda 3. Policy Ninja 4. Black Mango 5. Popeye 6. Visionary 7. Suffer Naama 8. P Square 9. Pathani Wild Cats (team ISPP)

There were three mini-leagues, each one consisting of 3 teams. The best overall performing team qualified directly to the finals. The winner of the latter played the final with the first team and that's how we decided the tournament winner.

Visionary and Policy Ninja came in the battleground for the semi-final leading to the victory of Policy Ninja and giving them an opportunity to go directly to the Finals, where **Pathani Wild Cats won the IBL.**

IBL is an initiative taken under the **Antarang Leadership Lab** to develop the leadership qualities of scholars. The objective of this tournament is to **build team spirit and camaraderie among members and most importantly, to have fun.**



Badminton has been pivotal in adding an element of fun and vibrancy to the intense academic environment at ISPP.



LET'S CONNECT!



The Indian School of Public Policy
K-11, Hauz Khas Enclave,
New Delhi - 110016



www.ispp.org.in

Contact:

Sumeet Sandhu, Head - Development
sumeet@ispp.org.in
+91 8373 910 667