



Dean's Message

At ISPP, every milestone isn't just a marker of progress — it's a step towards our vision for 2030: to build a global hub for public policy education and research rooted in India's realities, yet shaping conversations worldwide.

This past quarter has been a vibrant chapter in that journey.

We expanded ISPP's reach with our four Research Centres: Centre for Universal Health Assurance (CUHA), ISPP Centre for Urban Transitions (ICUT), Indian Network for Economic Research (INER), and Case Study and Research Centre (CSRC). Each Centre is designed to drive evidence-based learning, cutting-edge research, and practice-driven insights that address India's most pressing governance and policy challenges.

The Class of 2026 started in August with 66 scholars, our largest batch. A new group of upcoming policy professionals ready to question, reimagine, and contribute towards shaping India's future.

The Class of 2025 had its Convocation in July with Professor Karthik Muralidharan as the Chief Guest. It was a moment of pride for us as mentors and faculty, as we reflected on the achievements of our graduates. As these scholars move into government, development sector, or entrepreneurship, the knowledge, skills and wisdom will support their resilience, leadership, and curiosity.



Looking ahead, our commitment is clear: ISPP will continue to be a space where research meets practice, where India's policy challenges inspire global solutions, and where the next generation of leaders are equipped not just to participate in policymaking, but to transform it.

Dr. Parth J Shah
Dean and FA Hayek Professor of
Spontaneous Order

Thematic Spotlight | ISPP Research Centres

This quarter, we turn the spotlight on ISPP Research Centres, spaces of innovation, research, and applied learning that anchor our academic and practitioner ecosystem.



Centre for Universal Health Assurance (CUHA)

CUHA as a hub for research, innovation, and policy dialogue, develops evidence-based solutions to strengthen primary healthcare, improve affordability, leverage technology, and expand access, to reimagine how healthcare can be made truly universal.



ISPP Centre for Urban Transitions (ICUT)

ICUT researches to develop new approaches for city planning and management, bridging the gap between outdated frameworks and India's contemporary urban realities. It also develops unique capacity-building Programmes for professionals and institutions to equip leaders with the skills required to keep cities dynamic, resilient, and inclusive.



Indian Network For Economic Research (INER)

INER aims to transform Indian economic research with a networked, data-driven, policy-focused approach. It bridges gaps between data and policy, academia and government, and national and international scholars, promoting open-access research and empowering young economists to shape evidence-based policy.



Case Study and Research Centre (CSRC)

CSRC turns real-world policy challenges into practical learning resources. Through case studies on governance and public policy, it equips learners to analyse complex problems and supports evidence-based policymaking across government and training programmes.

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ISPP Spotlights

A Farewell, and a New Beginning: ISPP Convocation, Class of 2025



The ISPP Class of 2025 graduated this quarter, marking a milestone of perseverance, purpose, and progressive spirit. The ceremony brought together students, families, faculty, and distinguished guests. Our Chief Guest, Prof. Karthik Muralidharan, inspired the cohort with words of wisdom and encouragement for the road ahead.

As our graduates step into the world, they carry not just knowledge but the values to lead change in governance and policy.

[Hear from the Batch of 2024-25](#)



Welcoming the Class of 2026: A New Journey Begins

This quarter, ISPP welcomed 66 new scholars, the largest class in ISPP history, into the **Postgraduate Programme in Public Policy, Design & Management (PDM)**. Orientation Week, facilitated by Manali Shah, sparked curiosity, connection, and purpose through immersive sessions with faculty, peer learning, and dialogues with faculty, mentors and practitioners alike, setting the foundation for a year of rigorous study and growth.



Inside the Strategic Stakeholder Management Workshop

ISPP, in collaboration with the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), hosted a two-day programme on **Strategic Stakeholder Management** (20 & 21 June) for mid-to-senior professionals in corporate affairs, policy, and advocacy. Through sessions on stakeholder mapping, coalition building, conflict resolution, and government engagement, participants gained practical insights into navigating India's policy landscape.

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Understanding Government: An Executive Programme

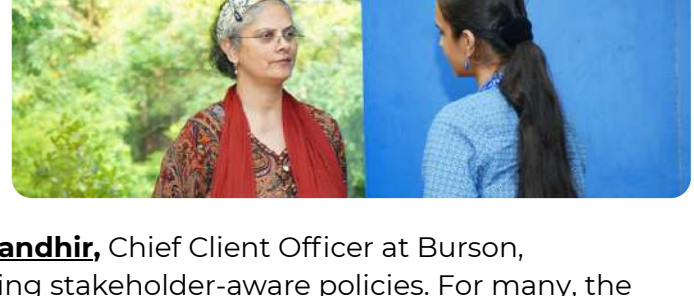
Policy isn't just written, it is also lived. That's what participants discovered in the **Understanding Government programme**, co-hosted by ISPP and PAFI.



Senthil Jayaraman, Director at JM Fountain and Mashini Home Designs, reflected on how the course helped him translate field experience into policy insight — shaping his contractor-driven model into a project-driven model.



Nikita Nanda, Manager at EY, and **Vandana Sandhir**, Chief Client Officer at Burson, emphasised the role of deep research in creating stakeholder-aware policies. For many, the programme sparked a mindset shift — challenging assumptions, grounding ideas in evidence, and shaping sharper solutions for governance and public policy.



Alumni Corner & Impact

Anviti's Journey from Policy Classroom to Global Stage

Meet Anviti (PDM 2022) — a social worker turned policy professional who is helping to strengthen India's healthcare system with The Antara Foundation. From working in tribal Madhya Pradesh to presenting a pilot study on maternal health at the 8th Global Public Health Conference in Bangkok (where she was awarded Best Presenter), her journey shows how policy meets practice.

She credits ISPP with sparking her curiosity and sharpening her critical thinking, lessons that carries into every role — whether it's engaging with district officials, analysing data with communities, or sharing her views as a Knowledge Management Associate. True to the spirit of ISPP, Anviti continues to prove that policy is most powerful when shaped with people, not just for them.



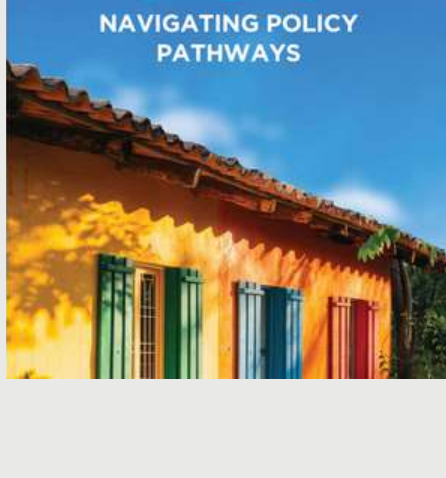
Driving Public Impact: Deeksha Aggarwal's Policy Journey

Deeksha Aggarwal, Senior Consultant at Deloitte, is helping transform public systems across South Asia. From strengthening healthcare infrastructure with the International Finance Corporation and Asian Development Bank, to working alongside governments in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka, her projects are creating a lasting impact on public health and governance.

Her journey took shape at ISPP, where she honed the skills to turn ideas into scalable solutions and learned to see policy as a tool for problem-solving. Since then, she has worked with both EY and Deloitte, bringing rigour, compassion, and systems thinking to some of the most pressing development challenges.

For Deeksha, public policy is not theory, it's action. And with every project, she continues to push forward the ISPP vision of evidence-based, people-centred governance.

ISPP Reading Room



Rethinking Homestays: Navigating Policy Pathways

ISPP's Case Study and Research Centre (CSRC), in collaboration with NITI Aayog, released the report **"Rethinking Homestays: Navigating Policy Pathways"**. The study outlines reforms in registration, compliance, incentives, and sustainability models, positioning homestays as drivers of inclusive tourism, entrepreneurship, and cultural preservation on the road to Viksit Bharat@2047.

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The Land Conundrum: Unpacking India's Most Persistent Policy Puzzle

Former IAS officer and land policy expert Deepak Sanan unpacks why land continues to be one of India's thorniest policy challenges. He highlights the economic costs of distorted land markets — over 1.3% of GDP lost annually — and traced the problem to colonial-era taxation records, poorly executed post-independence reforms, and weak urban land titling. With multiple claimants, outdated surveys, and presumptive ownership laws, land remains a bottleneck for growth, equity, and ease of doing business.

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This is but a glimpse into the exciting world of ISPP. We encourage you to stay connected and learn more about our initiatives.

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