

ISPP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JOURNEYS OF CHANGE

29 Nov 2025



ISPP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note

Welcome to the **Fourth Edition** of the ISPP Alumni Association Newsletter!

I hope you all had a wonderful Diwali, a festival that reminds us of renewal and shared purpose. As the year draws to a close, I'm delighted to bring you this edition, which highlights the remarkable work and achievements of our alumni community.

We are also gearing up for ISPP Alumni Day on 20th December 2025, a chance for all of us to reconnect, celebrate our journeys, and strengthen the vibrant network that defines ISPP.

In this issue, we spotlight alumni who continue to shape public policy through their leadership and commitment. You'll read about Prakhyat Mathur's role at the Confederation of Indian Industry, The impactful grassroots efforts of twin sisters Shalvi and Shashvi through Project MAHS, key

institutional updates from ISPP, and the professional growth of Akanksha Chaturvedi, who has taken on a new role at MicroSave Consulting.

We also proudly congratulate the Class of 2025 on their graduation. As newly trained public policy professionals, they now officially join the ISPP Alumni Association, and we're excited to welcome them into our expanding network.

Alumni engagement remains at the heart of everything we do. The more we stay connected, the stronger our collective impact becomes, through shared insights, collaborations, and a shared commitment to public purpose.

Regards,
Jay Gohil
Director,
Communication & Outreach
ISPP Alumni Association

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Shaping Public Policy Through Experience: Prakhyat Mathur's Story

Prakhyat Mathur (**PDM 2024**) is a public policy professional with diverse experience across Parliament, political leadership, government institutions, consulting firms, and industry associations. He holds a degree in History from Delhi College of Arts & Commerce, University of Delhi, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Public Policy, Design, and Management from the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP), along with diploma certifications in Indian Foreign Policy and Governance.

His entry into public policy was shaped by his UPSC Civil Services preparation, which strengthened his belief in ethical governance and visionary political leadership. He began his professional journey as a Public Policy Research Intern during the MCD Elections 2022, gaining early exposure to the intersection of politics and policymaking.

Prakhyat then worked with the Office of Dr. Fauzia Khan, MP (Rajya Sabha), first as a Research Intern and later as a Parliamentary Research & Communication Associate. Over time, he expanded this experience by supporting several Members of Parliament and MLAs, deepening his understanding of parliamentary processes, legislative functions, and the broader policy adoption ecosystem. His engagements with institutions such as the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Delhi Dialogue and Development Commission, and Centre for Civil Society added valuable perspectives on governance challenges.

Prakhyat Mathur Joins the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII)

His role with the Godrej Industries Group introduced him to Government Affairs, where he worked on policy issues in affordable housing, NHFCs, fake online reviews, and home insecticide regulations. He also contributed to an industrial policy benchmarking study across 11 states, supporting investment decisions of over ₹500 crore.

At VeK – Policy Advisory Firm, he led Government Affairs projects, advising clients on government engagement and aligning business goals with policy priorities. His efforts helped highlight industry concerns before stakeholders such as the PMO, Ministry of Finance, Ministry of Commerce & Industry, and NITI Aayog. He now serves as an Executive Officer at the Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), enabling industry engagement with Members of Parliament, Parliamentary Committees, State Legislators, and political leaders. His work centres on sensitising policymakers to industry challenges and presenting solution-oriented recommendations.

His education at ISPP shaped his analytical approach, supported by courses like Structure of Government, Economics & Law, International Trade, and Design Thinking, and mentorship from faculty such as Prof. O.P. Agarwal, Prof. Subhashish Gangopadhyay, Parth J. Shah, and Luis Miranda.

With diverse experience across governance, parliamentary affairs, global trade, and geopolitics, he remains committed to advancing public-oriented, solution-driven policies for India.

Twin Voices for Change: The Story Behind Project MAHS



Project MAHS—Menstrual Awareness, Hygiene & Sanitation—is a powerful grassroots initiative led by twin sisters Shalvi and Shashvi (**PDM 2025**), whose shared experiences growing up in Ahmedabad shaped a deep commitment to women's dignity and empowerment. Raised in an environment marked by patriarchal norms and limited access to education for girls, they witnessed firsthand the silences and inequalities that continue to affect women's lives across India.

The spark for this work began early for Shalvi. Her time with the NGO U&I exposed her to the challenges faced by underprivileged women—restricted mobility, lack of information, and limited access to affordable menstrual products. Her research on “Gaps and Challenges faced by Women in Decision Making in India” further strengthened her resolve to address structural barriers through awareness and advocacy.

A major turning point came when Shalvi was selected for the SUSI Young Women Leaders Programme at the University of Kansas. Immersed in global perspectives on leadership and public policy, she developed a capstone project focused on menstrual hygiene and sexual and reproductive health for rural women. Supported by a micro-grant from the U.S. State Department, this idea evolved into what is now Project MAHS. This took a leap, when she again represented the Project in Prague at ‘Global Leadership Workshop’, sanctioning the grant for the second time in the row.

The initiative responds to a stark reality: 71% of Indian adolescent girls learn about menstruation for the first time only when it happens to them. Project MAHS addresses this gap by conducting awareness sessions on menstrual hygiene, sexual boundaries, and reproductive health, while also providing access to sanitary napkins and safe, stigma-free spaces for young girls to ask questions. The project works primarily in rural communities around Ahmedabad, where open conversations on menstrual and sexual health remain rare.

The project's impact on the ground has been strengthened by the shared leadership of both sisters. Together, their empathy, cultural understanding, and sustained engagement have helped build trust within communities and provide access to cloth sanitary napkins. The project is being implemented in many Anganwadis and Public Schools in Gujarat, impacting 1500+ girls and distributing 2000+ pads.

Project MAHS stands as a reminder that meaningful change often begins with dialogue, awareness, and the courage to challenge silence. As Shalvi and Shashvi continue expanding their work, their journey reflects the spirit of young public-minded leaders translating compassion into action—an example that resonates deeply within the ISPP alumni community.

*A Story of Change led by Shalvi and Shashvi
-impacting 1,500+ girls and distributing
2,000+ pads.*

Corridor Conversations: Your Source for Institutional Updates

ISPP Session with Ms. Reina Shah: Insights on Policy & Women's Empowerment

ISPP hosted Ms. Reina Shah, Founder of The Step, for an engaging Tea & Policy session. She shared valuable insights on the policy landscape, emerging career paths, and women's economic empowerment through the STEP model. Her authenticity and experiences inspired our scholars and sparked meaningful discussions.



The Evolving Public Policy Space



Shubhashis Gangopadhyay



Jay Gohil

ISPP Alumnus | Consultant, Tech & Public Policy, KPMG India

New NITI Aayog-ISPP Study Unveils Roadmap for Homestay-Led Tourism Growth

NITI Aayog, in partnership with ISPP's Case Study & Research Centre, has released the report "Rethinking Homestays: Navigating Policy Pathways." The study highlights the transformative role of India's homestay sector in driving inclusive tourism, local entrepreneurship, cultural preservation, and sustainable employment. It outlines actionable policy measures for states to improve regulations, enhance ease of doing business, and strengthen digital-first systems. ISPP is proud to have contributed to this landmark report shaping homestays as key pillars of *ViksitBharat@2047*.

What's changing in the world of public policy and what does it mean for future practitioners?

ISPP recently hosted a webinar titled "The Evolving Public Policy Space," featuring Prof. Shubhashis Gangopadhyay and ISPP alumnus Jay Gohil. The session offered valuable insights from both academia and industry, helping participants understand the shifting policy landscape and the opportunities emerging for aspiring professionals.



ADMISSIONS OPEN!

Applications are now open for the Postgraduate Programme in Policy, Design & Management (2026–27) at the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP).

Begin your journey towards impact and leadership in public policy.

Contact: 7303200363 Email: admissions@ispp.org.in

Class of 2025 Convocation: Welcoming the Newest Members of the ISPP Alumni Network



The ISPP Convocation 2025 marked a significant milestone, bringing together students, families, faculty, alumni, and distinguished guests for a day of reflection, inspiration, and celebration. The ceremony recognised not only academic achievement but also the character, commitment, and public purpose that define the ISPP community.

Award-winning students shared meaningful reflections on how ISPP shaped their intellectual growth, strengthened their policy thinking, and prepared them to navigate real-world challenges. Their experiences highlighted ISPP as a transformative journey rooted in purpose and confidence.

The Convocation featured an insightful address by Prof. Karthik Muralidharan, who encouraged graduates to pursue bold ideas, remain grounded in evidence and empathy, and carry forward the spirit of public service. His message set a strong and thoughtful tone for the batch.

Several alumni, including Shivam Tondon (PDM 2023), attended the ceremony, reflecting the growing strength and engagement of the ISPP alumni community.

As the Batch of 2025 stepped across the stage, they carried with them clarity of purpose and a commitment to public good. Their journey stands as a testament to ISPP's mission of shaping the next generation of policy leaders—entering the world with ambition, humility, and conviction.



Akanksha Chaturvedi has taken on a new role as Assistant Manager at MicroSave Consulting.

Akanksha Chaturvedi (PDM 2023)'s academic path began with Engineering, where she developed a deep interest in understanding how technology shapes everyday life. After graduating, she joined Capgemini as a Software Developer, spending over two years building and maintaining digital systems. While the technical problem-solving was rewarding, she increasingly felt the need to channel her work toward creating public value and addressing societal challenges.

With this purpose, Akanksha transitioned from the world of technology to public policy. The Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP) became a defining milestone, helping her understand how Samaaj, Sarkaar, and Bazaar interact to bring systemic change. ISPP showed her that technology, guided by thoughtful policy design and institutional collaboration, can transform governance and citizen outcomes.

After ISPP, she joined the India Development Foundation (IDF) as a Research Associate, where she worked on emerging technologies, particularly Artificial Intelligence. Her research explored what India needs to build an inclusive and responsible AI ecosystem, and how AI can drive equity, economic growth, and public welfare.

Today, Akanksha continues this journey of integrating technology and policy. She recently joined MicroSave Consulting (MSC) as an Assistant Manager at the Centre for Responsible Technologies, where she works on Digital Public Infrastructure, especially Digital ID systems. She is currently involved with governments in India and globally to support the adoption of inclusive, trusted, and citizen-centric Digital ID frameworks.

Her journey is driven by a core belief: technology must serve people and enhance public service delivery. Akanksha is committed to building systems where innovation deepens inclusion, empowers citizens, and improves everyday lives.

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