

# ISPP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



JOURNEYS OF CHANGE

28 October 2024



## Editor's Note

Welcome to our very first ISPP Alumni Association Newsletter! Happy Diwali in advance to all our esteemed alumni! As we step into this festive season, we are excited to launch this newsletter, which marks a new chapter in our journey of reconnecting and engaging with our ever-growing ISPP alumni community.

The necessity of alumni engagement cannot be overstated. Staying connected allows us to grow stronger together, share experiences, and support each other as we navigate the world of public policy. Networking plays a crucial role in our field—it opens doors to new opportunities, fosters collaboration, and helps us collectively address complex policy challenges. This newsletter aims to be a bridge between alumni, providing updates, celebrating achievements, and offering opportunities to collaborate and stay involved.

In this issue, we are thrilled to introduce the '**ISPP Alumni Spotlight**' series, where we highlight the inspiring work and success stories of our alumni. If you would like to nominate someone or share your own journey, feel free to get in touch!

We are also happy to announce that the **Annual Alumni Dinner** will take place on **21 December 2024**. It will be a wonderful opportunity for everyone to reconnect, network, and celebrate the year gone by. Stay tuned for more details as we get closer to the event.

Here's to staying connected, supporting each other, and lighting up the path forward together!

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

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# Introducing the ISPP Alumni Association: Connect, collaborate, and shape the future of policy together

## Interim Council Members



**Apoorva Bhatnagar**

Manager-Research and Impact,  
Dream a Dream  
LokNeeti Class of December  
2022



**Boijayanti Sarker**

Assistant Manager Health and  
Nutrition, MSC-Enabling  
inclusion in the digital age  
PDM Class of 2020



**Rahul Gupta**

Founder Chartered Accountants, M R T &  
Associates, Senior Financial Advisor,  
MSME CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
LokNeeti Class of May 2022



**Himanshu Burad**

Officer on Special Duty (OSD) to  
ACEO & MD, ABDM, National  
Health Authority (NHA),  
PDM Class of 2020



**Ishan Gupta**

MPP candidate,  
University of Chichago,  
PDM Class of 2020



**Nipun Rathi**

Head of Public Policy, boAt  
PDM Class of 2021



**Prachi Mishra**

Walsh School of Foreign  
Services, Georgetown, Co-  
Founder & CEO, The Quantum  
Project,  
PDM Class of 2021



**Rajeev Tripathi**

Vice President Legal & FAA (RTI  
Act 2005), Vice President Legal &  
CPIO, Goods And Services Tax  
Network  
LokNeeti Class of December 2022

## Council of Members



**Saurabh Mishra**

Community Engagement  
Director, ISPP Alumni Association  
Ministry of Housing and Urban  
Affairs- PDM Class of 2022



**Mansi Srivastava**

Institutional Relations Director,  
ISPP Alumni Association  
PwC - LokNeeti Class of  
September 2023



**Rubal Bansal**

Learning and Development  
Director, ISPP Alumni Association  
Analysys Mason - LokNeeti Class  
of March 2023



**Sahana A**

Fundraising and Finance Director,  
ISPP Alumni Association  
Hombale Group - LokNeeti Class  
of May 2022



**Jay Gohil**

Communication & Outreach Director,  
ISPP Alumni Association  
India Development Foundation (IDF) -  
PDM Class of 2023

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# Introducing the ISPP Alumni Association: Connect, collaborate, and shape the future of policy together

## **Batch Alumni Representatives (BAR)**



**Adarsh Ashok**

Consultant  
LokNeeti Class of December 2022



**Ambuj Sharma**

Assistant Manager- Public  
Affairs, Genesis BCW  
PDM Class of 2023



**Amit Gupta**

Managing Director, Neeti Varta  
Policy Research Institute  
LokNeeti Class of March 2023



**Ananya Khanna**

Advocate, Supreme Court of India  
LokNeeti Class of December 2022



**Anviti**

Knowledge Management  
Associate, The Antara  
Foundation  
PDM Class of 2022



**Jasmine kaur**

Senior Fellow, Centre For  
Global Affairs and Public Policy  
LokNeeti Class of May 2022



**Kumar Nihal**

Consultant, Chase India  
PDM Class of 2023



**Pradeep Kumar Goshetty**

Advisory & Consultant  
(Self-employed)  
LokNeeti Class of September 2023



**Priyanka Tibrewal**

Senior Associate Municipal Law  
and Policy, Janaagraha Centre  
for Citizenship and Democracy  
PDM Class of 2021



**Sachin Wayal**

Assistant Director Khelo India,  
Sports Authority of India  
PDM Class of 2021



**Shashank Mishra**

Master's, Public Administration-  
Cornel University - PDM Class of  
2020



**Sourabh Babel**

Financial Analyst, Trafigura  
LokNeeti Class of March 2023



**Tushar Goel**

Management Trainee, JM  
Financial Ltd  
PDM Class of 2020



**Sumit Aggrawal**

Project Manager, Infosys  
LokNeeti Class of May 2022



**Vyoma Dadhich**

Assistant Manager, PwC India  
PDM Class of 2022





## Shaping India's Future: The Policy Path of Nipun Rathi

Mr. Nipun Rathi (**PDM Class of 2021**) is a keen, creative, learning-oriented professional with extensive experience working across governments, corporates, and consultancies. He is a qualified Chartered Accountant from the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India and holds a postgraduate degree in Public Policy, Design, and Management from the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP), India. He is currently heading the Public Policy & Government Affairs department at boAt Lifestyle. In his earlier career as a public policy professional, he worked in various organizations like OPPO Mobiles India Pvt. Ltd., the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology (GoI), the Ministry of Commerce & Industry (GoI), and the Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan.

Initially, working in roles like audit & assurance services, institutional equity research, wholesale capital markets, and wealth advisories, Nipun transitioned into roles like policy research & analysis, trade & investment promotion, policy advocacy, stakeholder management, and business strategy formulation roles. What brought a major chance in his approach towards looking to various problems & evaluating their complex solutions was his initial role as Policy Analyst while working with Planning Department, Government of Rajasthan. During that work stint, he was able to appreciate the fundamental, yet critical role played by Government & its governance machinery in bringing a holistic and sustainable growth in the country. He was now more motivated to work actively with Government & quasi government bodies going ahead.

### Nipun Rathi Appointed as Head of Public Policy & Government Affairs at boAt Lifestyle.

Later, he worked with various wings of the Government of India like the Ministry of Commerce & Industry, Niti Aayog, and Ministry of Electronics & IT (MeitY) on various trade & non-trade policies and incentive schemes of the Government of India. Working as programme manager on Production Linked Incentive (PLI) Scheme, evaluating Foreign Direct Investments (FDI) clearances, working on WTO & custom laws, supporting corporates to develop business strategies according to mandates of Indian Governments & its policies, providing supply chain & cost optimisation solutions, conducting policy advocacies for new & emerging technological domains, managing empowered committees meetings involving multiple departmental secretaries, handling Government auditors & programme Management Units, drafting parliamentary questions, getting policy & regulatory approvals from other allied ministries & departments were his few major work assignments in these Government roles.

His educational training in Public Policy from ISPP proved very handy for him to work on such complex and challenging roles as aforementioned. ISPP courses like economics and law, trade and global strategy, critical thinking, politics in public policy, game theory, statistics, behavioural sciences, design thinking, policy communications, market for development, etc., helped him shape as a holistic policy professional.

With his experiences working across sectors, including ESDM, Telecom, Financial Services, Consumer and retail, Digital Economy, emerging technologies, etc., and his diversified skillsets, he foresees continuing to develop and implement creative yet solution-oriented policies for India in the future. Ultimately, this will lead to sustainable and equitable socio-economic growth in the country, which has a real purpose and meaning for every global citizen.



## From Economics to Empowerment: Praneta Kansal's Journey in Public Policy

Praneta Kansal (**PDM Class of 2024**)'s journey began with a deep-seated curiosity about the economic forces that shape society. This interest led her to pursue a Master's in Economics from Panjab University, where she built a solid foundation in both theoretical and quantitative methods. During this time, she developed key skills in microeconomics, econometrics, and quantitative analysis—skills that would later become invaluable in her public policy career.

However, her curiosity wasn't just academic; she was eager to apply her learning to real-world challenges. This drive became the cornerstone of her career when she embarked on her postgraduate journey at the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP). The programme was a transformative experience that not only shaped her perspective on policy design and implementation but also deepened her understanding of various policy domains, including health, urbanization, and environmental sustainability.

At ISPP, Praneta Kansal was able to combine her passion for economics with practical policy challenges. One such project involved leading an independent study on illegal construction in Sangrur, where she applied both qualitative and quantitative research methods to analyze district-level data and inform macro-level policy recommendations. This experience allowed her to see firsthand how the theory of change, an intellectual tool, can be used to solve pressing societal issues.

### Empowering Senior Citizens: Praneta Kansal's Role at Inspiring Seniors Foundation

Her engagement in public policy was further enriched by her role as Associate Editor for the ISPP Policy Review. Through editing articles and policy briefs, she honed her critical thinking and communication skills—both essential in articulating complex policy issues clearly and persuasively. This experience reinforced the importance of effective communication in driving meaningful policy change.

The most fulfilling chapter of her career, however, began when she joined the Inspiring Seniors Foundation (ISF). As programme Manager, she manages various aspects of social media and website development, but her role goes far beyond that. She is at the forefront of implementing programmes that empower senior citizens—one of the most rewarding aspects of her work. Praneta has had the opportunity to lead initiatives such as the Health Hub, which includes programmes like Chat with Doctor and Daily Dose of Health, both of which were developed with the guidance and support of ISF.

Much of her groundwork for these initiatives was laid during her internship at ISF, where she helped develop a mentoring guide that improved programme comprehension, facilitated stakeholder analysis for senior citizen-related services, and played a key role in designing a website that quickly attracted volunteers. These projects, with their tangible impact, solidified her belief in the power of policy-driven social change.

Looking back, Praneta Kansal can see how each experience has shaped the professional she is today. From developing a strong foundation in economics to applying those skills to real-world policy issues, and now working to empower senior citizens through innovative programmes, her career has been a journey of continuous learning and impactful work.





## Srijeet Mukherjee: Championing Educational Reform through Public Policy

Srijeet Mukherjee (**LokNeeti Class of February 2024**) is a seasoned education and language professional with over 10 years of experience across for-profit, start-up, public university, and non-profit sectors. With a background in Linguistics and English Literature, Srijeet began his career at Oxford University Press, gaining insights into private education before transitioning to roles where he could drive broader social impact. As an Educational Specialist at Educational Initiatives Pvt Ltd, he developed assessments to evaluate language proficiency, recognizing the systemic issues of rote learning. This realization motivated him to edit and project-manage bilingual dictionaries at Oxford University Press, aiming to improve language accessibility in Indian regional languages, ensuring students weren't held back due to limited English skills.

In 2017, Srijeet was awarded the Fulbright Scholarship and served as a Foreign Language Teaching Assistant at the University of Montana, USA. This role allowed him to immerse students in Hindi, with some of his students securing prestigious scholarships to continue learning Hindi in India. He actively represented Indian culture and language on international platforms, demonstrating his passion for cross-cultural understanding.

Upon returning to India, Srijeet shifted his focus towards addressing the employability skills gap. At Harappa Learning Pvt. Ltd., he was involved in developing courses on communication, critical thinking, and problem-solving, as well as leading a team to create psychometric assessments. He also co-authored a Hindi Reader for elementary students at the University of California, Davis, reflecting his continued commitment to language education.

Motivated by the National Achievement Survey 2021 results, Srijeet pivoted to the non-profit sector, joining Vasant Valley School as a Project Manager for a curriculum development initiative in collaboration with the Delhi Board of School Education (DBSE). This role provided him insights into public education challenges, including teacher training, curriculum development, and systemic barriers to student literacy. Driven to address these foundational issues, Srijeet joined Central Square Foundation, where he led the assessment of foundational literacy and numeracy programmes in Haryana, Odisha, and Assam, supporting the NIPUN Bharat Mission.

Srijeet further advanced his understanding of policy and its impact on education by enrolling in the LokNeeti programme at the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP). This course provided him with a deeper understanding of public policy mechanisms and prepared him for impactful assignments. Recognized for his leadership and dedication, Srijeet earned the LokNeeti Mashaal achievement certificate for his contributions to the programme.

Currently, as part of the Reach to Teach Foundation, Srijeet supports the Directorate of Educational Research and Training (DERT), Meghalaya, in developing syllabi, assessment blueprints, and activity books to improve foundational literacy and numeracy. He also leads State-Level Achievement Surveys (SLAS) aimed at improving public education outcomes. Additionally, as a part-time Designated Campus Colleague at the University of Arizona, Srijeet works on the "Learning Hindi Online through Current Social Issues" project, blending language education with cultural and social awareness. Srijeet's journey reflects his commitment to improving public education and his role in influencing public policy discourse.



# Corridor Conversations: Your Source for Institutional Updates



**Garba Night: A Colorful Showcase of Culture and Tradition in ISPP.**

ISPP has taken its PDM programme to the next level! By dedicating more time to hands-on internships and immersive learning, our scholars are gaining real-world experience like never before.

**ISPP - PAFI launched seven open executive training programmes on the following topics**

1. Understanding Government
2. Advocacy for Digital Markets
3. Policy Communication for Impactful Messaging and Engagement
4. Strategic Stakeholder Management in Government Relations and Social Impact
5. Understanding Public Affairs in a Geopolitical World
6. How to Build Coalitions for Policy Impact
7. Digital Advocacy and e-governance: Strategies for policy influence and social impact



ISPP is all geared up to organize a two-day conference National conference on Role of Smaller Cities Towards a Viksit Bharat” at BIPARD Campus, Gaya, Bihar 6th & 7th December 2024. This jointly being organized by ISPP and BIPARD.



**Celebrating Onam in ISPP : A Festival of Unity and Abundance**



**100% of the 2024 Batch Secured Placements; Internship Proves Crucial**



**New Library in the ISPP Campus**





# Time Capsule: Key Events from the Last Few Months



## Alumni Learning Circle

The Learning and Development Team organised a lecture on International Trade Policy and Capital Flows on August 17, 2024, featuring Mr. Sunil Kumar, Adviser at the Department of Economic and Policy Research at the Reserve Bank of India.



## ISPP Alumni at PAFI

ISPP alumni are now part of various organizations, sharing their career journeys as public policy professionals. They recently participated in the 11th annual forum event of the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI).



## ISPP Alumni Association Meeting

On August 10th, the ISPP Alumni Association held its bi-monthly meeting to discuss future plans and actions.



## Upcoming : ISPP Annual Dinner

On **December 21st**, with the support of the ISPP Alumni Association, we will be organizing the annual dinner for ISPP alumni.

## ISPP Launches Webinar Series and Alumni Blog Collaboration to Highlight Capstones and Practicum Projects

ISPP has launched a series of webinars that will cover different aspects of the public policy space. ISPP is also keen on expanding collaboration with alumni to write for the blog. One of the series that ISPP is planning on developing is to work with alumni to convert their capstones and practicum into articles.

## Upcoming Initiative by the Alumni Association

- Job Board Portal/Website
- Podcast Series
- Bring your Institution to ISPP
- Learning Circle series
- Annual Alumni Day





## From ISPP to Global Impact: Pankhuri Jain's Journey to London School of Economics

Pankhuri Jain (**PDM Class of 2022**)’s career took a defining turn when she chose the Post Graduate programme in Public Policy, Design, and Management at the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP). The programme’s unique interdisciplinary approach, coupled with the opportunity to learn from distinguished public policy experts, played a crucial role in shaping her professional path. Courses like Critical Thinking, Design Thinking, Game Theory, and Urban Governance, alongside practical labs in policy writing and communication, not only expanded her knowledge but equipped her with essential skills for the policy world. The holistic curriculum fostered both her intellectual and professional growth.

What truly set ISPP apart for Pankhuri Jain was the mentorship provided by the faculty. Their guidance was transformative, offering not just academic insights but practical wisdom that she continues to apply in her career. Their unwavering support remains invaluable, as she still consults with them when navigating complex challenges. ISPP’s emphasis on real-world application has profoundly influenced her work.

After ISPP, Pankhuri Jain was selected as a Legislative Assistant to a Member of Parliament (LAMP) Fellow, where she gained hands-on experience in policymaking. This was followed by her role as a World Bank consultant in Meghalaya, where she worked on a crucial project focused on Adolescent Health and Wellbeing. Recently, she embarked on her Master’s in Global Health Policy at the London School of Economics, supported by a fully-funded Commonwealth Scholarship, and was appointed as the Commonwealth London Regional Network Coordinator.

ISPP has been instrumental in shaping Pankhuri Jain's career, and she remains deeply grateful for the mentorship and knowledge that continue to guide her at every step.

**We hope you enjoyed our first ISPP Alumni Association Newsletter! We'd love your feedback and suggestions for future editions. If you have ideas or achievements to share, please reach out. Let's make this newsletter a true reflection of our vibrant alumni community!**

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