

ISPP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT



JOURNEYS OF CHANGE

21 January 2025



Editor's Note

Welcome to the Second Edition of the ISPP Alumni Association Newsletter!

Happy New Year to all our esteemed alumni! As we welcome 2025, I'm thrilled to bring you the second edition of our newsletter, which celebrates the incredible achievements of our alumni, highlights our very first Alumni Day celebration, and shares exciting updates from our campus.

As the editor, I'd like to highlight how crucial alumni engagement is to our community's growth. Staying connected helps us strengthen our network, share valuable experiences, and offer support as we navigate the complex world of public policy. Networking within our alumni community plays a vital role—it opens doors to new opportunities, fosters collaboration, and enables us to work together in tackling the challenges in our field.

In this issue, we're excited to continue our ISPP Alumni Spotlight series, where we celebrate the inspiring work and success stories of our alumni. This edition features Richa Gupta, who has recently joined the Capacity Building Commission, reflecting her dedication to impactful public service. We also highlight the remarkable contributions of Srajesh, whose work in public policy is making a significant difference. Additionally, we share the story of Karan, who is currently pursuing Development and Policy studies at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex.

If you'd like to nominate someone or share your own journey, we'd love to hear from you!

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

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Richa Gupta Joins Capacity Building Commission as Program Manager

Richa Gupta (**PDM 2023**) is a passionate educator and dedicated public policy professional, currently serving as a Program Manager at the Capacity Building Commission. In this role, she leads a diverse portfolio of strategic initiatives aimed at advancing Mission Karmayogi's objectives and realizing the vision of Viksit Bharat. Her work underscores a steadfast commitment to building scalable and sustainable capacity-building mechanisms across government institutions.

Beginning her career at the grassroots level with Teach for India, Richa gained invaluable firsthand insights into the systemic challenges faced by underserved communities. This experience highlighted how even well-designed policies often fall short due to implementation gaps and structural barriers. Motivated to address these challenges, Richa pursued a Postgraduate Program in Public Policy at the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP).

At ISPP, she honed her ability to navigate complex policy environments, drawing on courses such as Economics, Development Policy, Behavioral Economics, Markets for Development, and the Policy Praxis Lab. These learnings equipped her with the tools to analyze interconnected problems, identify root causes, and design innovative, evidence-based solutions.

Richa's work with the School Education Department of Madhya Pradesh marked a pivotal transition from grassroots engagement to governance reform. She collaborated with state-level stakeholders to implement transformative educational programs, evaluate existing policies, and empower students with critical 21st-century skills. Today, as a Program Manager at the Capacity Building Commission, Richa works with a diverse range of stakeholders, including ministries, departments, and organizations across India, to design and evaluate impactful policies and programs at a macro level. Her journey reflects an unwavering commitment to driving the reforms that India urgently needs, ensuring policies translate into meaningful, on-the-ground impact for all.

Richa Gupta leads strategic initiatives to advance Mission Karmayogi and build sustainable governance mechanisms. Her journey reflects a steadfast commitment to translating policies into impactful, on-ground reforms for a Viksit Bharat.

Srajesh Gupta's Journey of Impact and Innovation



Srajesh Gupta (**PDM 2020**), an alumnus with a passion for sustainable development and community empowerment, has built a career that is as impactful as it is inspiring. Based in Ahmedabad, Srajesh has blended innovation with grounded efforts to tackle some of today's most pressing challenges, from climate change to inclusive policymaking.

As the Founder of the Centre for Grower-Centric Eco-Value Mechanisms (C-GEM), Srajesh has spearheaded initiatives that connect local communities to carbon markets. By focusing on sustainable agriculture and greenhouse gas mitigation, C-GEM has positively impacted over 80,000 smallholders, unlocking INR 300 crore in potential benefits over the next three decades. This accomplishment, however, is a testament to collective effort—a result of partnerships with NGOs, grassroots communities, and market actors that Srajesh values deeply.

In addition to C-GEM, Srajesh founded Samavesh, an initiative designed to bring diverse voices together for meaningful dialogue. From facilitating over 100 sessions to organizing two national summits, his work has been a platform for collaboration and growth. While proud of these milestones, Srajesh remains focused on the lessons learned along the way and the people who made it all possible.

A dedicated learner, Srajesh holds a Certificate in the Accelerated Management Programme from Harappa School of Leadership, New Delhi; a master's degree in Agricultural Extension and Communication from IGAU, Raipur; and a postgraduate diploma in Public Policy, Design, and Management from ISPP, New Delhi. These academic pursuits have been complemented by hands-on roles, such as his tenure at the National Coalition for Natural Farming (NCNF).

There, he helped scale operations to include over 800 stakeholders and conducted India's largest village-level survey on natural farming. For him, these achievements are less about numbers and more about contributing to a shared vision of sustainable agriculture.

Beyond his professional endeavors, Srajesh is also a passionate poet. He has been published in over 10 poetry anthologies, writing evocative verses that explore themes of resistance, love, and emotional exasperation. A voracious reader and reflective writer, he finds solace and inspiration in literature, bringing a creative lens to his work in sustainability and policy. He is also the author of publications on agroecology, carbon credits, and natural farming, though he credits his peers and mentors for enriching these projects.

Srajesh's technical skills—ranging from data analytics to storytelling—are matched by his humility and dedication to lifelong learning. Incubated as a circular economy startup by IIM Bangalore and AKRSP(I), he views recognition as a motivator to keep improving rather than a destination.

At his core, Srajesh believes in collective action and the power of community. His journey is a testament to what is possible when one combines passion with purpose. For him, success lies in the impact he creates for others and the meaningful stories he contributes to the world.

Srajesh Gupta: Championing Sustainability, Empowerment, and Collective Impact

Corridor Conversations: Your Source for Institutional Updates



Day 1 : ISPP-PAFI Executive Education Programme

The 7-month Executive Education Programme for IIC Fellows, offered by ISPP, focused on "Policy Leadership for Social Impact" through a blend of hybrid learning and in-person visits. The programme covered key areas like policy frameworks, governance, leadership, critical thinking, and communication. Participants developed skills in policy advocacy, stakeholder engagement, and data-driven storytelling. Real-world scenarios were used to teach monitoring, evaluation, and policy implementation. The programme successfully equipped fellows to tackle complex policy challenges and drive social impact.



Harris Lecture Series:

ISPP hosted Prof. Monika Nalepa for an in-person Harris Lecture Series session on 'A Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: Citizen uncertainty and democratic backsliding'. Professor Nalepa is a Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago. With a focus on post-communist Europe, her research interests include transitional justice, parties and legislatures, and game-theoretic approaches to comparative politics.



Day 2 : Insights, Strategies, and Celebrations at the Understanding Government Programme"



Celebrating the Diverse Cohort of LokNeeti Class of April 2025

The ISPP is delighted to welcome 23 talented professionals from nine states into the LokNeeti Class of April 2025. This dynamic cohort brings an average of 6.69 years of work experience, with expertise spanning public health, policy analysis, campaign management, social entrepreneurship, and more. With a wide array of skills in governance, data analysis, behavioural change, and education, the participants reflect the diversity and depth of India's policy landscape.

The first in-person visit is scheduled for late January to early February 2025 as part of the four-month hybrid programme. This immersive experience will provide participants with invaluable networking opportunities and practical insights, guided by seasoned policy experts and practitioners.

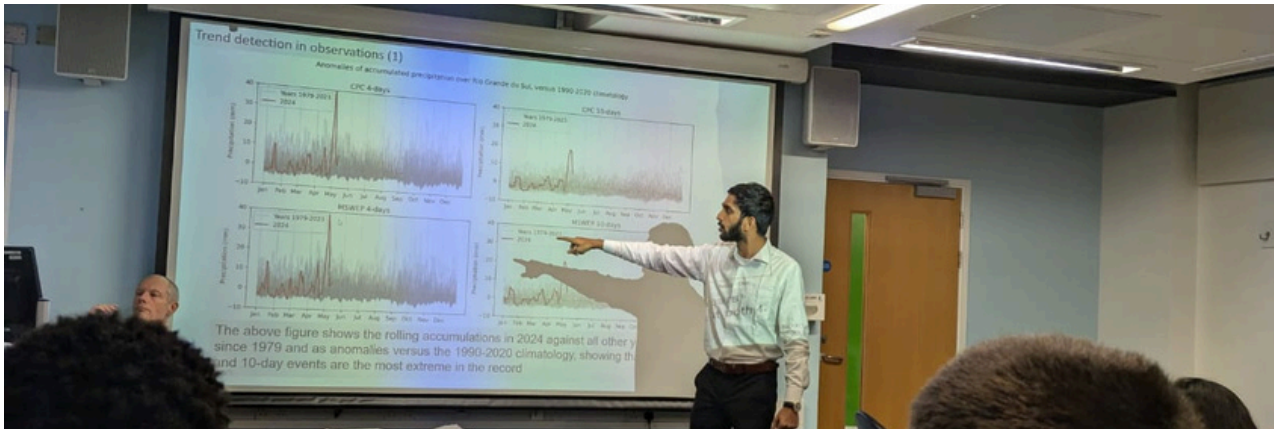
Celebrating Connections: ISPP's Inaugural Annual Alumni Day



On December 21, 2024, the Indian School of Public Policy (ISPP), in collaboration with the Alumni Council, hosted its first-ever Annual Alumni Day at 1 Oak. The event, held from 7 to 10 PM, was a heartwarming celebration of the ISPP alumni community, bringing together 80 alumni from various cohorts to reconnect, reminisce, and celebrate their shared journey.

The evening was filled with joy, laughter, and meaningful conversations as attendees shared their favorite memories and learnings from their time at ISPP.

The Alumni Day was not just a reunion, but also a moment to acknowledge the strength and solidarity of the ISPP family. The gathering was a testament to the lasting bonds formed during the course of their education, and it was clear that the spirit of ISPP transcends time and distance. The event was well-received by all, and it left everyone excited for future alumni events and initiatives.



Building Sustainable Food Systems: Karan Shinghal's Journey in Climate and Development Policy

Karan Shinghal(Lokneeti - Jan-May 2022) has been working for over eight years in food systems in various capacities, first as an entrepreneur, then as a programme designer, and lastly as a policy researcher. His first stint in development was with the/nudge institute, where he co-designed interventions to improve incomes and build sustainable and resilient livelihoods for 3,500 women in the state of Uttar Pradesh. Before coming to the UK to pursue a master’s in climate change and development policy, he was working at the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW) on a variety of policy research projects that made recommendations to a state and national government on scaling agroforestry, regenerative agriculture, and millet consumption.

Karan chose to pursue a master’s in climate and development policy because it perfectly complements his past experience.

At IDS, he is learning about the physical science behind climate change and the challenges for developing countries to pursue development while balancing the priorities of climate adaptation and mitigation. This knowledge will enable him to deliver on his goals of building a food system that is environmentally benign, resilient to climate impacts, fair to its participants, and provides a healthy diet for all.



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