

ISPP ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

JOURNEYS OF CHANGE

16 July 2025



ISPP ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Editor's Note

Dear ISPP Community,

Welcome to the third edition of our Alumni Newsletter—Journeys of Change—where we continue to spotlight the diverse pathways our alumni are charting in public policy and beyond.

In this issue, we bring to life the compelling journeys of Anviti, Sudrip, and Rubal—each of whom exemplifies what it means to blend vision with impact. From maternal health in tribal Madhya Pradesh to global policy discussions in Thailand and Harvard, these stories reflect how ISPP alumni are transforming learning into action and pushing boundaries in service of the public good.

We're also proud to celebrate the arrival of the Cohort of 2026, whose enthusiasm reminds us that every new beginning is also a continuation of the legacy we are collectively building.

Your mentorship and support—as alumni—have played a pivotal role in shaping their first steps into this journey.

Finally, the "Corridor Conversations" section recaps two of our key executive programmes that are helping mid-career professionals navigate complex governance and stakeholder landscapes, reinforcing ISPP's growing impact across sectors.

As always, thank you for being part of this vibrant community. Whether through stories, mentorship, or collaborations—let's keep amplifying change, together. 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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From Classroom to Community: How Anviti is Redefining Public Policy

Anviti (PDM 2022), a social worker, aspired to understand how she could support the government in reaching the marginalized people who need public services the most. She decided to pursue a master's course in public policy that would offer her a glimpse into how the government thinks. When the offer from ISPP came through, she immediately accepted it, as it aligned perfectly with her vision of equitable development.

Three years after graduating from ISPP, Anviti still credits her critical thinking skills to the institution. While each new experience in her role at The Antara Foundation—where she works with the government to strengthen the healthcare system—has helped her become more logical and data-driven, she often reflects on how ISPP initially sparked her curiosity and taught her to view the world through a broader lens.

Anviti's recent accomplishment includes presenting a pilot study of TAF at the 8th Global Public Health Conference, organized by The International Institute of Knowledge Management (TIIKM) in Bangkok. Among 300+ participants from over 20 countries, Anviti and her colleague were recognized as the best presenters in the technical session on Social Determinants of Health. What stood out, however, was her unwavering commitment to democratizing policy by involving communities in designing solutions for themselves—a commitment that had earlier earned her the 'Spirit of ISPP' award during her convocation here in 2022.

Anviti spent two years working in the tribal district of Betul, Madhya Pradesh, where her commitment to democratizing policy only deepened. There, she involved block and district officials in analyzing data and listening to the stories of pregnant women, whose experiences often reveal clear solutions.

Recently, Anviti transitioned into the role of Knowledge Management Associate and now shares TAF's knowledge and experiences with a broader audience. For a glimpse of her work, you can explore this article that Anviti recently authored, drawn from her field experiences.

Her journey is a testament to how vision, commitment, and hard work can help democratize policy, one step at a time. Beyond work, Anviti can be found strolling in Delhi's Mandi House, trekking towards hidden waterfalls of Madhya Pradesh, or playing tennis at the IIT Delhi campus.

Anviti and her colleague were awarded Best Presenter at the 8th Global Public Health Conference for their impactful pilot study on maternal health.

Why Sudrip Believes Networking Is the New Placement Strategy



Back in 2022, when Sudrip (LokNeeti, December 2022) opted for an MPP degree at Mount Carmel College Autonomous, Bengaluru, he had little clarity on how to make his public policy journey more enriching and exciting. As is often the case with MPP degrees in India, there wasn't a guaranteed path to a lucrative placement or job opportunity immediately after graduation. In his search for an add-on, especially an online or hybrid course that could complement his mainstream education, Sudrip discovered the ISPP LokNeeti Programme.

LokNeeti—a four-month hybrid programme focused on public policy, data, and behaviour change—aligned well with his long-term career interests. He applied for the December 2022 batch and was accepted into what he fondly recalls as one of the most diverse, dynamic, and dignified cohorts, spanning varied domains, experiences, and age groups. Interestingly, Sudrip was the youngest in the group.

He chose LokNeeti with two main goals in mind: first, to gain a robust understanding of the public policy landscape, both in India and globally; second, to leverage ISPP's strong network and placement support. The programme's online classes in economics, data science, and behavioural science did more than boost his grades at college—they nurtured his critical thinking and professional temperament, setting him up for long-term success.

The real turning point came during the first in-person LokNeeti meet at ISPP's former Hauz Khas campus in Delhi. That exposure, he says, opened his eyes to the power of networking, job hunting, and leveraging opportunities in a competitive policy job market.

It was there that he met Mr. Goutam Mahanty, a fellow scholar whose guidance proved instrumental in shaping Sudrip's career path. Their friendship—sparked during an informal evening at the hotel before three intense days of classroom learning—blossomed into a strong mentor-mentee bond. From that moment on, Goutam played the role of a “big bro,” advising him on job applications, interviews, and career strategy.

In a landscape where HR responses are often uncertain and delayed, Sudrip credits his relationship with Goutam for helping him sail through the challenges of the job market. That connection led him to his current role as Programme Manager at the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Gujarat—a dream job that might not have materialized without this network.

Reflecting on his journey, Sudrip underscores the importance of networking over relying solely on campus placements. He believes that ISPP's LokNeeti Programme taught him the art of building meaningful professional relationships, and in doing so, helped him shape a career and a mindset aligned with real-world policy impact.

His story is a testament to the fact that the right exposure, the right guidance, and the right networks can transform careers—even in a brutal job market. And for that, he gives full credit to ISPP's LokNeeti Programme.

Shaping Policy Leaders: Sudrip's LokNeeti Journey Stands as a Beacon

Corridor Conversations: Your Source for Institutional Updates

Understanding Government: A Two-Day Executive Programme for Senior Leaders

This two-day executive education programme, jointly hosted by ISPP and PAFI, offered participants a deep dive into how the Indian government functions, how policies are made, and how to engage meaningfully with government systems. Key themes included:

Structure and Framework of Policy Making: Understanding how policies are formed and the political, social, and administrative factors that influence them.

Role of Civil Servants: Learning how bureaucrats think, work, and make decisions, and how to effectively collaborate with them.

Improving Governance through Policy Reforms: Exploring how better policy design and implementation can lead to more inclusive growth in India.

Working with Government - Corporate and Government Perspectives: Gaining insights from both sides, senior government officials and corporate public policy leaders, on how partnerships can be built.

State Government Engagement: Learning how to approach and align with state-level priorities to become trusted stakeholders.

Investment Decision-Making by Governments: Understanding how public investments are planned and executed in sectors like infrastructure and finance.

Ease of Doing Business: Hearing directly from DPIIT on improving business-government interface.

Throughout the programme, real-world case studies and experiences from seasoned policymakers, administrators, and public affairs professionals brought theory to life.



Strategic Stakeholder Management in Government Relations and Social Impact

ISPP and PAFI jointly conducted a two-day executive education programme for mid-to-senior professionals in corporate affairs, policy, and advocacy. The programme focused on stakeholder engagement strategies, navigating complex policy environments, and effective communication with government bodies. Faculty included leaders from ISPP, Janaagraha, Abbott, and USIBC, with participants from organisations such as TATA Steel, Godrej, HDFC Bank, and Reliance Foundation.

Welcoming the Cohort of 2026: A New Chapter Begins



ISPP is all set to welcome the vibrant incoming cohort of 2026, as 69 scholars embark on their journey through the postgraduate programme in Public Policy, Design & Management (PDM) course. This milestone marks not only a new academic cycle but also a celebration of collective effort and enduring support from the ISPP community.

The Admissions team extends heartfelt thanks to our alumni for being an integral part of this year's process—whether through thoughtful participation on interview panels or by guiding prospective scholars through informal conversations and mentorship. Your insights, presence, and generosity have added depth and warmth to the applicant experience.

Among the several initiatives launched this year, one stood out for its resonance and impact: the in-campus Open House. For the first time, selected scholars and their families were invited to experience ISPP firsthand, fostering a sense of belonging and clarity even before the term begins. These moments of connection have strengthened our commitment to transparency and inclusivity in the admissions process.

As the new cohort steps into the policy sphere, ISPP continues to be shaped by its community—past, present, and future. Here's to meaningful journeys ahead and continued collaboration across generations of changemakers.



Alumna in Action: Rubal Represents India at HPAIR and Harvard

As the Director of Communication and Outreach of the ISPP Alumni Association, I am pleased to feature Rubal (LokNeeti March 2023), an alumna whose recent achievements highlight the global perspective and public purpose ISPP stands for.

Rubal was recently selected to represent India at the Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations (HPAIR) conference, held at Chulalongkorn University, Thailand. The conference brought together scholars, policy professionals, and changemakers from around the world, where Rubal actively contributed to discussions on pressing international issues.

Following her impactful participation at HPAIR, Rubal was invited as a Special Delegate to Harvard University for an intensive policy lab hosted by the Children’s World Fund. There, she worked with over 200 international delegates to design a sustainable education model for schools in Haiti—addressing complex challenges linked to political instability, gang violence, and natural disasters.

During the policy lab, she engaged with global experts, including Aman Tulsyan (Founder, Solaroncon), education reformers, and development professionals with field experience in fragile contexts. These conversations enhanced her understanding of development policy and sharpened her approach to practical, scalable solutions.

Rubal’s journey is a strong example of how ISPP alumni are contributing meaningfully to global policy platforms. We commend her achievements and look forward to her continued impact in the years ahead.



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