

Master *of* Public Policy

Cohort Profile 2024–26

आशांक देसाई नीति अध्ययन केंद्र

Ashank Desai Centre for Policy Studies (ADCPS)



Ashank Desai
Centre for Policy Studies
Indian Institute of Technology Bombay

Insight ♦ Dialogue ♦ Impact

Meet *the* Cohort!

The Master of Public Policy (MPP) programme at IIT Bombay nurtures a multidisciplinary approach to understanding and addressing contemporary policy challenges. Drawing students from diverse academic and professional backgrounds, including engineering, architecture, social sciences, and planning, the programme equips them with a strong foundation in policy theory, research methods, data analysis, and governance frameworks. A distinctive emphasis is placed on applying these tools to the Indian context, with a focus on urbanisation, environment, technology, and social equity. Students engage in rigorous coursework, field-based research, and collaborative projects that prepare them to translate ideas into actionable policy.

The cohort reflects a wide range of interests, spanning climate action, urban development, education, digital governance, and social welfare. This brochure profiles the 2024–26 MPP batch, highlighting their academic training, research engagements, and professional aspirations, and showcases the intellectual diversity that enriches the centre's learning environment.

Students' Council



**Prithvi Naresh
Rathod**
General Secretary



Saurabh K. G.
Cultural
Secretary



**Harsh
Purohit**
Sports Secretary



T. N. Anjali
Communications and Alumni
Coordinator



Parimal Bhakare
Placement
Secretary

Abhishek Sah

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

BPlan, Maulana Azad National Institute of Technology, Bhopal

2024

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Worked on WRI India's Accelerator for Clean Air Actions (ACAAS) project, leading clean air initiatives in the city of Mumbai.

BIO-SKETCH

With a strong foundation in urban planning, project management, and policy research, Abhishek has developed interests in urban policy and governance, sustainability strategy, ESG, climate change, and resilience. He has demonstrated leadership through conference coordination, entrepreneurship initiatives, and placement activities, while also gaining hands-on experience through academic and professional projects. Skilled in stakeholder engagement, data analytics, and sustainable development, his work is driven by a commitment to advancing impactful policy and planning initiatives.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Urban Policy · Governance · Sustainability Strategy · ESG

- THESIS AREA -

Modelling the Determinants of Intermodal Transfer for Estimation of Ridership

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

WRI India, Mumbai

- SKILLS

ArcGIS & QGIS · Python · R · Microsoft Power BI · SQL · AutoCAD

Deepa Choudhary

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MA History, Nalanda University, Nalanda

2017

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Conducted a comparative policy analysis of India's 1988 and 2018 National Forest Policies to examine their impact on community rights and forest governance.

BIO-SKETCH

Deepa is a researcher with interests in environmental law, environmental justice, and climate policy. Her academic training has shaped her focus on how institutional frameworks and community action can address the uneven impacts of ecological challenges. She is keen to explore how legal and policy mechanisms can be leveraged to advance sustainability while safeguarding the rights and wellbeing of vulnerable communities. With a strong interdisciplinary orientation, she brings a critical and historically grounded perspective to contemporary debates on environment and justice, aspiring to contribute to research and practice that promote more equitable and sustainable futures.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Environmental Law · Environmental Justice · Sustainable Development

- THESIS AREA -

Linking Forest Policy Evolution with Ground Realities Through a Case Study of Community Forest Movements in a Selected State

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

ELDF, Delhi

- SKILLS

Research and Analytical Writing · Policy Analysis · Interdisciplinary Thinking

Harsh Purohit

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MA Global Studies, Ambedkar University, Delhi

2024

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Conducted a needs assessment for HDFC's HRDP project.

BIO-SKETCH

Harsh is a researcher with a strong interest in climate change, climate justice, and sustainability, with a particular focus on the circular economy. He believes that meaningful change emerges from bottom-up approaches and strives to keep people at the centre of his work. Skilled in research and data analysis, he seeks to translate complex ideas into human-centric narratives that can inspire collective action and drive social change. His work is guided by a commitment to minimising the vulnerabilities of communities living on the margins of society and advancing equitable responses to the challenges of climate change.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Climate Change · Climate Justice · Sustainability

- THESIS AREA -

Policy Pathways for Circular Textiles: A Study of Household Post-Consumer Textile Waste

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

Sambodhi Research and Communication, Noida

- SKILLS

R · Stata · Python · QGIS

Parimal Bhakare

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

BE Civil Engineering, Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University, Nagpur

2021

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Worked on ESG in government projects, consultancy for Indian industry, risk factors and climate finance.

BIO-SKETCH

Parimal has a work background in India's startup ecosystem and MSME and now specializing in Climate Finance and Risk Policies. As the former Head of Policy and Relations at the Indian Council for Technical Research and Development, he spearheaded strategic analysis of ecosystem policies, enabling faster implementation for over 50 local startups and mobilizing ₹15+ Crores in government grants. Now an MPP student at IIT Bombay, his work centers on building data-driven frameworks in Climate Risk and Investments. His background in Civil Engineering provides a strong analytical foundation for his policy work, which also extends into ESG, where he has explored blended finance models for resilient infrastructure.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Climate Finance · ESG · Climate Risk

- THESIS AREA -

Climate Risk Management Policies and Pathways in Indian Infrastructure Projects

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

MAHAPREIT, Govt of Maharashtra

- SKILLS

Python · R · SQL · Power BI · QGIS · ESG Softwares

Poulomi Sen

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MA Social Work (Mental Health), Tata Institute of Social Sciences, Mumbai

2020

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Analysed shared data ecosystems in garment value chains to build data stewardship models positioning workers as central actors.

BIO-SKETCH

Poulomi has a background in social work with a specialisation in mental health and several years of experience working as a monitoring and evaluation specialist in the development sector, particularly across health and education. She has worked closely with government bodies, including the Departments of Education in Tamil Nadu and Delhi, to design, evaluate, and improve public programmes. She has also worked with Aapti Institute, Bengaluru, on a project to build more transparent and accountable garment supply chains through worker-led data solutions. Her work focuses on helping public institutions use data-driven approaches to make policy decisions that are more effective, equitable, and responsive to community needs.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Data Governance · Worker-led Data Solutions
· Community Rights

- THESIS AREA -

Examining Private Sector Integration and
Data Governance in India's Ayushman Bharat
Digital Mission

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

Aapti Institute, Bengaluru

- SKILLS

R Studio · Python · QGIS

Pradeep Bishnoi

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MPharm (with specialisation in Pharmaceutics), BITS Pilani, Pilani

2014

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Worked on Understanding of EPR landscape under India's Plastic Waste Management Rules, 2016 at Nepra Environment Solutions Technologies Pvt. Ltd.

BIO-SKETCH

Pradeep is a policy researcher leveraging policy impact assessment, monitoring and evaluation, and data analytics to diagnose implementation barriers and policy effectiveness. He brings over four and half years of management consulting experience across the US and EU5 market, specializing in strategic market intelligence and commercial growth. At a consulting start up, he drove growth for a \$13.6B pharmaceutical firm, enabled \$100M+ in launch revenue, and scaled a consulting team from 2 to 17. His transition to MPP at IIT Bombay is focused on climate change, sustainability and Circular Economy. With this blend of professional experience and policy orientation, he is committed to advancing sustainable practices and innovative Solutions to complex environmental and social challenges.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Sustainability · EPR · ESG · Climate Change

- THESIS AREA -

Integrated Waste Tyre Management -
Assessing Challenges and Opportunities for

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

Nepra Environment Solutions Technologies
Pvt. Ltd, Ahmedabad

- SKILLS

R · Python · Analytical writing

Pragati Swami

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

BPharm, Al Ameen College of Pharmacy, Bengaluru

2019

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Connecting MSME's with digital platforms: digitising grassroots commerce

BIO-SKETCH

Pragati began her career in the clinical research sector during the COVID-19 pandemic before transitioning to the social impact space. As an alumna of the SBI Youth for India Fellowship, she worked with BAIF Development Research Foundation in Gujarat and Maharashtra, where she managed rural development projects and engaged closely with local communities. Building on this grassroots experience, she has since turned her focus to the broader landscape of public policy, seeking to understand and influence systemic change. Her interests lie in exploring how evidence-based policies and inclusive governance can address development challenges and strengthen community resilience.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Philanthropic Funding in Public Higher Education Institutions in India

- THESIS AREA -

Philanthropy in Higher Education

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

UdyamWell Private Limited, Bengaluru

- SKILLS

R · Research and Analytical writing · Policy Analysis

Prithvi Naresh Rathod

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MA Politics (with specialisation in International Relations),
JNU, Delhi

2024

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Researched solid waste management by-laws formulation.

BIO-SKETCH

Prithvi is a political scientist with a specialisation in international relations and public policy. With a strong interest in the humanities and social sciences, he bridges insights from international affairs and domestic governance. His work reflects a keen interest in public processes and state capacity, with a focus on how institutions can be strengthened to deliver more effective and inclusive outcomes. Skilled in research and analysis, Prithvi is passionate about producing knowledge that drives meaningful impact and policy innovation.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Policy Process Theory · Public Institutions · Public Decision Making

- THESIS AREA -

How Institutional Logics Legitimize Consultants in Mumbai's Municipal Governance

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

Brihanmumbai Municipal Corporation (BMC), Mumbai

- SKILLS

Python · R · Microsoft 365 Office · Canva

Priyansh Nagpal

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MA Development, Azim Premji University, Bengaluru

2022

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Evaluation of MOOCs through QCA with focus on IIT courses on SWAYAM.

BIO-SKETCH

Priyansh has a background in development studies and strategic communication, with experience across civic tech, fintech, and youth leadership. His research interests lie in edtech and massive open online courses (MOOCs), with a focus on how technology can expand access to education and foster inclusive learning ecosystems. He works at the intersection of policy, design, and storytelling to craft participatory solutions that place community voices at the centre of decision-making. Skilled in communication and engagement, he focuses on building strategies that translate complex policy ideas into accessible narratives. His work reflects a commitment to advancing education policy and digital innovation in ways that drive equitable social change.

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- INTEREST AREAS

EdTech · MOOCs · Climate Change

- THESIS AREA -

Technology Integration in Higher Education:
Teacher Agency and SWAYAM

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

ZHCES, JNU, Delhi

- SKILLS

QCA · Thematic Analysis · Research and Strategic Communication · SEO · R

Saurabh K. G.

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

BArch, KMEA College of Architecture, Aluva

2024

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Conducted policy analysis, site evaluations, and stakeholder consultations for GCDA's 3D outdoor media project in Kochi, and analysed OOH media for Fort Kochi and Kumbalam tourism initiatives.

BIO-SKETCH

Saurabh has a background in architecture, user experience design, and teaching, which has shaped his multidisciplinary approach to research and problem-solving. He values research as a tool for rapid learning and insight generation, and his experiences across design and policy studies have given him a nuanced understanding of aesthetics, design processes, and iterative project development. His current focus lies in the attention economy and urban governance, where he explores how design, regulation, and public perception intersect in shaping urban visual culture and lived experiences. Skilled in combining analytical and creative methods, he approaches projects with a holistic perspective that bridges design, policy, and systems thinking.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Attention Economy · Urban Governance · Outdoor Media Landscape

- THESIS AREA -

Urban Governance and the Politics of Visibility:
Outdoor Media & the Attention Economy in Kochi

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

Greater Cochin Development Authority, Kochi

- SKILLS

AutoCAD · Sketchup · Figma · Python · Adobe Photoshop · R Studio

Shreyash Mendhe

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

BPlan, School of Planning and Architecture, Bhopal

2024

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Public transport policy preparation and implementation in Meghalaya.

BIO-SKETCH

Shreyash is a policy scholar, systems builder, and strategist with a focus on sustainable futures. He works at the intersection of public systems, ethical technology, and entrepreneurial action, where ideas are translated into blueprints with real-world impact. His projects range from conceptualising an EV charging station near the Police Headquarters in Nagpur to building a rural food enterprise that transforms village-made pickles into a platform for women's empowerment. As founder of ventures such as Electravul Pvt. Ltd. and Pickle Paradise, he exemplifies policy-backed entrepreneurship that is socially responsible, locally grounded, and structurally sound.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Industrial Regulatory Practices in Automobiles
· Transportation

- THESIS AREA -

Evaluating the Impact of Quality Control Orders (QCOs) on MSMEs and Start-ups in India's Automobile Ecosystem: Balancing Industrial Competitiveness and Regulatory Compliance.

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION - KPMG India

- SKILLS

ArcGIS & QGIS · Microsoft Power BI · R · Visual Studio · Figma · Adobe Photoshop · AutoCAD · SketchUp · Procreate · Python · CorelDRAW

Sumeys Babu Krishnan

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

MBA Human Resource Management, Pondicherry University, Pondicherry

2011

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Analysed the quality aspect in water governance policies by the democratic institutions.

BIO-SKETCH

Sumeys Babu Krishnan has diverse experience in various Government departments, with over 25 years of service in the Armed Forces, Food Corporation of India (FCI) and Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). He has held strategic roles in different appointments and designations, with the most recent appointment as Deputy Director, FSSAI, Eastern Region. He was part of the Indian Air Force team in the upgradation project of MiG-21 Bison Aircraft in 2003-04. After Induction in the FCI, he has managed the supply chain of foodgrains procured under MSP, coordinated food security initiatives, and led policy implementation across multiple states. He has spearheaded the enforcement of regulatory compliance of the FSS Act 2006 and social behavioural change initiatives in the East and North East Region during his appointment as Central Licensing Authority and Designated Officer of FSSAI.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Food Security · Public Health · Logistics

- THESIS AREA -

Evaluation of the Effectiveness of Capacity Building on FTK Usage under Jal Jeevan

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION - State Water and Sanitation Mission, Government of Maharashtra

- SKILLS

Leadership · Problem Solving · Decision Making · Eye for Detail

T. N. Anjali

ACADEMIC BACKGROUND

BArch, RV College of Architecture, Bengaluru

2022

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

Worked with WRI on localisation of Climate Action Plan in Bengaluru.

BIO-SKETCH

Anjali is an architect with a strong interest in urban policy, AI policy, and data governance. She brings together her design background and research skills to approach problems with both detail-oriented precision and holistic thinking. Her professional experience spans architectural practice, where she managed sustainable building projects, as well as research work in the development sector with WRI India, contributing to ward-level climate action planning in Indian cities. Skilled in primary and secondary research, policy communication, stakeholder engagement, and data analysis, she is committed to leveraging interdisciplinary expertise to contribute to meaningful change in the urban domain.

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- INTEREST AREAS

Urban Policy · Urban Water Management · AI and Data Policy

- THESIS AREA -

Challenges in Planning for Water Sensitive Cities

- INTERNSHIP ORGANISATION -

WRI India, Bengaluru

- SKILLS

Python · R · C# · Adobe Photoshop · Adobe InDesign · AutoCAD · SketchUp · Rhino · QGIS

Previous Employers



Government of Maharashtra
Department of Agriculture





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Indian Institute of Technology Bombay**

Insight ◆ Dialogue ◆ Impact

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